

Varsity Multi- Service Redevelopment – proposed redevelopment of the #17 Fire Station in Varsity

-Oct.17th Information session summary -

Event Info: On October 17th, 2019 we held an information session regarding the redevelopment of a multi-service facility that includes the redevelopment of the Fire Station 17 and units for Calgary Housing. This is part of ongoing process by The City to plan and build more multi-service facilities, making services more accessible and convenient, while reducing cost for land, space and building systems.

The session was designed as an information session to show the public where we were at with a current design processes in the submittal for DP application. Although we anticipate no significant changes to the current design it will be subject to the review process and potential recommended alterations. The purpose of the session was to developed to “tell the story” of how we got to this point of design working through a process which incorporates and reflects public input, functional requirements, bylaws/codes and good design principles. This session was a wrap up which allowed the public to review the progression followed and changes made throughout the process that reflected the input received from previous engagement on desirable design options and neighbourhood look, feel and function.

“How the facility would best integrate and provide services to this community and area?”

Current Design Summary: The design of the new multi-service facility supports several mixed-use programs and connects to the community with public outdoor amenities such as green space, a public plaza and seating. The architecture emphasizes these unique spaces and places through a dynamic form that houses the fire station, commercial space, meeting rooms, potential community room and the shared lobby. The exterior is clad in brick and references the historic iconography of fire stations. The design of the facility provides views into the fire station, the lobby, commercial space and offices, to celebrate each program and connect to the community. Set on top of the building, the four storey multi-family residential units will feature a consistent material on the exterior and will highlight each family home with a private balcony. Reflecting 37th Street N.W.’s park-like quality, the green space and public plaza is a large public amenity that includes community gardens, green grass areas, integrated benching and large canopy trees. The parkette allows for leisurely activities, gardening, seating and play spaces for the community and the building’s residents.

Results and Attendance: The session was attended by ~64 participants and the majority of responses received in person or from the feedback forms completed reflected a positive response to both the current design presented and to the process that was followed in reaching this stage. Some participants who attended did come with some inquiries over traffic and access but stated that questions were answered and addressed to a satisfactory level with the information provided. All information and boards utilized at this session were also posted for the public online on both the engage portal page (engage.calgary.ca/varsity) and on the Calgary.ca webpage.