

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Members present: Julieta Sherk, John Koonce, Cari Jones, Kelli Goss Hopkins, Asa Fleming, Damien Graham, Rolf Blizzard, Jedidiah Gant, Bang Le, Dean Rains, Robby Johnston

Members not present: Elizabeth Byrd (*excused*), Brian O'Haver (*excused*), Tika Hicks (*excused*), Victor Bruinton (*excused*)

Staff present: Elizabeth Alley, Rotonda McKoy

SP-8-14 Rex Hospital

Site Plan review comments:

- The Commission commends the applicant for the inclusion of multiple smaller scaled open spaces throughout the site and underscores the importance of these spaces on a hospital campus.
- The Commission recommends that the applicant consider additional programming of the green spaces on site, particularly the meadow, and expands the open space opportunities at the building entrance, to encourage hospital users to use the outdoor amenities.
- The Commission supports linking these public spaces to encourage their deep integration into the building program and circulation pattern.
- The Commission supports the pedestrian canopies and encourages their integration into the overall building design given their importance to visitors and patients.
- The Commission recommends that Rex Hospital explore further opportunities for public art, and consider the landscape as an artful gesture.
- The Commission encourages the applicant to consider traffic flow and safety at the drop off given the high volume of users.
- The Commission commends the design of the western elevation and its provision of sunset views and connections to the outside for patients and visitors.
- The Commission recommends that the applicant further study the blade wall's potential to serve as an orienting landmark and a signature opportunity, considering the visibility of the Rex Hospital site.
- The Commission suggests considering removing one building material to further simplify the design palette, but commends the overall building design.

REVIEW OF March 20, 2014 MINUTES

Bang Le called for a review of the minutes. Damien Graham moved that the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Asa Fleming and the motion passed unanimously.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Design excellence working group

Julie reported that the working group will analyze the survey "wall of words" feedback to seek guidance for the working group's next step.

Bang suggested that the Commission maintain a broad focus of our work to address city-wide needs, and mentioned the possibility of highlighting the opening of the new amphitheater at North Hills.

Downtown Solid Waste group

Dean gave an overview of the draft report that will be given to the Council as part of the annual report, and will bring a draft for review to the next Commission meeting.

SWRA working group

Asa Fleming reported that the group met Wednesday evening to discuss event details, and would like the Commission to vote to support moving the awards to September 2nd and partner with Hopscotch Design. The Commission discussed the implications of this partnership, the mutual benefit for both Hopscotch and the Appearance Commission, and the value of supporting new initiatives that promote design excellence. The Commission unanimously moved to have the awards on September 2nd in partnership with Hopscotch Design

The working group will initiate a process to reexamine branding and logo, to be complete by the 2015 awards. The working group will explore using outside designers for this work. Dean noted the availability of a pro bono designer, and the need to develop criteria and guidelines for this work. Bang encouraged the working group to talk with the RHDC about their rebranding experience. Damien noted the need to open this opportunity up to other designers. Robby noted the need to hire a professional and to compensate them for their work. Robby noted that we want to make sure that our speaker can also support Hopscotch Design and the broader audience it will bring to Raleigh.

The Commission directed staff to inquire as to ULI speaker's availability.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 pm.