Jane Rasely

From: Deborah Rudnick <debrudnick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Alan Grainger
Cc: Heather Wright; Ron Peltier; DOUGLAS A RAUH; Joseph Dunstan; Jim McNett; Olaf Ribeiro; Peter Perry; Jeff Boon; Chris Gutsche; Jason Wilkinson
Subject: Re: Comments on proposed Blakely Elementary school
Attachments: K_ScienceKits_BISD trees for observation_Blakely.pdf

These are wonderful comments, Olaf, and thank you to the Blakely community for considering them.

In addition to Olaf's excellent points about the value of trees and sustainable design, I would like to add a couple of comments as well.

I'm both a district parent and the K-5 Science Resource Coordinator for the district. Last year Olaf and I worked with teachers across all three elementary schools to identify trees that could be integrated into our brand new, NGSS-aligned Kindergarden Trees and Weather curriculum. I am attaching the trees and interpretation that were selected for Blakely elementary. It would be very sad to see these trees removed and it would undermine the curriculum we developed to bring place-based learning to our kindergardeners. I hope every effort will be made to maintain these beautiful trees.

Secondly, I am part of a team of district staff and educators that is working on improving waste management in our school district. Our team includes Assistant Superintendent Erin Murphy, Head of Custodial Dane Fenwick, and teachers and staff. One of the things we would really like to see happen as we redesign and upgrade our buildings is attention paid to the efficient organization of waste management systems that promotes recycling, composting, and diversion from landfill. As most of you are probably aware, Blakely does not currently have a functioning composting system at the school, and efforts to make waste management efficient can be a challenge with the current infrastructure. As Blakely is renewed, I encourage you strongly to think about putting systems in place that make it easy for the school to compost and recycle and reduce waste stream contamination. We have some excellent examples of efforts in our school system, including centralized waste management at Wilkes, and the teacher-led compost and recycling program at school lunch at Woodward. It is our hope that the district as a whole can make strides towards making recycling, composting, and landfill minimization, and times at which we are upgrading facilities are an absolutely excellent opportunity to do so.

Thanks so much for all your hard work for our district,

Deb Rudnick

On Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 12:51 PM, Alan Grainger <alan.grainger@cobicommittee.email> wrote:

> Heather:
>
> Please make sure this is forwarded to the applicant and their design team, and also added to the record for the project. Olaf's thoughtful comments should all be addressed and it would be helpful for the DRB to get and review a copy of the Landscape Architect's response.
>
> Thanks
>
> Alan

From: Jim McNett
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Olaf Ribeiro; Alan Grainger; Peter Perry; Jeff Boon; Chris Gutsche; Jason Wilkinson; Joseph Dunstan
Cc: Ron Peltier; 'Deborah Rudnick'; 'DOUGLAS A RAUH'; Heather Wright
Subject: RE: Comments on proposed Blakely Elementary school

Olaf-

Thanks for attending the meeting and taking the time to send us your comments. I support your comments entirely and trust they will be conveyed to Heather Wright and the design team which seems amenable to a learning landscape. We're very lucky to have you on the island - and on the job.

Regards,

Jim McNett

From: Olaf Ribeiro [mailto:fungispore@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 3:40 PM
To: Alan Grainger; Peter Perry; Jeff Boon; Chris Gutsche; Jason Wilkinson; Joseph Dunstan; Jim McNett
Cc: Ron Peltier; 'Deborah Rudnick'; 'DOUGLAS A RAUH'
Subject: Comments on proposed Blakely Elementary school

To Design Review Board Members:

After attending the presentation for the proposed construction of the new Blakeley Elementary School, I would like to make the following comments.

1. How many trees are to be removed during the construction of this building?
2. Will the signature Japanese Maple tree in front of the school be saved? If not, why not? It is a valuable tree.
3. I am disappointed with the proposed landscape plans. Just a few nondescript trees and a lot of native grass areas. This is a wonderful opportunity to plant a variety of tree spp. that can be used to teach children about trees. There is sufficient scientific information on importance of trees in helping improve one's sociological and psychological well-being. I have attached a list of the importance of trees to our well-being. Planting trees remains one of the cheapest most effective means of removing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. (Carbon sequestration). A single mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide @ 48 lbs/year and release enough oxygen into the atmosphere to support 2 human beings. Why is the school administration reluctant to consider these methods to mitigate climate change? They have a great opportunity to develop this project by implementing several climate mitigation methods.
4. Why not plant fruit trees that the children can harvest for their lunch break? If one is afraid of children climbing the trees for the fruit, plant espalier fruit trees along the fence line. These are available for a wide variety of fruit spp.

5. Has anyone asked the kids what they would like to see in their new school? Below is a link to the new elementary school in Hawaii. Note how many kids talk about their love of the trees and nature surrounding their new campus.

   https://www.facebook.com/PunahouSchool/videos/10155102005549345/

6. Why not install cisterns to collect rainwater that can be used to water the landscape? Several thousand gallons of water can be available by collecting rainwater. It is disappointing that this climate mitigation idea was not considered.

   Here is an easy formula to measure amount of rainwater running off the roof: Measure the square footage of the collection area (for example a **roof** that is 30 feet wide x 50 feet long = 1500 sq. ft.) Multiply the area by the amount of rain in inches. Multiply that number by 0.623 (that is the quantity of **water** in gallons one inch deep in one square foot of space).

   You can see from this calculation that we can save and use several thousand gallons of water for landscaping and other purposes.

7. I believe the architects need to be reminded that children **do walk** to school. Not all children are dropped off by their parents. Consider putting in a sidewalk for their safety.

Thank you.

Olaf Ribeiro

842-1157

PS: I hope they do a better job of preserving the remaining trees than Wilkes Elementary did! Need more than just lip-service to say they are preserving the trees!

Pictures courtesy of Doug Rauh