



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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The Most Livable
City in America

September 8, 2011

PAYNE MARYLAND PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETING AUG. 24, 2011
INDIVIDUAL FEEDBACK QUESTIONS TRANSCRIPTION

(Note: to view actual forms collected, see: [Individual Feedback Forms](#))

1. Comment about the building plans:

- Need theatre space and movie space
- Need an area closer to the fields with restrooms and concession area for games and for people using the fields
- Restrooms should be next to library
- Should have concession area next to kitchen
- Kitchenette would be needed
- The restrooms are not convenient for field
- Possibly have outside entrance for bathrooms
- Do we really need a second upper level because it seems like a lot of space to just go unused?
- It looks good so far
- How will existing plan work with phase II?
- Why isn't every effort being made to refurbish our Carnegie Library like St. Anthony
- Like the designs
- Stop spending money we don't have!
- Don't neglect the other rec centers on the East Side!
- This project, although worth while, shouldn't suck resources away from other rec centers especially Duluth and Case
- Don't put mechanical room next to or under meeting room
- Sky lights would be nice
- There needs to be either surveillance cameras or lots of staff
- What about energy supply? Solar? Wind? Garden on Roof?
- Were any polls taken prior to this endeavor to see if people of this community wanted this facility or not!!!!
- Where is the community input?
- Why did you buy existing, open, viable businesses when you could use existing, vacant space (residential or business)
- No one spoke in favor of this project tonight-When will you listen?



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- A new building will not change the needs of the neighborhood nor will it address the social ills
- It will cost more money for staffing and programming than we are willing to spend on current structures
- This community need to develop the empty businesses and sell/rent the empty housing in the area
- How about developing some programming for children and seniors in the community with the 16+ million to build the building we don't need

2. Comments about the building exterior appearance drawings:

- There needs to be a water feature on the site
- There should be mosaic, frieze or other sculptural decoration along the long wall facing Payne Ave.
- It is a nice design, but it does not fit with the older style of building on Payne Ave which makes it more separated from the surrounding community visually-does not fit
- I am very concerned about the modern look of the building
- Payne is such a historic area, it would be great if the new facility reflected that
- I appreciate the references to the river, but don't think that is super relevant to the Eastside
- To be more constructive, how about more windows
- Cannot afford your dream!
- It looks modern which is nice
- Exterior is fine but existing library fits neighborhood as it is now
- Nice concept drawings
- The glass on the "community" space is pretty vulnerable to vandalism
- Where is the parking and how many spaces?
- How about a mural on the building
- Why are we spending money for new buildings
- Will there be money to maintain staff there
- Does not fit in with current architecture/design
- The design is not informed by existing neighborhood architecture
- It is disrespectful of the vernacular context, and therefore irrelevant

3. Activities you would like to see happen in the space:

- Theater
- Movies
- Arts of all kinds
- Community gatherings
- Adult continuing Ed classes
- Teen groups
- Badminton-especially popular with the Hmong community
- Basketball tournaments
- Basketball! 2 courts!
- Programming relating to the Hmong community
- How to cook Hmong dishes

- Hmong classes-to read and write
- Hmong story telling
- A huge children's section in the library
- Free public WIFI needs to be a priority PLEASE!
- Coffee shop
- Coffee shop
- Organized sports activities for children
- Preschool
- Sufficient staff to run lots of programming
- I would like to see our current recreational facilities properly staffed and running to capacity for the residents of this community
- Healthy snacks, helping people to understand the importance
- We need jobs in St. Paul-not more buildings that will be empty!
- Meetings where there is a democratic process, not like tonight's meeting, Shame on You!
- How many foreclosures on homes in St. Paul, nobody has money or jobs, stop spending stupid
- And one that just went on and on across the whole page:
 Comments about the "Payne Reliever" closing and "Embers Restaurant" opening in its place, and failing as a business. I visited that restaurant twice and both times I left with the impression that the real reason this building is open and in use again was for the "Bingo Hall" in the back of the inside of the building. When my guest and myself sat to enjoy the meal we felt out of place because we weren't in the back gambling. The building was mis-representing itself and that's why I believed it failed. This neighborhood didn't want more bars nor gambling. Please don't mis-represent this building. I believe a well designed building could and will be a great success. I also enjoyed the library in Maplewood and Roseville's library. I go out of my way to use these libraries where Arlington Library is small, dark and just not really very interesting for learning to me as well as the White Bear Library. In addition this neighborhood is very mixed with nationalities. My question is why was the crowd in here very white? Where or why didn't the others come? The Spanish, Hmong, the youth?