

12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stewardship Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 11 7-9pm  
Seattle University Alumni & Admissions Building

### **King County Children and Family Justice Center Discussion**

Representatives from King County and their development team met with community members from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue to discuss the pre-design phase for the King County Children and Family Justice Center redevelopment.

- The current juvenile court building is in serious disrepair. There is a lack of adequate space, outdated HVAC system, and many critical staff members have to be housed offsite. Please see the attached document for more information on why the court building needs replaced.
- The new court room building will house twice as many court rooms and incorporate family courts and more space for case workers and other related office space.
- The redevelopment assumes that the current detention facility, built in the 1990s, will remain.
- Redevelopment is in the pre-design phase currently. After review and approval by the King County Council, the redevelopment will move into the schematic design phase. It will be at this point where the development team will be looking to the community for specific input. The pre-design phase is just to get an idea of major issues and concepts but not refined design plans.
- King County will present the pre-design concepts to the King County Council and try to get a levy measure on the fall ballot for funding. If voters approve funding, the project will likely start construction in 2012.
- The redevelopment team is currently looking at three concepts for the space. These are not concrete design schemes but imagery to get the community talking and to identify key issues.
- Some issues that came up at this meeting include:
  - The need for security to be focused on one entrance/exit
  - The need to create better “spaces” within the site, especially for the families, juveniles, and workers at the site
  - Concerns about the high number of parking stalls (up to 600 in some concepts), how a large parking structure will look, traffic concerns on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and traffic concerns on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and neighboring side streets
  - The location and amount of open space at the site. The park space should be programmed and situated for use by the community and the families and workers on the site
  - Opening up visual, pedestrian, and auto streets to reconnect the street grid
  - How will the new court house building address the streetscape on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue? Can it re-activate the south end of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue? How will it fit in with the surrounding neighborhood?
  - The redevelopment team should focus on understanding the site, especially at night, when the neighborhood struggles with security at the

site. There were particular concerns about security at the park space and the parking garage space.

- Possibly explore public parking uses at the site. Especially if there will be further development later with commercial and additional housing.
- Will there be transit access on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue?

Next steps:

King County continues to look for community feedback. Please contact their public outreach coordinator, Shanon Kearney at Norton Arnold and Co. (206-269-0229 ext 112) if you would like to comment or have questions.

The pre-design concepts will go to the King County Council and they will determine if a ballot measure is possible for the fall.