**Elkridge Community Center Community Meeting 12/16/24**

**Jackie Scott:** We want to honor your time, and we want to get as much information and insights and feedback from you. So we're going to jump in to this afternoon's discussion. I am Jackie Scott, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services, which is the home agency to the Office on Aging and Independence under which this wonderful facility falls. And I just want to give a huge shout out to our host today, who many of you know and love, Jeannie and her team. They're both stars of today.

**Audience Member:** Fitness studio.

**Jackie:** And also thank you to Ofelia who oversees the Office on Aging and Independence. And all the staff members of DCRS or the Office on Aging in the room, just wave your hands so you can say hello. So during this time today, you might see some of them and you might get a chance to say hello to them. So we are here today because you matter. Your voice is what counts. We are so excited that we're able to bring this new amenity to this community, and yet, it's all for naught if you don't get to say, “hey, this is what it means for me to be able to use this facility.” So having a wonderful 50 plus center. Is it off again?

**Audience Member:** The battery probably died again.

**Jackie:** The battery probably – oh, hello? Maybe the battery's gone. Means I talk too much. But, yes, until we're

**Monica:** Round 2.

**Jackie:** Thank you. Round 2. Until we are able to get your feedback and understand what it takes to design a place that you feel comfortable and can enjoy, then all for naught, right? So today, you're going to hear from Monica and her team about these wonderful designs that are here and the kinds of things that we're thinking about. Not only for the 50 plus center, but for the community center as a whole because you will be able to use all parts of this community center. It is for all of us in this community. And so the 50 Plus Center is a major component of this new design and the whole building speaks to who you are and all the things that you've talked about that you'd like to see here in Elkridge. So we have, I hope, a really interactive and informative time planned for you today. And so our partners are here. Nick Mooneyhan, who is the director of Recreation and Parks, and his team is here in the room to listen also. So thank you, Nick. We are partners together in this, two agencies, in community, about the community, and serving the community day in and day out. So thank you in advance for being here and on with the critically important information that you've all come to hear about. I'm going to turn it over to Monica, who's, I think, putting in more batteries. Thank you everyone.

**Monica Pascatore:** It helps if you turn batteries the right direction. I tried set two and then I thought maybe it's user error. Okay. My name is Monica Pascatore. I'm an architect with Canon Design. We've been in Baltimore for over 25 years, so we're local. I live just in Catonsville, so I'm very familiar, of course, with the area. So just a little bit about that background. We do have a pretty engaging session, hopefully, with you all today. I'm going to kind of go straight into getting started with design and remind myself to keep this up here so you can hear me. When we design, it really is not about some big epiphany or some, you know, vision that I have. It's about you. It's about the people that the facility is going to serve and your input. So we do a lot of engagement. Going to the next one. We do a lot of engagement, and this takes many forms. And so this is really the start of engagement, is really understanding programming for this facility and getting as much feedback as we can about the programs you would like to see in the new facility. There is a sort of, I'm going to say, base program that we have started with, but at the end of the day, if there are unique things or things that you like to do, that's really what we need to hear about in feedback. If there are things that are successful here in this facility or things that are not successful here in this facility, it's important for us to hear that. So we have different ways that we engage. A lot of in person activities is typical, but we do sometimes do online surveying if that's better or necessary. We change it by project because it really changes by community. Just a really quick little bit about our timeline. We are roughly under the first orange box, still in programming. So this is round two of a community meeting. We had the first one, at the middle end of November, and this is all the same similar content so we can get more feedback. What we typically do is hear that program, then we kind of go away and we sort of synthesize what we heard and then we put that into options and concepts and ideas for the building and how the building will be sited on the site. We have four stations tonight. So part of that is also the site and site amenities and site program. And we know there are lots of thoughts and I'll say concerns about the site. And then we come back to you with a concept and get your thoughts and get your feedback again. So we try to keep you involved and aware of what we're doing and how the process is going. Alright. Okay. So the site and the location. You're going to be able to look out the windows back there and if we get to it before it gets too dark you'll be able to maybe see the site. But you all are very familiar with where we are. I'm looking for my mouse here, but my mouse isn't showing up on there. So you can see in the circle I'm just going to pop around here. You can see the green star is where the site is and then here's a closer view zoomed in on it. The library is just right down the road. That's where we are right now. Obviously in the 50 plus center. So we're just not too far down the road. And then you're seeing what's in the red line. Can everybody see the red line? I know the lights in here are a little bright. Okay. So dashed in in that red line is what we are saying is the property right now. It's three residential properties. They've been purchased. They're being consolidated and into one, property for the facility.

**Audience Member:** How, how much of an- how many acres?

**Monica:** You know, I don't have the total acreage off the top of my head for the full parcel, but it's sort of split north to south and we're really focusing on the north half of it.

**Audience Member:** Did you say, is this imminent domain?

**Monica:** That's going to- No. No, it is not. But any questions, we're going to get to in a minute at each of the stations. So these are great questions for the site station. So they're site specific station. And we only have a couple more slides here before I'm going to break us out into groups. Our focus is then looking at the site we've been given and the program. So feedback that we hear, married with, with the county. The program is already, the part of it that's been established, marrying those 2 together, looking at it on the site, that's how we then figure out how to start to design the site and the building together. Okay. So tonight’s, or this afternoon, I guess we're still our afternoon. This afternoon this activity is basically four stations. We've consolidated a couple of them and changed it a little bit. So station one is back in the corner. Maybe, Sharon, if you can raise your hand. Station one and we're just these aren't necessarily numbered, but back there is the site station. So that's where you're going to see a model of the site and this, a plan of the site, like an aerial view of the site. And they will be able to answer any questions about procurement or about the site. The second station is up front here. I will be manning that station. This is about big program, big spaces, lobby, multipurpose gym, or multi-use gym and fitness area. We've got a third station in the back, my colleague, Joe. Joe, raise your hand. Yes. Third station is smaller activities, like activity rooms. It could be fitness room. I heard fitness is a big is a big thing. Back there at that station. And then the last station, Aarti, she is raising her hand back in the corner here with DPW. She is going to be at the sort of outdoor and nature station. What we'd like you to do the pictures that are up are just inspirational. They're just ideas for what events and activities typically happen in spaces of this size and so we want to hear from you things that are important to you. Each one of us will have a sheet with dots and you can give, you know, several dots for putting a priority on the images that you really like, things that are positive for you, that you would like to see at this new facility. We also have post its where we'll take comments down. And then outside at the moss wall, I'm going to say, a little green moss wall, there is a table where we've got comment cards and I'm going to point that out here. There are eight and a half by eleven sheets. They look like this for you to write your own priorities. So we want to hear in your own words, and not just the loudest voice in the room perhaps or the loudest voice to station, every voice, what your priorities are for. So give as much or as little information as you want there. Let's see. If everybody hasn't signed in, please sign in before you go and I think we can break into groups.

**Audience Member:** Question. Which station is specifically for the 50 plus?

**Monica:** So we specifically did not break out a station just for 50 plus because we want everybody,y we want the program integrated. There is specific program dedicated in the program right now that is larger. It exceeds the square footage you have currently here. But the intent is to look for places where there are synergies, but you will still have the dedicated space for 50 plus. So it's really about the activities and what you want to do in there. So for this, it doesn't- I won't say it doesn't matter, but if you say, I want to do yoga, then you're going to put a sticker on the yoga thing and you're going to talk to the person there. It's really about the types of program.

**Audience Member:** Some of us came to the party a little late on things, so was there any time the consensus was that they need another 50 plus center?

**Monica:** So I'm going to let maybe Nick answer that, but I will say that, this is not secondary to this facility. This facility is changing.

**Nick Mooneyhan:** Yeah. I think, overall, having- building a new community center right down the street offers a, incredible opportunity to provide a much greater amenity, to the entire community, but, especially the 50 plus community. Being able to leverage- create a much bigger space, and also leverage the space within the community center.

**Audience Member:** So are you saying this the 50 plus center would be more than what we have here?

**Nick:** Yes.

**Audience Member:** Nick, can you all talk a little bit about the time frame?

**Nick:** I think, I think for the sake of time, let's I'll be over at the sit, station. And any of those specific questions, we'll be happy to answer in this station so we can collect feedback.

**Audience Member:** How long will it take for the center to be built? 4 years, 5 years, 2 years?

**Monica:** No. I'd say well, the design process typically takes about a year for documentation, but depending on zoning and how everything gets through the permitting process, let's say a year then it's probably two to build it. So I'm going to just say don't quote me on it. Don't hold me to it. Lots of things can happen and change. Let's say three years.

**Audience Member:** So we will be here in this building?

**Monica:** Yes. You'll be here in this center as far as I'm aware.

**Audience Member:** Will the 50 plus center being integrated into the rest of the building or is it going to be its own?

**Monica:** It will be within one building envelope, but there will be dedicated zone space portions similar to this. Right? You've got a big hard wall between you guys and the library. There's one door at that end that connects through. There will be likely, it hasn't been designed yet, but there will likely be more doors between the two. And there may be places where you want to go and utilize another room because it's an extra room that you don't have here and you can use it for programming. With that, I'm going to ask you to- I'm going to ask us to hold our questions for the stations. By the end of this, we really want to understand, again, like I said, all the programming, the things that happen here that work really well, the things that don't happen well, and the things you'd like to see because that influences the space that we design. So I can't we can't design you a good space if we don't know the types of spaces that and the types of activities that you want to do. So with that so we're going to break it into groups. And Joe, Aarti, myself, Sharon, and Nick will be at the stations. So we can ask everybody to get on up, and I know you have questions.

**Audience Members:** It’s not about programs. I’m sorry. The 50 plus center is not just about programs. I have to make that point. It’s about more than programs and activities. It’s a center where a lot of seniors come together for community. So you saying having another room for activities, that’s wonderful. But this center here, this community room offers community for seniors who may not see other seniors. They have a fireplace. They have a gathering room. So I have to say, this is very important that they have their own community room because seniors are isolated. They have hearing difficulties. They need a place where they can sit together and talk where they don't hear a lot of noise. So this is the thing I want to throw out, it’s not about just activities and programs, it's about community building base for seniors. After they have their activities and watch these people build community. And that's what I need to say. It's not activities. It's not programs. It's community.

**Monica:** I totally appreciate that. That's a wonderful comment.

**Audience Member:** That's what I want to throw out to you. It's community, not just programs and activities. So thank you for letting me mouth off.

**Monical:** No. No. I think that is wonderful. I I just want folks to understand that impacts what we designed and the building. So that's what we need to hear. I'd say share that at each station. Yep. Post its? Joe's already got it on a post it. That does impact how we design. So share that, please.

**Ofelia Ott:** So where did they get the dots?

**Monica:** You'll get the dots- Dots you'll get at each station. So do you want to get on up and head to a station?