

University of Colorado Design Review Board Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Via Zoom

DRB and Campus Members present:

Mike Winters, Tom Hootman, Laurel Raines, Chris Shears, Fawn Behrens-Smith, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and André Vite, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical campus (“Anschutz”). Jody Beck and Sarah Brown were unable to participate in the meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Others in attendance not otherwise noted:

Kori Donaldson, AVP of Budget, Finance, and Capital and ex officio member of the DRB
Linda Money, CU Real Estate Services, CU System employee / DRB notetaker

Mike Winters, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 2:05 p.m.

2:05 – 2:15 p.m.

Study Session – Board Only

2:15 – 2:50 p.m.

**District 11 Renovation at Cybersecurity Building – UCCS
Design Development (Action Requested)**

Architects/Consultants/Contractors:

FTB Architects

Adolphson & Peterson Construction

Presenters:

Kelly Jernigan, Principal and Director, FBT Architects

Hannah White, Project Manager, District 11

UCCS Campus Presenter:

Fawn Behrens-Smith, Director, Planning, Design and
Construction, Campus Architect

Others Present:

Sanjay Engineer, FBT Architects

Jennifer Hotaling, District 11

Jason Wulf, Adolphson & Peterson Construction

Description:

Submittal for Design Development for tenant renovation project at the Cybersecurity Building.

A/E Presentation

The design team and representatives of District 11 gave a comprehensive presentation of the submittal package, which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

DRB Comments

General

A. Energy and Sustainability

- No comments.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

- The Board prefers the option with a longer ramp and no handrail.
 - Consider adding a small (4") curb on the bottom, low side of the ramp for wheelchair safety.
- Continue development of the planting plan.
 - Focus plantings on the upper level.
 - The plantings shown immediately next to the parking lot (at the curblines) won't thrive and should be removed or relocated.
 - Consider a few, larger groupings of plants, including multiples of one species especially the grasses and smaller shrubs, vs. more individual, disparate plantings shown in plan.
 - Evaluate planting choices. Laurel Raines, DRB member and landscape architect, suggests: Apache Plume; Peking Cotoneaster; spreading junipers: Armstrong Juniper or Tammy Juniper; upright junipers: Spartan Juniper, Cotinus Coggygria (Smoke Tree), Physocarpus (Ninebark species); grasses: Little Bluestem, Red Switch Grass.
- Explore the idea of creating a sense of place and identify for the school through the addition of color on the exterior wall to mark the location of the school. This could be a painted super graphic and soften the entrance and make it more friendly.

C. Architecture

- No comments.
 - Note: The fenestration was reviewed during a pre-call with campus architect.

DRB Action

Mike Winters moved to approve the Design Development submittal for the District 11 Renovation to the Cybersecurity Building, with the comments noted above. Chris Shears seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2:50 – 3:00 p.m.

Study Session with André Vite – Board Only

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**New Playground at the Children's Hospital of Colorado (CHCO)
– CU Anschutz
Design Development (Action Requested)**

Architects/Consultants/Contractors:

Treanor
The PlayWell Group

Presenters:

Jason Gruwell, Sales Consultant, The PlayWell Group
Michael Hagan, Principal, Treanor
Tamra Holton, Project Manager, Children's Hospital

CU Anschutz Campus Presenters:

André Vite, AIA, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facilities
Planning and Design

Description:

Submittal for Design Development for a new playground
at the Children's Hospital of Colorado site on the CU
Anschutz Medical Campus.

A/E Presentation

The project manager gave a comprehensive presentation of the submittal package, which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

DRB Comments

Due to a scheduling conflict, Tom Hootman was not present for this item. He reviewed the submittal prior to the meeting and had no comments.

General

- The DRB is very supportive of adding a new playground at Children's Hospital.

A. Energy and Sustainability

- No comments.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

- The DRB and the design team discussed the intended use of the playground. The DRB expressed concern that the current design doesn't reflect the needs of the terminally ill children who are supposed to benefit from the playground. Specifically, the current design seems very stimulating, and the site is not intimate. Additional feedback includes:
 - Explore a more soothing color palette for the playground equipment. Perhaps only hits of color should be incorporated.

- The location of the playground will be exposed to hot summer western sun. Conduct a sun/shade study to provide an understanding of the best times of day and months the playground will be best utilized. Consider the location of the awnings – they are unlikely to project shade onto the fixtures below unless they are relocated.
- Study how the fence can be integrated into the overall design.
- Provide a site grading plan. Call out any retaining walls and detail how the landscaping accommodates the change in grade over the site.
- Continue to explore how to integrate landscaping at the site. Trees could be added to the south side of the site. Landscaping is one way that the site can be made more intimate and less exposed.
 - How can the site edges be softened? How can the playground be better integrated into the site? Could some of the ramps be in the landscape instead of added equipment?
 - One example discussed during the meeting is the new playground at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

C. Architecture

- No comments.

DRB Action

The DRB did not take action on this item. The design team will revisit the design and resubmit at a later date.

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

(For assistance obtaining any copies of the submittal documents referenced within these meeting notes, please contact Linda Money at (303) 860-6110 or linda.money@cu.edu.)