



Lancaster County Correctional Facility Project Listening Session #1

Logistics

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Location: Lancaster Public Safety Training Center, 101 Champ Blvd., Manheim, PA

Time: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Attachments

Power point Presentation

Sign In Sheet

In Attendance

Advisory Committee: Commissioner John Trescot, Warden Steberger, DW Aberts, DW Joe Shiffer, Larry George, Tammy Moyer, Jackie Pfursich, Brian Koenig, Austin Beiler, Carrie Kurtz, Heather Chalfant, Linda Schreiner

Prison Board Members: President Judge David Ashworth

CGL Team Members: Ed Whatley, Wayne Freeh, Babette Macy

Public: See Sign In Sheet

Notes

Linda opened the meeting. She shared the purpose of the meeting and indicated the ground rules for the listening session. Linda introduced the members of the Advisory Committee, Prison Board, and staff in attendance. Babette and Ed shared the project timeline and described the role of an owner's representative. Fourteen people spoke from the public. The people that spoke represented community organizations along with individuals from the community. Common themes included:



MEETING LOGISTICS

- ***Notification of the Meeting.*** The public felt there was not adequate notice to prepare for the meeting. They indicated attendance was low because people did not know about the meeting.
- ***Location of the Meeting.*** A number of people spoke about the location being difficult to get to along with the time of the evening. Neighbors that spoke near the project location want a meeting near the site so neighbors can attend.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

- ***Community Representation.*** Individuals spoke about having more community representation on the Advisory Committee. Requests were made to expand the committee to add public representatives. They also spoke about the perceived lack of diversity in the Advisory Committee indicating the committee should reflect the population of the prison/jail. Questions were raised on how the community will be involved moving forward – including when the next meeting would be and where it would be held, as well as how they could receive more information.

PROJECT VISION

- ***Vision for the New Project.*** Many of those speaking inquired about the vision for the project. They asked questions about what would be different from the existing facility and asked what sort of guiding principles are being used to guide the design for the new facility.

PROJECT PROGRAMMING AND DESIGN

- ***Needs Assessment.*** People inquired on how the data for establishing who is in the facility was being gathered. They also commented on the high percentage of people they felt were there on pretrial circumstances asking what was being done to get them back home and at their jobs.
- ***Space and Programming.*** Many of the speakers addressed the need for space to conduct classes, host religious ceremonies, group therapy, and allow for confidential treatment (such as sexual assault consultation). Others spoke about the need for a transitional space for the time before their date of their release to get them ready to go out into society again.
- ***Design of Facility.*** Neighbors near the site expressed comments about having a design that would be “nice to live next to” and fit in with the neighborhoods nearby. They also voiced concerns about increased traffic and how that would be mitigated with the new facility. People spoke about the importance of natural light and nature to assist with healing for those incarcerated.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRENDS

- ***Mental and Behavioral Health.*** The public recognized the increase of behavioral and mental health conditions with the inmates and detainees and asked questions about how the new facility would address these issues.
- ***Reasons for Incarceration.*** Public comments were given about the reasons for incarceration and focused on ways to reduce placing people in the jail. People spoke about false convictions along with the impacts to an individual's mental health once incarcerated.

Note: The above notes reflect the comments received by the testimony provided during the listening session by members of the community. As some of the comments conflict with the presentations made to the Prison Board by County staff and/or their consultants, please refer to the project's website (www.lccf-pa.com) for more information on the Needs Assessment and Programming for the facility.