



**PUBLIC MEETING #2
HILL WARD BUILDING IN FSP
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007
6:30–8:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499**

WELCOME: Mary Dodsworth, Parks and Recreation Director, welcomed the guests to the second public meeting focused on the demolition and renovation of the Hill Ward building located in Fort Steilacoom Park.

Mrs. Dodsworth reviewed the information shared at the first public meeting. All of the brainstorming sheets and park site pictures were displayed in the room so that new guests would understand how the ideas were developed. The challenges in the removal are to preserve the historical element of the site, honor the staff and residents who worked the hospital farm and keep the area safe for park visitors.

Mrs. Dodsworth indicated that the second meeting would feature a project update by the project coordinators, Laurie Larson and Brad Pugh. All of the ideas shared at the first meeting had been considered and four options developed. The options would be presented at the meeting and a public discussion regarding the good and bad points of each would follow. Other ideas and elements would be added as appropriate. Following the meeting, the options/ideas would be drafted into a final Master Plan for the Hill Ward Building. A phased work program and next steps would then be determined.

The first meeting included a tour of the site before the public discussion. This allowed people to see the site, feel it and experience it. Over 50 people participated in the tour and public discussion where good information and feedback were received. Those present broke into small groups and discussed what the area should look like in the future and what should be done to remedy the safety issues at the site. As much as possible, the ideas were incorporated into the options to be presented at this meeting.

The themes present in all of the brainstorming lists were:

- Safety
- Remembering History
- Low Maintenance
- Restoration/Native Plants
- Current access to the site and other park areas must be maintained

Laurie Larson addressed the audience and noted that Western State Hospital had a great number of historical pictures which assisted her team in developing the four options. The team went to Olympia and sought out written documents in the State Archives. There was minimal information on the White House/Hill Ward building, but there was a significant amount of information on the farm. The workers were patients who performed farm labor as part of their occupational therapy. They lived in the Hill Ward and worked the farm during the day. Ten trucks left the farm daily full of produce

and, according to the historical documents, the farm management was trying to purchase two more hauling trucks. The consultants also contacted people in Washington D.C. to obtain more information on the site and to locate information on the architect who designed the building. Based on their research and the input from the City's initial public meeting, they created four design options.

Design Option #1: Prairie Grass and a Healing Garden.

Remove the building and let the site return to a natural area.

- Sign to acknowledge the patients and the history of the site.
- Display the history of the site.
- Install benches.
- Add picnic areas.
- Make a covered picnic area.
- Keep some undeveloped space.
- Remove all traces of building and let site return to natural state.

Design Option #2: Steps and Terrace.

Remove the building and leave footprint of the building mounded in the shape of "Bird in Flight."

- Save the stairs at each end of the building and other salvageable parts of the building.
- Clean up the stairwells and keep them to provide a nice view to the lake and park.
- Leave the front entrance.
- It is important to preserve some of the building as a memorial.
- Reuse the concrete from the building for a path or walkway.
- Sign to acknowledge the patients and the history of the site.
- Display the history of the site.
- Install benches.
- Add picnic areas.
- Make a covered picnic area.

In the #2 Design Option, audience members suggested:

1. Make it a nice place to just hang out
2. Work to maintain viewing points
3. Keep the bird outline
4. Raise the footprint
5. Include a obelisk with historical information
6. Maintain a visual connection to the rest of the park by thinning the trees. Viewers should be able to see the barns from this site.
7. Incorporate worker from the Job Corps or the vocational department at Clover Park Technical College in restoring the area.

Design Option #3: Labyrinth

Using material from the building, create a labyrinth on the land mounded up and in the shape of the building (Bird in Flight).

- Save the stairs at each end of the building and other salvageable parts of the building.
- Clean up the stairwells and keep them to provide a nice view to the lake and park.
- Leave the front entrance.
- It is important to preserve some of the building as a memorial.
- Reuse the concrete from the building for a path or walkway.
- Sign to acknowledge the patients and the history of the site.
- Display the history of the site.
- Install benches.
- Add picnic areas.
- Make a covered picnic area.
- Make a labyrinth.
- Use building concrete in labyrinth.

In this #3 option, the audience members suggested:

1. Meditation walk
2. One way in and one way out – move toward the center looking at the past and consider the future
3. Raise the footprint of the building
4. Use the crushed rock materials to outline the 'bird in flight' image
5. Work to recognize the huge building when it is gone
6. Put in benches so you could enjoy the view and not just keep your head down walking on the labyrinth. Use portion of the building for benches
7. Put the labyrinth at the center of the building footprint

Design Option #4: Ruins – Leave portions of the building in place.

- Save the stairs at each end of the building and other salvageable parts of the building.
- Clean up the stairwells and keep them to provide a nice view to the lake and park.
- Remove the porch roofs to eliminate places to gather/deface
- It is important to preserve some of the building as a memorial.
- Reuse the concrete from the building for a path or walkway.
- Sign to acknowledge the patients and the history of the site.
- Display the history of the site.

In the #4 option, audience members suggested:

1. Smooth off the center section and make a labyrinth in a time spiral – going into the old ruins and coming out the new area.
2. Yes, use the building materials (crushed) as pathway material
3. Put Garry Oaks in the rear section – other trees as appropriate – Sequoias.
4. Would like the front stairs to remain, but raise up the soil so all on one level – raise the footprint
5. Graffiti would still be a problem with this option
6. Don't leave the back wall – this is too attractive to 'painters'

When all of the options were reviewed and everyone had had a chance to add opinions, the summary was:

- People wanted a raised footprint in the shape of the building so that the size and form of the building could be recognized
- The view to the rest of the park was to be re-established
- Grass – not turf - and nothing requiring irrigation was to be planted
- Dead trees and scrubby plants were to be removed
- New trees should include Garry Oaks or Sequoias.
- A labyrinth should be created using the crushed up building
- The stairs and porches should be retained and incorporated into the design at some point in the future, but not immediately as they would be too much of a target for the same kind of vandalism occurring now
- Use portions of the building as 'benches'
- The scalloped trim on the porches could be cut off and turned into benches.
- Use interpretive signage to explain what this area was used for and make the signs to match the historical obelisks in place at other historical sites.

Where do we go from here?

The design team will do the final drawing and present it at a public meeting on August 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 1E of Lakeood City Hall.

Mrs. Dodsworth indicated she hoped to have the building torn down within six to eight weeks of that final public meeting.

Mrs. Dodsworth thanked everyone for their participation in the process and for sharing their good ideas and encouraged them to follow up by attending the August 13th meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Mary Dodsworth
Parks and Recreation Director

Suzi Riley
Administrative Assistant