



Ed Robson Arena – Community Meeting #5

June 29, 2019 | 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Cornerstone Arts Center

Meeting Summary

Approximately 100 citizens attended Community Meeting #5 for the Robson Arena Project.

Welcome and Introductions - Lisa Bachman

Project Overview – Vision and Goals

Lisa Bachman provided an overview of the Robson Arena project on the campus of Colorado College, being one of the venues associated with the City for Champions initiative. She described what the public process has been for input into the design of the arena. There have been a number of community meetings, workshops and public hearings. She referred attendees to the project webpage on the Colorado College website <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/robsonarena> for more information and where the Frequently Asked Questions are posted. All documents related to the meeting will be posted there as well (PowerPoint, display boards). The public may submit additional questions on the comment forms handed out at the meeting, or by email to: RobsonArenaDesign@coloradocollege.edu

Fact sheets will be handed out at the end of the meeting. Some inaccurate information has been circulated on social media. Please go to the website for the facts.

Upcoming public hearings:

- City Planning Public Meeting: August 2019, Date-TBD
- Colorado Springs Downtown Review Board: November 2019
- Colorado Springs City Council: December 2019

Project Team

Colorado College

Lesley Irvine: Vice President and Director of Athletics
Chris Coulter: Assistant Vice President Facilities Services
Rick Greene: Senior Project Manager
Scott Lowenberg: Associate Athletics Director

City of Colorado Springs

Bob Cope: Economic Development Officer, City of Colorado Springs

Consultant Project Team

Consultant Project Manager: Chris Lieber, N.E.S. Inc.
Public Engagement: Lisa Bachman, Bachman pr
Architect: Adam Davidson, JLG Architects
Traffic and Parking: Cady Dawson and Lyle DeVries, Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig
Civil Engineer: Kyle Campbell, Classic Engineering
Landscape Architect: Andrea Papierski, N.E.S. Inc.

Leslie Irvine shared that she made a decision to come to Colorado College in February. She has been tuned into the project for the past seven months. Her background includes Pomona College as Director of Athletics, and at Bolling Green, a hockey town. She fell in love with hockey there. She appreciates the value of community and college relationships. She said she is eager to get back to a place where that is a priority. The goals for Robson Arena have remained consistent throughout this process. It is important to the college and to the community. She is proud of the transparency around the project and thanked everybody for being here as public involvement is an important part of the process.

Chris Lieber discussed changes made to the project as a result of the public process. The project is currently concluding the pre-planning process. Later this month, a formal submittal will be made to the city of four specific applications. A number of documents and reports will also be submitted with the application. They will be open for public review at that time. The documents are focused on the arena and the block where the arena will be situated, the block of Cache la Poudre, Dale, and Tejon streets and Nevada Avenue. The arena is first and foremost, the parking lot & then campus support are part of the application process. The arena project has also been a catalyst for three other studies. The college is at the table and taking a part in these studies as well, which include:

- Downtown Shuttle Study (Led by City)
- Neighborhood Parking Plan (Led by City) – block-by-block meetings are an outgrowth of the arena process and include conversations about very specific types of residential parking permits. There are options that neighbors can talk to the city about during those meetings.
- Pedestrian Lighting Study (Led by Colorado College) – based on the college’s desire to address parking strategies and parking lots. What does that look like at night? Safety and public rights-of-way are included.

Community Input Shapes Plans

There were significant changes made to the project from where we were seven months ago, based on community input. The arena was originally on the south end of the block. It has now moved to the north side, which opened up a lot of opportunities and created a buffer for the businesses on the south. Another change was to find a solution to parking so that parking could be accomplished without relying on existing on-street parking. There is now a parking garage with approximately 300 spaces and also parking added near the El Pomar Sports Center. We have addressed the need to accommodate a sold out hockey game, 3,376 attendees (slightly lower than what was discussed at the last community meeting). We are seeking to find the right balance with designating campus lots for Friday and Saturday nights when games would take place. The input we’ve received shaped the plans for multi-modal parking opportunities, expanding on-street parking around the frontage of the arena, relocation of the 3-D Arts building, the Natatorium, and the tennis courts adjacent to Monument Valley Park to accommodate additional parking.

We also received feedback that led to changes in the materials used on the arena. The design now includes an extensive amount of brick. For landscaping/streetscaping, comments about how to relate to Tejon Street and to the rest of the campus were taken into consideration.

Where We Started v. the Current Plan

Chris reviewed where the site plan started out and what it looks like now. Details were provided about the following:

- primary entrance now at the northwest corner of the arena with a secondary entrance on Cache La Poudre anticipated to be primarily used by students
- plaza space, lobby space
- how the design expands the open space area and maintaining an opportunity for future use of the open space
- outdoor food court allowing adequate space out front for food or coffee shop
- direct access from the parking garage into the arena
- parking garage exit to the west was an important element to be used for other activities held at the arena

Architecture - Adam Davidson

Shared four focus points for the arena:

1. Tell a story of correlation with the campus, in touch with the outdoor nature of Colorado College.
2. Stone, natural elements to connect Robson Arena with both hockey and students, respecting other existing aspects of the college
3. Provide a sense of scale that works better with the campus and the surrounding neighborhood.
4. Provide a parking and traffic solution.

Some aspects of the final design are complete, but there is more work to do on the details. Important features being refined:

- glass in the lobby makes a very important statement
- the red rock gives a tree canopy effect, tall volume of the arena being pushed to the center of the site

- the light field of the main entry is very open and welcoming. Transparency is very important. The brick and signage are clean, not fussy. There is ample space for when people enter or leave the arena.
- sense of scale on Tejon Street is an important feature with the team store, multi-purpose room on the second level, the deli plus another tenant in this space, possible future pub or coffee shop. The idea was to activate Tejon Street with mercantile space, stitching them together but also to break the scale so it is not one monolithic space, to make it feel more comfortable, push the high volume of the arena as far back on the site as possible.

The Nevada Avenue corridor is still being worked on. On the east side, we were able to tuck in all the service utilities behind the screen wall tied into the architecture. The design needs to balance to the form base codes and make it a pedestrian friendly environment. The parking garage is hidden behind the landscaping and is still tying all aspects of the site together.

A terra cotta screen and glazing were added along with brick for a very strong base. We moved the volume of the arena to the middle of the site with various elevations along the street to make it more pleasing for pedestrians.

Materials

- Building materials, concrete, pavers all add interest to landscaping especially in the plaza areas
- Signage is kept simple but bold; not plastered everywhere, not overbearing
- Introduction and inclusion of brick in two colors; will have a very natural color palette, subtle and natural look
- The terra cotta is a masonry product, reduced to a screening element as a sunscreen on the west. It compliments well with the brick
- Glazing will be flat and smooth for a clean look
- Metal accents will be black and white for a sleek and sophisticated look
- The building will be energy efficient
- The center of the arena over the ice will be off-white or a lighter grey for toned-down reflective purposes; a lighter color will blend away/reflectivity for absorbing heat
- Exploring limestone and possibly interchanging it with the brick

Parking Plan - Three key scenarios for accommodating parking: 1) Game nights, 2) Other events that take place (City for Champions events) and 3) Daily Use of 8 am – 5 pm. Regular every day with CC hockey team practicing, café space use, etc. Part of the planning is thinking about all those aspects. When we look at that we are dealing with several different needs for parking, combined with the overall demand of the college parking use. The parking demand changes with time of year and time of day. Staff and faculty not on campus Friday and Saturday nights frees up parking. When there are block breaks and when students and faculty leave campus – the parking demand changes.

The parking demand is projected to be 1,114 spaces. The addition of the parking garage represents 300+ spaces. With the campus lots, proposed campus lots, privately owned lots and site frontage parking adds up to a total of 1,128 spaces. We have not included the Fine Arts Center or the Armstrong Hall lot in the projections and availability. The college vision plan ultimately calls for Armstrong Hall to be a plaza space, so we are not including that lot in the parking planning.

Timeline

The city review process will take us through November and possibly through December with groundbreaking in early 2020. We are hoping to have the arena opening in 2021. The next big step is the formal submittal.

Wrap up and Next Steps

Lisa Bachman wrapped up the meeting with information about the city review process. Comments will now need to be sent directly to the city. She shared the website for updated information. All the input and time people have put into commenting has been appreciated and has had an impact on the design of the Robson Arena.

The meeting concluded at approximately 12 noon.