

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION MEETING

PROJECT: Museo de las Tres Colonias Interpretive Center

DATE: August 19, 2013

PLANNER: Courtney Levingston

APPLICANT: Betty Aragon on behalf of the Museo de las Tres Colonias

Courtney Levingston began the meeting by briefly going over the City's development review process, the meeting agenda, and ground rules for communication. The Museo project has yet to be formally submitted for review; the project is still in the preliminary stages and held a conceptual review meeting with the City in April. The purpose of tonight's neighborhood meeting is to gather feedback, concerns and comments early in the process.

Applicant Presentation

Betty Aragon began the applicant presentation by describing the existing setup at the Museo and plans for a new interpretive center:

The Museo is a small, 4-room adobe house. We would like to build a 2,000 sq. ft. building in Romero Park to do things on a larger scale. This could mean partnering with Colorado State University or Front Range Community College, having donated computers, or mentoring/tutoring. The possibilities are endless with the expansion. We're also exploring doing a teen leadership program for kids in the neighborhood – this is being driven to help the neighborhood. We're also looking to have a commercial kitchen for cooking classes and upgrades such as indoor plumbing versus the outhouse that is at the Museo now.

The elevations presented are preliminary and not necessarily what the building will look like. We have received a lot of concerns from neighbors about taking the park, but we're not looking to take the park. The play structure is the only thing in the park, we want to make it better and look how we can give you a bigger and better park. We want to do something positive for the children in the neighborhood, so they have room to play, swings, more of everything. There is not a lot of room to play in the park. We're looking to work with the City on how we can get a bigger park, and when that may occur.

This interpretive center has been in the making for 3 or more years to get it up and off the ground. Originally talked with the City about a bigger park, and where this could happen. At the time we were told there may be something bigger that could happen at the Streets Facility. We want to fight for the crosswalk. Many people have told us we need a light on Lemay and to slow traffic down. This continues to be a problem on Lemay. Can we get something, even temporary, to slow people down? You can't get out of the neighborhood. How do we work with the City to make that happen? We have been asking for these things from the neighborhood for a very long

time. I'd like to see money found for these neighborhoods for things that have been asked for. The Museo wants to help make that happen.

We are looking to do some parking behind the structure and to keep the play structure. Have heard from Historic Preservation that we would like not to see this happen, but instead move it to the front of the structure for the small children.

The handouts you grabbed when you walked in shows the location of the proposed building. When we do the Chili Festival, our largest event, we pay for security people to come into the neighborhood and try not to impose on you and help with parking, including a shuttle driver. We want to be sensitive to the neighborhood. Very grateful we can use the parking here at the Streets Facility. We do not want to impose on the neighborhood. If that means we get a shuttle driver, then that's something we would continue and want to provide.

All of the design is preliminary, nothing is written in stone over what it will look like. We're open to feedback and that's what this meeting is about.

After the Applicant's description of the proposed project, the meeting continued on to the question, answers and comments portion of the meeting.

Comment (Citizen): George Romero was born in that house in the 1940s. The deed was turned over to the City for the park and we were told it would always be a park. We didn't want to sell the land to someone who wanted to put a duplex there. The City came to us and promised it would never be anything other than a park. We wanted it to be for the smaller kids. What I'm hearing now is the City is promising to make a park on the other side of the street. I don't live in the neighborhood now, but I'm interested for the neighborhood. They should leave the park for the smaller kids and have another park on the other side of the street.

John B. Romero was taken off the park name, and it became just "Romero Park". The house was turned over to the City. That was also the Romero House and they came along and turned it into the Museo de las Tres Colonias. We were okay with this because we were all a big family. I think to change now the park and start building a commercial building and infringing on people on the sides should not be done. It could be a 2 story or 4 story building. I see the City is not keeping their earlier promises and now the Museo organization is saying we want another building in there. I am speaking for the Romero's. I think it is a bad idea to build it in that property not only for the Romero family but for those living nearby.

Response (Applicant): When we changed the name from the Romero House to Museo de las Tres Colonias that was because many folks in the neighborhood said they didn't feel included and it was only about the Romero family, and the history was about all folks living in the neighborhoods. If you note, even on the brochures, it still says the home of John B. Romero - that has never changed.

Comment (Citizen): The Romero family has no problem with the name change; we were all a family. What is a problem is when you take the park out of there, which we intended to have for small kids.

Question (Applicant): What about the bigger kids, there is no space for them? Where do they get to play?

Question (Citizen): Didn't you say you are working with the City to provide a park for larger children at the Streets facility property?

Response (Applicant): Yes, we're working with them.

Comment (Citizen): If the City wants to build a park and they're interested in that for all the kids, then let them build it, but don't take the existing park away.

Response (Applicant): We're working to get a park at the Streets facility. The proposed building is not a commercial building, it is a cultural center. It would serve the kids in the neighborhood.

Question (Citizen): Do you think it would duplicate services with the Northside Aztlan Community Center?

Response (Applicant): No I don't. We look to service the entire community. Maybe we have a sliding scale or a donation to help pay for programs at the proposed Interpretive Center. We're very different from Northside Aztlan. Northside Aztlan should continue to be supported for their programs and the kids they support.

Comment (Citizen): If you're saying the City has extra property to build a park at the Streets building, why don't they build another park and this Interpretive Center. The Streets building appears to have ample parking as to not impact .

Response (Applicant): The reason we're looking to have a better park built is because we fought for that. We wanted to put this Interpretive Center building at Romero Park and give back. We're not saying we want to take the small structure, that will stay there for the small children if possible.

Comment (Citizen): I just moved into the neighborhood and looking at the plan, the 10 additional parking spaces does not seem feasible. If the spaces are to be placed adjacent to the alley, that would be next to my house. Will the proposed Interpretive Center park on my land? We need a large space where small kids can play and not have to cross the busy road.

The other kids, they sit on the benches at Romero Park and look after the little kids. Everyone knows everyone in the neighborhood and we know who is a part of the neighborhood. This Interpretive Center will bring in other people who don't belong to the neighborhood. We're a small neighborhood and it's going to make it harder for us to get out of our neighborhood on to Lemay.

Response (Applicant): Additional parking spaces are proposed behind the Museo's property. The Museo shuttles people so people don't park in front of others' houses, so as not to infringe on other property. We're not looking to take the small structure away; it would be moved behind the existing Museo.

Comment (Citizen): It's not just the small structure, it's the entire property – Romero Park. I just left Romero Park and there were 15 kids playing. You're going to take the grass out too. We don't need the Interpretive Center building located at Romero Park, we need all of the park. We have a problem with exercise and that's the only place for the kids to exercise.

Comment (Citizen): I feel like the Museo is pitting us against one another. I don't think that is very healthy. The Museo has brought some good things to the neighborhood, but we're fighting over a small property in the neighborhood and we should already have the larger park across the street in addition to Romero Park. The proposed building is kind of big, so we could still use more of the property for a park. I'm grateful to the Romero Family for your contribution and this says a lot about our neighborhood to see the turnout this evening.

Comment (Citizen): Building a new park across Lemay at the Streets Building would be a wonderful idea, but how would our kids get there? I've sat for 45 minutes trying to get out of our neighborhood. I've fought with the Streets Department to get the road painted saying, "do not block intersection." We need people to be able to cross Lemay safely. The bigger issue is that if a new park is built at the Streets

Building, how will we get there? With the impact of Woodward coming in, that will increase traffic to our area, and it's going to take us longer to exit our neighborhood.

The Romero Family has done something wonderful to help identify the contributions of the Latino families in the community.

If you live near a park, all parks are somewhat impacted by special events. Public parking doesn't belong to anyone, it's for everyone. The drug issue happens in every park. Buckingham Park is being impacted by the homeless. I enjoy taking my kids to Romero Park. My grandchildren have played in that park. It is important for us to maintain what we have. If Streets is up for the new park, we need to know how people will access it safely.

Response (City – Craig Foreman, Park Planning): I know a bit about the history of the park site. Helen Matson in Real Estate Services is going to do some research to determine if Romero Park has a deed restriction regarding use as a park.

We share your concern about safely crossing Lemay, until Lemay swings and becomes more of a local street, it's a very difficult problem.

If Romero Park needs to move, we can look for some feasible property to see if we can keep it on the east side of Lemay. We can't make a park like Buckingham because that is driven by new residential fees. We may be able to put in an upgrade to the park for the things that are lacking. Buckingham would continue to serve the overall neighborhood but we would like to see improvements. This is triggering the whole discussion about Lemay. I talked with the Traffic Department and for a pedestrian (press button)– that would cost around \$70,000. Park Planning is not responsible for the cost of the crossing so we will have to work together with the Museo on this cost.

The City is on a 2-year budget cycle and we can look at upgrades, but we can't solve the current Lemay issue. We do not want to harm the level of service park service in neighborhood. In the 1970's the City went to a park every square mile concept, we couldn't find a nice sized piece of land for this area, and we're grateful the Romero's gave us the land for the existing park.

Question (Citizen): Why is it so difficult to install a light at Buckingham? I have lived here 13 years, but we're still discussing this, what is it going to take to get something done? There is no possible way to get out on either of the roads. Have you done any research on how many children in the three areas are using the park, or would be using them if it was easier to access?

Response (City): That is a question more for Transportation.

Question (Citizen): Who are the Transportation People? Are they here tonight?

Response (City): City Traffic Engineering Joe Olson could not be here tonight.

Response (City): There may be issues with proximity and when you put in a traffic light it can make it more dangerous and congested. There have been instances where traffic signals can cause more congestion.

Question (Citizen): Has anyone thought of a bridge over Lemay as a solution? We have kids and we can't get across or it isn't safe. We can't even walk behind in the field anymore due to the homeless problem.

Comment (Citizen): One brief observation on red light cameras – we’ve acknowledged the cameras have created hazards at intersections, but they’re not coming down, they seem to be a money-maker.

Comment (Citizen): I remember attending many meetings with the traffic issue. It’s ongoing and always rearing its ugly head. I feel this should be put on hold until this is addressed. I’m not even sure if this is still in the master plan. We’ve been talking forever about a push light. This keeps surfacing and it’s not safe for these children. The sidewalks are, for the most part, non-existent in this area. I’m tired of hearing it’s a problem and not being addressed.

Comment (Applicant): It seems like the City can find money for big projects, why can’t we have a partnership with these bigger organizations around us to make something happen for something on Lemay, so these people can get out of the neighborhood. We need something to happen now.

It is great these nearby projects, but it also stings a little bit because these neighborhoods have been promised the basic necessities and they’re still not there (sidewalks, curb and gutter). We keep hearing this and it’s really hard to swallow when we hear they found money for this other project, but can’t find money for this. These are so long overdue, everyone else has them.

Comment (Citizen): I see where the proposed Interpretive Center can be very beneficial for all the neighborhoods, but I also understand the need to have Romero Park in this location for the children because of the high useage. The City suggests that Buckingham Park is for our area, but Buckingham Park is horrible – there are so many homeless individuals there. We had a tournament there and homeless individuals were using drugs in our vicinity. The police did not respond in a timely manner to our call. I can no longer take my children to that park, and I caution other people taking their children to Buckingham Park. It’s not unusual to see police tape at Buckingham Park. We can’t use these parks in this condition. If in any other neighborhood there were homeless and the drugs, the City would do something more. We’ve had so many meetings about what we need (curbs, drainage, sidewalk, safe crossings, safe parks) but instead the City gives financial incentives to Woodward, but there is no money for us. There is high turnover at the City and that impacts us because we’re back at square one. This neighborhood didn’t even get plumbing until the 1970s! When are we going to see these things?

Comment (Applicant): It was the Museo’s hope that the development of the Interpretive Center we could push the City harder and get them provide sidewalks and a cross-walk across Lemay. I wouldn’t want children crossing without a crosswalk. We should find money to get these improvements such as a light to get out of the neighborhood.

Question (Citizen): I have a question about Buckingham Park. There used to be a 9 pm curfew at the park – did that go away?

Response (City – Bill Whirty Park Manager): The 9 pm curfew is still in effect.

Comment (Citizen): We participated in Neighborhood Night Out and the Chief of Police had just left and I called Police for drugs in the neighborhood and they didn’t respond in a timely manner. After 9pm there are still many people at Buckingham Park – why aren’t the Police responding to this?

Response (City – Bill Whirty Park Manager): Buckingham Park is seeing a huge migration right now. This is the worst I’ve seen it. The good news is they now have an officer in D1 on as a homeless/transient position. He’s been making contacts. We don’t have a law against loitering. Buckingham has just turned in to this very recently and we are working to resolve this. We have a big transient problem. Jefferson Street Park and Lee Martinez/Legacy are also experiencing this. It’s not something we don’t notice.

We're not in the enforcement business (Parks); we don't have that skill-set. There's no enforcement capacity from us. Parks is collaboratively working with the Police as it's not a thing we want either.

Comment (Citizen): What I hear is that you're going to keep this small structure and place it behind the existing Romero House and a new park will be built at the Streets Facility, but the problem is that our neighborhood parks have a homeless problem.

Response (City – Craig Foreman, Park Planning): There are transportation issues that need to be resolved. You have Buckingham but we need to figure out how to get across Lemay to access it and other nearby parks.. This helps me to hear this from everybody.

Question (Citizen): I am not personally opposed to this project. I've been asking the City for years to make the park more accessible for all the children. My concern is, are we going to get a park before this interpretive center goes in? What is the timing?

Response (City– Craig Foreman, Park Planning): Jointly – we'd have to figure out the budget for that. This is a conversation that will need to continue. With limited resources, where is the funding best utilized? We do not have enough funding to create another Buckingham park, but how can we work with transportation to address some of the crossing issues. We are open to your thoughts.

Comment (Citizen): Could you not put the interpretive center where the Streets Park is going as well? You wouldn't have the parking issues, adults could walk across Lemay more safely. You cut down on the costs of the security; you're not talking away Romero park for the little kids. The Romero House is only open 4 hours a month anyway. Why don't we put this Interpretive Center across the road on City property? Why does it have to be squeezed into this one little green space in our neighborhood that is so important to our small children?

Response (Applicant): We will take it to the Muse Board and ask them how they feel about it if Streets is up for it. I can't speak on behalf of the entire Museo board; we would have to have a discussion.

Comment (Citizen): As an issue of safety, it is safer for a group going to an Interpretive Center to cross the road rather than two kids. Shuttling adults makes more sense the shuttling children.

Question (Citizen): Will the proposed Interpretive Center be for older people?

Response (Applicant): No, for adults and youth.

Question (Citizen): What type of programming will be potentially offered?

Response (Applicant): CSU wants to partner by providing tutors for our neighborhood children.

Question (Citizen): Is that a commitment already?

Response (Applicant): It's not in writing, but I know they want to help and partner. They're not the only ones, FRCC also wants get involved.

Comment (Citizen): That sounds like people are going to be driving in as well. It sounds like we should be having those people wanting to partner driving to the Streets Facility first and preserve the Romero Park area that Mr. Romero donated to the neighborhood for a park. This would mean we wouldn't have issues with parking. The people that are going to be using it are probably going to driving and they won't have to be blocked in in the Andersonville neighborhood when they can just turn right off here from the Streets Facility. I think a lot of people are in favor of having the Interpretive Center located at the Streets Department open area and preserving Romero Park for the young children and families where they don't have to worry about traffic on Lemay.

Question (Citizen): Where is the money coming from?

Response (Applicant): The Museo would have to fundraise to find the money to build an Interpretive Center.

Comment (Citizen): IF CSU and FRCC want to partner with the Museo for this project, they need to help out and provide funding. I think this would be the best for everyone.

Question (Applicant): Am I hearing from you that you don't want a bigger, new park for your kids? I'm looking for some clarification.

Response (Citizen): What I am suggesting is to locate this proposed Cultural Center to the Streets Department property and build a park around the Cultural Center too. There is enough room for growth and they can add-on in the future. Unlike the Romero Park site, trees will not have to be cut down to accommodate a Cultural Center. The intent was always that Romero Park, in that specific location, was for the children and the neighborhood. Additionally, the building design shouldn't be a square box made with low-quality materials.

Response (City): The City would be leasing the property (small fee) to the Museo as a non-profit organization. Romero Park is City-owned property.

Response (Applicant): We want to make the design of the Interpretive Center compatible to the Museo. If you have input on how it should look, we have had many meetings at the Museo, tours, discussions, etc. and have had a lot of support. I'm surprised we're not having that support here tonight.

Comment (Citizen): We shouldn't have to lose the park for a poorly designed building when there are other opportunities to locate it elsewhere and then we would not have the issue of having to cross Lema.

Question (Citizen): Is the Museo historic and protected? Is our neighborhood a district? Are there any funding opportunities for new infrastructure as it relates to historic districts?

Response (Applicant): The Romero House (Museo) is a designated historic landmark. We have talked with Karen McWilliams in Historic Preservation many times regarding making these neighborhoods a historic district, but we have not had the buy-in from the neighbors to do this.

Comment (Citizen): I've actually looked at the whole neighborhood and conducted some research to come prepared for this meeting. There was a survey done of the whole area. The survey said there were not enough buildings in the area for designation. Only small, tiny buildings and people didn't want to keep them up or didn't have the money to keep them up and couldn't keep them historical the way they were so the whole area did not become designated, only certain buildings.

Response (City Planner): If a house is individually eligible for designation, the property owner has to designate it, and then there are tax credits from the State for work performed on the property. When a district is designated, typically, from you don't get money for sidewalks or street lights, you get tax credits for preservation or interior renovations. If you're interested in making Andersonville a historic district, please contact Karen McWilliams, Historic Preservation Planner for the City.

Question (Citizen): Does she have enough money?

Response (City Planner): Designation is a free process.

Response (Citizen): There were many structures there; I think the survey was done in the 1970s. At the time, people were told they had to keep them up to get the designation, and they didn't have the funds. Andersonville average earnings are \$20,000 less than the rest of the City so they couldn't afford to do it.

Response (City Planner): There are certain criteria – not all houses may be eligible. Please contact Karen McWilliams

Comment (Citizen): I heard the Old Town area is having problems when people want to put in an addition but can't because it's designated as a local landmark.

Response (City Planner): If you have more specific questions about Historic Preservation process, please contact Karen McWilliams at the City.

Comment (Citizen): I think the suggestions about putting the interpretive Center at the Streets Facility are good. Can we have some money to improve our existing park? Perhaps a swing-set or basket ball court?

Response (City- Park Planning): We replaced the playground equipment several years ago.

Response (Citizen): I thought the City had an equipment life-cycle program?

Response (City- Park Planning): We still have the program.

Comment (Citizen): Keeping Romero Park as it exists now would be nicer for the neighborhood than an Interpretive Center.

Comment (Citizen): We have a petition that neighborhood kids and adults have signed; they don't want to see Romero Park moved for an Interpretive Center.

Response (Citizen): I don't think property for Romero Park was donated. The property sold to the City for less than half of the market value. We sold it for so little in order to always keep the property as a park.

Response (City – Real Estate): I will check our files to see if there are any deed restrictions for the park. We can add this to our notes.

Question (Citizen): What if there is a deed restriction?

Response (City- Real Estate): The City could then not lease the park to the Museo. This still needs to be determined.

Question (Citizen): If the City leases the property to the Museo, how do you pay for it?

Response (City): The land is leased, and it would be leased for a low amount, this would have to be approved by City Council. Currently, the Museo pays \$25 per year for the lease of the Romero House.

Question (Citizen): Is that lease renewed?

Response (City): The leases are for 15 years then must be renewed by the sitting Council at the time the lease is set to expire.

Question (Citizen): Who pays for the maintenance of the Museo.

Response (City): Day to day maintenance is the responsibility of the Museo organization, not the City.

Response (City): We work with Operations Services for larger upkeep of the Museo.

Question (Citizen): If Romero Park can only be used as a park -- is the City open to allowing a Cultural Center to be built on the Streets Facilities property?

Response (City): That is a larger City discussion and Larry Schneider with Streets Department would be involved in that decision.

Response (City): It sounds like there are some ideas bouncing around, and that's why we're here tonight --to get this feedback. We'd have to take this back to City leadership and vet the idea and talk about this --so we can't answer this question right now, but we need to look into it.

Comment (Citizen): I think the idea is wonderful and a great concept, I don't agree with the proposed location. I hope the German/Russian heritage can also be brought in which was here before the Hispanic influence arrived.

Response (Applicant): There are signs and the Museo does acknowledge it. We also have in our tours and brochures and website information on the German/Russian influence of this area.

Comment (Citizen): What about putting this Interpretive Center at Buckingham Park? Wwe have room there for a cultural center and that area has ample parking.

Response (Applicant): We wanted to keep the Cultural Center close to the Museo for logistical reasons in terms of school field trips. We would have to look into getting the children across Lemay if the project were to be relocated at the Streets Facility.

Response (Applicant): When you said you should teach about the whole history, and we've heard this before, we do talk about the German-Russians. How can we not tell the whole history, and they settled in Buckingham first. Our focus has been on Hispanics as they have been overlooked in Fort Collins for a very long time.

Comment (Citizen): There's some really good dialogue here and conversations. I'm wondering if putting the interpretive center in Buckingham, why not move the Romero House to Buckingham as well as the proposed interpretive center and expand Romero Park?

Response (Applicant): When we talked to the Romero Family about turning it into a museum, we can't envision moving it and taking away the historic value of the Romero House. That house is historic and location plays an important part in its history.

Question (Citizen): Is there any location on our side behind any of the properties where we could have a park area? It doesn't have to be as big as Buckingham, so the kids could play football or soccer there?

Response (City – Parks Planning): I haven't looked at that; however it could be cost-prohibitive. Park funding from new residential fees. The property you are talking about I believe is commercially-zoned land.

Response (City- Park Planning): Parks collects a one-time fee, when a home is built. What we're trying to do is upgrade places like Buckingham. We have to be mindful of the existing budgeting constraints.

Question (Citizen): Does the City own the land right now? For the overpass and future roadway realignments?

Response (City Planning): Will have to research this question because we are not certain.

Response (Citizen): We were told that the future realignment of Lemay would be far enough away due to the noise and carbon dioxide. What kind of mitigation will be there? A greenbelt was discussed included grass, hills and trees, which is about a 30 to 40 foot span . This is our expectation.

Comment (Citizen): It could be a dog-walk area. Right now they have to go out into that field.

Comment (Citizen): I am concerned about the noise level related to the future realigned Lemay will recreate and it could be damaging to hearing.

Comment (Citizen): The last time they talked about Lemay going behind Andersonville, they were going to cut off 9th street and we wouldn't be able to access Lemay except from Buckingham. If the Museo were to build an interpretive center, people may not even be able to find it.

Comment (Citizen): That is a historical home because Mr. Romero built a home for his family there. That is not only historical, but that is a family home. That's where a family's history and love story is located and should be honored. We can't remove Romero Park and the Romero House.

Question (Citizen): I'm the event coordinator for Via Lopez – we have events continually happening. What is access to the facility like going to be for us? Do we have access to it, will it be fee based? We have lots of ideas for our kids that we've never been able to do before. Will we have access to this Interpretive Center to have our meetings, even our HOA meetings – will that be fee based?

Response (Applicant): Nothing is written in stone regarding this proposed Interpretive Center yet so we don't know what we're paying for yet. If we had to, we'd ask for a small donation to help maintain the building. It wouldn't be something anyone couldn't afford, we would just ask for a donation.

Comment (Citizen): When Northside Aztlan center was being built, we hoped that we could have dance practices there, but we were never able to use it because of the cost to rent it. We were hoping we could use a cultural facility for dance practices with a very small donation.

Response (Applicant): I would suggest that the neighborhoods speak up about their use of Northside Aztlan and asking about a sliding fee.

Response (Applicant): The proposed Interpretive Center would be open to anyone from the neighborhoods, and we'd likely ask for a small donation.

Response (Applicant): We have had people come in wanting to partner for things like mammograms, or getting children ready for back-to-school sports.

Response (City Planner): In terms of programming, Romero Park is located in the floodplain. It is a "critical facilities" area prohibited in the floodplain. An example of a critical facility would be day care. If the proposed project were to move forward in this location, children would have to be chaperoned.

Question (Citizen): Do the neighbors have access to the Romero House now?

Response (Applicant): We take our Museo Board meetings outside right now because it's so small, but if your HOA would like to have a meeting in the backyard, that is a possibility. Talk with us and ask us and let us know what you need.

Question (Citizen): Who would we contact if we would like to use the Romero House for HOA Board meetings?

Response (Applicant): One of the board members would have to be there if you would like to use the Romero House. If you would like have a meeting there, please ask us. Just let one of the Board members know how many people will be attending.

Question (Citizen): Betty do you have a list of the other Museo Board members?

Response (Applicant): Yes, our website is in the process of being updated but it will be up on the website soon.

Comment (Citizen): When Betty brings up Colorado State University and Front Range Community College, they are partners, but they will not be providing funding. Now that the Museo is a non-profit, they can go after grants and that's where some of that funding could come from. I understand that people have volunteered to help write grants.

Comment (Citizen): I was looking at the site plan. Once this structure goes in, Romero Park will be about the size of this room after the interpretive center is constructed. We could use a more modest structure so we have a little park left; that would be appealing to some of us.

Question (Citizen): Is the Streets Facility building in the floodplain?

Response (City): Unfortunately, I can't answer that for certain, please call Marsh Hilmes-Robinson at the City.

Question (Citizen): Is there flood insurance on the Romero House right now?

Response (Applicant): We were told we're not required to have it.

Comment (Citizen): I would suggest a smaller or more modest structure. We still need to find somewhere, like a little park area, for the kids. A 2,000 square foot building is far too large for this small park parcel.

Response (Applicant): The top area would not go all the way across.

Comment (Citizen): I would recommend a gable roof instead of a flat roof. A gable roof is more compatible with the neighborhood and with the amount of snow in Colorado, water would pool up and generate leaks on the proposed flat roof.

Comment (Citizen): We would like to see Spanish style tile incorporated into the roof design.

Question (Citizen): How much concrete is proposed with this current conceptual design? What are the materials proposed?

Response (Applicant): We're looking currently, we're running into problems. The Romero House was recently re-mudded and the kids are already carving into the adobe. This is one of the concerns if the new structure was an adobe structure. Our thought is that if we could make the programming appealing to the kids in the neighborhood, we could help them do things that are positive.

Question (Citizen): Are the kids going to have buy-in? Will the kids be a part of the whole process, what they would like to have a park or a cultural center?

Response (Applicant): It's all about the kids. Right now if you go on the website, it is geared for the kids and we're asking them what they would like to see out of a teen leadership program.

Response (Citizen): I mean the kids should have input regarding the design of the building, not just the programming.

Response (Applicant): The design is not set in stone, so certainly we would be open to design insights. Inside there is a wonderful mural at the Museo, that idea inspires us. That's what they did with the parking garage structure.

Question (Citizen): What happens next? Is there another meeting?

Response (City): The notes will be posted online on the website at www.fcgov.com/developmentreview. The Museo must take the next step and submit a formal application. There is not another required meeting.

Question (Citizen): There are some in the area who don't have computers, will something be sent to them?

Response (City): It is not currently in our process to send something out. We post the notes from the neighborhood meeting online. If you have an individual who needs assistance please contact feel free to contact me – my cards are on the sign in sheet table- and I can get the notes to that individual.

Question (Citizen): Will they be in Spanish?

Response (City): Please contact me (Planner) and if there is a need we can get these notes translated.

Question (Citizen): Betty can you write-down your website please.

Response (Applicant): www.museonow.com

Question (Citizen): What step in the Development Review Process guide are we on now?

Response (City): We're at the neighborhood meeting, step 3. The next step will be for the Museo to submit an application.

Comment (Applicant): If the neighborhood does not want an Interpretive Center, I won't be a part of the decision; it is up to the Museo Board. If you really don't want this I won't do it.

Response (Citizen): We just don't want to lose Romero Park at this location. We would take an additional park and/or a cultural center located at the Streets Facility. The older kids can walk over and utilize the basketball courts or whatever else may be put in.

Additional comment added immediately following the end of the meeting:

Comment (Citizen): The gentleman who lives at the property next to Romero Park is willing to sell his house at a loss to the City for a larger Romero Park or to the Museo for an interpretive center.