

August 29, 2005

Memorandum

To: Brother Edmond, Saint Mary's CHS
Rich Brown, Peralta Park Neighborhood Association

From: Joan Chaplick, MIG, Inc.

Re: Summary of Facilitated Discussion on 8/26/05

Meeting Participants: PPNA: Lucas Guttentag, Amy Tick and Chris Hamilton
Saint Mary's: Brother Edmond, Peter Imperial, Kathy McGuire and Peter Smith
MIG: Joan Chaplick and Sharon McNamee

On August 26, 2005, MIG facilitated a discussion with representatives from the Peralta Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Saint Mary's CHS about the 3,032 sq. ft. at issue in PPNA's appeal. The meeting was scheduled as a follow-up to the listening session MIG hosted with PPNA on 8/22/05 and the related response from Saint Mary's. The agenda included: group agreement on City Council's request regarding the meeting; review of PPNA's request described in the listening session summary from 8/22; a review of Saint Mary's response to the request; information about school classroom capacity and needs; and, agreement on the meeting summary and report to the City. The group agreed that for simplicity the term conditional use permit and a rounded square footage figure of 3,000 would be used in the discussion regarding the 3,032 square feet in the PPNA appeal of Saint Mary's Conditional Use Permit 93-27.

Joan Chaplick facilitated the meeting with assistance from Sharon McNamee who also recorded the discussion. MIG opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and led the group in introductions.

Confirmation of City Council Request

The meeting started with a request that the group confirm the City Council's request regarding the meeting. The group agreed that Council requested a facilitated meeting, resolution of 3,032 sq. ft. at issue in PPNA's appeal and a response back to them by September 6th. Saint Mary's later added that Councilman Javandel directed that they solve this issue "as a community."

Review of PPNA Request

The group confirmed that a summary of the key points requested by PPNA (from the 8/22/05 listening session) included:

- Proposal from Saint Mary's with options for taking 3,032 square feet out of use
- "Virtual tear-down" was acceptable
- PPNA was flexible on facilities and location
- Result should be tangible

Review of Response from Saint Mary's

The group confirmed that a summary of the key points made in the response from Saint Mary's (dated 8/23/05) included:

- Request that Council affirm the Planning Commission's approval of the Application to Retain Space
- Retain the use of the 3,032 sq. ft.
- PPNA participation in discussions

School Classroom Capacity and Needs

Peter Imperial, Saint Mary's Principal, shared that the square footage available for classroom needs at the school is already limited. The school has 30 classrooms and each classroom provides use for 7 classroom periods for a total of 210 classroom periods. The school runs a master schedule of 164 sections leaving 46 classroom periods available. Thirty (30) full-time teachers use their classrooms during their off period for teaching preparation, meeting with students, etc. thus leaving 16 classroom periods available. The closure of two classrooms would remove 14 classroom periods from use, leaving 2 classroom periods available. This arithmetical exercise does not take into account the different size classrooms or that some classrooms are specialty rooms (i.e. chemistry lab).

Peter also described that the closure of classrooms would have an impact on the time spent by teachers moving between classrooms and the related inconvenience, missed opportunities for student conversations, and that the need to lock classrooms between these moves, leaving unsupervised students outside the classroom. He also mentioned the noise impacts that would come from closing the band room, which is sound-proof. The square footage of the band room is equal to 2 or 3 classrooms. The principal would like to reduce the freshmen class size from 29.5 students to 25.7 and this would require seven additional classroom periods of use. The school would not be able to address a class size reduction if classrooms were closed.

PPNA stated that it had shown flexibility by suggesting that other classrooms instead of the Band Pavilion could be closed and requested that Saint Mary's identify any specific square footage that would be taken out of use to address their request. Saint Mary's was unwilling to identify any square footage at this time and reiterated its position that it needed to retain the entire 3,032 square feet. There was significant discussion and participants restated and explained their positions. There was some discussion about the history of the issue, but the group agreed that PPNA and Saint Mary's had different views on the process and their views

affirmed their respective positions. It was clear throughout the discussion that both PPNA and Saint Mary's were firm in their opinions.

Saint Mary's shared their goals for the community which emphasized relationships, communication and diversity. Saint Mary's requested that the school and community begin working together on a regular basis.

PPNA shared their goals for the process and added: commitment, accountability, responsibility, follow-through and obligations. PPNA emphasized that the school's closure of the 3,032 square feet would go a long way toward restoring trust with the community.

In an effort to achieve an outcome during the time allotted, MIG requested that PPNA and Saint Mary's each propose a strategy for resolution. The strategies would be reported to the City and the City could then determine which approach it wanted to take.

PPNA's Proposal

PPNA proposed that Saint Mary's identify 3,032 square feet to be taken out of use. As an alternative to the Band Room, PPNA suggested the closure of the two least attractive classrooms on campus located in the basement of Cronin Hall so that the 3,032 square feet would be composed of the SnackBar and three basement classrooms in Cronin Hall.

Saint Mary's Proposal

Saint Mary's proposed that it be allowed to retain the 3,032 square feet and that the square footage issue be put aside to allow Saint Mary's to initiate a process which involves meeting with the community on a regular basis with direction from a professional facilitator to continue discussion of current impacts, potential school actions to such impacts, and to continue to address concerns regarding the school's day-to-day operations. A formal joint school-neighborhood advisory committee could be established as a component of this effort.

Next Steps

It was agreed that PPNA and Saint Mary's would be given an opportunity to review a draft of the summary and provide comments to MIG as soon as possible. MIG would then finalize the summary and provide copies to Saint Mary's and PPNA. Saint Mary's will submit the results of the meeting to the City as soon as possible and before September 6th.