

**Saint Mary's College High School
Master Planning Process**

Summary Report of the February 1, 2006 Community Workshop

Prepared by MIG, Inc.

Background

In preparation for further developing its master plan, Saint Mary's College High School hosted a series of community meetings to solicit input and feedback from local neighbors. Based on the discussions and comments from the October and November meetings, the Saint Mary's Master Plan Committee developed a draft conceptual master plan. The third community meeting was held on February 1, 2006 from 7-9 pm. on the Saint Mary's campus.

Approach

Saint Mary's staff sent a notice publicizing the meeting to approximately 300 neighboring addresses. About 29 people attended the community meeting, including 20 neighbors, two representatives from the City of Albany Planning Department, one City of Berkeley representative, and school staff.

The purpose of the community workshop was to:

- Provide an overview of the educational program needs of Saint Mary's.
- Review the draft conceptual master plan.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to share comments and concerns.

Workshop Summary

The workshop began with a welcome from Peter Boero, Director of Advancement at Saint Mary's. Joan Chaplick of MIG reviewed the agenda, provided a brief summary from the last community meeting, and reviewed the guiding principles. The project team developed revised guiding principles based on comments received from previous community meetings and comment cards that were mailed to the neighbors who were unable to attend the meeting.

Pete Imperial, Principal of Saint Mary's, provided an overview of the school's educational program needs. The overview described the school's current infrastructure needs, educational programs, classroom facilities, and how these components align with the draft conceptual master plan. In addition, Mr. Imperial informed participants that the conceptual master plan was designed to address classroom needs and educational standards for the current enrollment.

Meeting participants were provided with a summary of the draft conceptual master plan at the beginning of the meeting. The summary provided background information on the master planning process since its inception in 1972, the goals of the planning process, an overview of the master plan approach, and a detailed review of existing buildings and proposed facility improvements or expansions. In addition to the summary document, participants received a comment card with space for comments on each of the proposed projects and a map of the campus indicating the location of each project, including the track and field renovation plan.

Hal Brandes of Dahanukar Brandes Architects provided an in-depth overview of the draft conceptual planning process. Mr. Brandes walked the participants through each of the twelve proposed projects listed in the draft conceptual master plan summary document and shown on the Campus Plan architectural rendering. Potential challenges and existing opportunities were addressed for each project. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and engage in dialogue with Mr. Brandes about all aspects of the conceptual master plan. This segment of the meeting also provided participants with an opportunity to identify alternatives and suggest potential solutions. Mr. Brandes

answered numerous questions, discussed potential scenarios and explained alternatives that had already been explored but were found to be unworkable. A few neighbors suggested they would be willing to discuss certain scenarios with their immediate neighbors to help gain consensus on site specific activities. Participants were invited to provide detailed written comments on the cards provided to assist the Master Planning Committee in developing the conceptual master plan. If participants needed additional time or wanted to help solicit feedback from neighbors unable to attend the meeting, they were directed to return their written comment cards to MIG by mail or fax no later than February 15.

While numerous issues and detailed concerns were raised, we have included a brief summary of the broader comments and concerns shared during the meeting. These included:

- Increased use of the renovated sports field, noise associated with additional use, and environmental impact of the artificial field surface.
- Concerns about tree removal along the perimeter of the field.
- Impact on neighbors when renovating space in Cronin Hall for student activities.
- Concerns about use of the chapel.
- Run-off and drainage issues along the creek during improvements.
- Concerns around the loss of mature trees along the creek.
- Effects of increased student activities on neighbors with the building of a new multi-use facility.
- Questions about the timing and length of time it will take to implement projects in the master plan.
- Concerns about how additional buildings and facilities will increase activities on campus.

Few participants turned in written comment cards at the meeting and it was anticipated that a number of participants would be returning more detailed comment cards to MIG by mail.

Ed Phillips and Ann Chaney from the City of Albany Planning Department commented on the constructive nature of the dialogue between Saint Mary's representatives and the neighbors. Based on the comments received, Saint Mary's will consult with the City of Albany about the next steps for the master plan and recommendations for holding additional community meetings.

Next Steps

- MIG will compile a summary of all comment cards returned at the meeting, by mail and fax.
- The comment card summary will be provided to the Master Planning Committee. The Committee will use the comments to inform the next stage of development of the conceptual master plan.
- A summary of the comment cards and an update on the planning process will be provided at the next community meeting.