

Veterans Memorial Senior Center – YMCA Project



Workshop #3: Recap, Next Steps and Highlights

On February 22, Redwood City and the YMCA were pleased to host the third of three master-planning workshops for the joint Redwood City – YMCA reimagining of the Veterans Memorial Senior Center and a separate and new YMCA facility. Together these new facilities intend to meet the increasing needs of Redwood City residents, which have outgrown their existing, aging buildings.

Around 150 community members participated in a lively presentation by lead architect Clarence Mamuyac, which showcased the most recent site plan and early design concepts, followed by intimate table breakout discussions. Following the charrette session, each table elected a captain to present its ideas to the audience. We appreciate the public's input and assistance establishing design priorities, excitement for favored amenities and features, questions, and the big ideas we received from the table reports.

Based on feedback to date, it's clear that a more in-depth discussion of parking, traffic and circulation is important to ensuring the proposed new Veterans Memorial Senior Center and YMCA facilities can be a success for both immediate neighbors and the community-at-large. At the meeting, it was announced that traffic and planning expert Dan Burden of Blue Zones will lead a series of three workshops dedicated to traffic, parking and circulation.

The first meeting will take place on March 1, and will feature a "walking audit" of the neighborhood (weather permitting*). The format of the meeting will be an informal discussion to identify anticipated "hot spots" and specific neighborhood areas of concern related to traffic and parking. The group will also brainstorm ideas for the traffic team to take a deeper dive and to identify topics for the second two meetings.

Please save the date for additional traffic workshops the evenings of March 22 and April 26. Details are forthcoming.

Outcomes from both the design planning and traffic planning efforts will be discussed at the City Council on May 21.



Please continue to check our website for updates at www.rewdoodcity.org/CityYMCAProject. You may also contact Chris Beth, Parks Director, at city-ymcafeedback@redwoodcity.org with questions, comments, or to request a group presentation.

Meeting Highlights

There was much excitement to see output from the first two workshops. Comments were wide-ranging, but there was palpable support for design renderings, new facilities, and appreciation for the parallel, deliberate traffic planning process announced at the meeting (including a series of three upcoming meetings that are specifically traffic related).

Parallel Traffic Study and Engagement



Neighbors felt heard and agreed the engagement of traffic and planning expert Dan Burton of Blue Zones was a critical and positive step forward in the effort to manage traffic and parking at the site. Neighbors and the project team are looking forward to the first of three traffic-specific workshops on March 1. Additional workshops will be held on March 22 and April 26.

Building Design and Materiality



The February 22 meeting showcased the most detailed building renderings to date. Attendees appreciated the new aesthetic, which the project team is calling “Bay Region Style,” as well as the permeability of the facilities and each building’s integration and flow with the park. Lastly, there was universal agreement from the attendees for keeping height and scale appropriate for the neighborhood.

Improved Intra-Park Circulation



Acknowledging it’s still an early concept, the idea of using electric trams to bolster park circulation, especially for seniors, was very popular. Attendees agreed it would allow for more parking flexibility and increased utilization of the nearby SamTrans stop while providing a good alternative for those needing physical assistance.

Green space and trees



Attendees appreciated plans to maximize green space and maintain the large trees along Madison Street, as was the modest footprint that eliminated encroachment on Red Morton Park.

The pedestrian promenade



Separate from the reclaimed green space around the facilities, further programming detail of the pedestrian promenade received approval by attendees. Another theme discussed was the importance of proper lighting as necessary for safety and nighttime enjoyment.

The public process



As noted above, inclusion of a separate traffic study and engagement process was widely appreciated, as were updates to the plans, program, and design that had been discussed individually and at the preceding workshops.