

# 07/17/12 UNCG Public Meeting Comments

Proposed New Student Recreation Center  
Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects, PA

Rev 07/27/12

Public meetings were conducted at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex in the Terrace Room on West Lee Street for the purpose of gathering input from residences of the Glenwood Neighborhood and other interested parties for the exterior design of the new UNCG Student Recreation Center. The meetings were held at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM and lasted approximately 2 hours each. Attendee sign-in sheets were available at the entrance and were collected by UNCG Campus and Community Development at the conclusion of each meeting.

Prior to the start of the meetings presentation boards were displayed to show the site along with renderings of planned UNCG construction projects. The meetings were opened by Mr. Mike Byers of UNCG and a brief slide show was presented of the UNCG projects that are either under construction or soon-to-be under construction in the Lee Street Corridor. Following this Mr. Larry Robbs of Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects, presented a description of the new Student Recreation Center along with photographs of the site. At the 7:00PM meeting photographs were presented of similar recreation facilities constructed across the country.

Following the slide shows the floor was opened for comments, questions and suggestions from the audience. Participants included both opponents and supporters of the project, residents of the Glenwood neighborhood, City of Greensboro staff, Lee Street merchants, UNCG community members including administrative staff, other stakeholders and interested parties. The following are paraphrased comments from the audience and organized into 8 categories. Email comments received following the meeting are noted with an asterisk.

## 1. Building Design

- Provide views from Lee Street into building – transparent facades
- Provide views from indoor running track to the outdoors
- 225,000 square feet - “holy cow” this is a big building
- Is it possible to build two smaller buildings?
- UNCG signage should be used on exterior proudly
- Can public outdoor amenities be provided – i.e. playgrounds?
- Parking should be under the building
- Gallery or Retail Space on first level can be positive
- Gallery or Retail Space may compete with existing neighborhood businesses
- Non-essential support spaces should be moved to the interior of the building
- Building should be designed with sustainable concepts

## 2. Scale / Mass / Volume

- Provide a maximum of 2 story spaces adjacent to the neighborhood
- Windowless spaces should be buried in the interior
- Use smaller spaces to break up long exterior walls
- Change in both vertical and horizontal planes will help with massing

3. Building Materials / Textures

- OK to use materials similar to the new residence halls – i.e. brick / glass / precast concrete / metal panels
- Industrial Design Components are appropriate
- Match style of Main Campus ... to a degree.
- Provide transparent walls and floors to lighten the appearance of the building
- Provide “Green” roof(s)
- Style should be sleek / modern / high tech
- Use of color inside and out
- Work with Police Station and Student Housing design and materials

4. Site Orientation

- Do not block view of UNCG water tower from within the neighborhood
- Save large trees on the south side of the site
- Move the building close to West Lee Street
- Service access should be from / near Lee Street – not from Haywood Street
- Orient Building along Lee Street

5. Screening / Buffers / Landscaping

- Landscaping as buffers should be part of the design
- Screen dumpsters, loading dock, maintenance access points
- Buffer noise from HVAC / Cooling towers / dumpsters
- Existing trees at south end of site to remain as buffers
- Screen student bike parking areas
- Screening does not mean fencing and retaining walls
- Minimize fencing
- Environmentally friendly

6. Parking / Traffic

- How much parking is needed?
- How much parking is being provided?
- Where are the student users going to park?
- How will they be prevented from parking in the neighborhood?
- How will they get across Lee Street from tunnel?
- Would like to see a second tunnel
- How are the students accessing the Recreation Center from the new Spartan Village Housing?
- No above ground parking deck, if needed – underground only

7. Miscellaneous

- Were other sites considered?
- Why does it have to go here?
- What will happen to the old Recreation Center?
- Do we need more pools?
- Parking is a huge concern
- Can the Neighborhood use the facility?
- Keep “Able Body” building on Lee Street
- Bury overhead power lines on Lee Street

*07/17/12 UNCG Public Meeting Comments Continued*

- \* Alumni currently use the SRC and should be able to use the new facility
- \* If non-alumni in the Glenwood Neighborhood are allowed to use the facility perhaps it could be at non-peak student use hours and at a reduced rate
- \* Challenge the Umstead Act
- \* Do not allow non-UNCG students/staff/alumni to use the facility
- \* When can we see actual designs? It is difficult to talk about this without sketches or plans

8. Other comments

- \* Provide more trees at the underpass plaza project
- \* Provide shading devices (canvas?) over portions of the underpass plaza
- \* Parking for the overall development will be insufficient
- \* How will this impact the traffic volume on Aycock?
- \* How does the projected user daily / hourly volume for the rec center compare to that seen at the Food Lion or Library?