BNR Remodel Update 4

09/20/2018

BNR renovation update

On September 11 the architects and construction folks met to discuss the courtyard and west expansion of the atrium of BNR. The two basswood trees in the front of the courtyard will be taken down to open up the courtyard for future landscaping. The 3 memorial trees and the 2 birch trees will be trimmed but preserved. Many of the other trees and shrubbery near the building will be removed to assist in construction. Eventually landscaping and placement of tables and chairs will provide a welcoming location for this nature spot.

The following are notes from the architects minutes concerning the west expansion:

09.11.18.02 West Expansion Review

West expansion design is asymmetrical to allow the preservation of the Bob Hope Trees and currently exists as approximately 3,500 square feet for the main floor and approximately 3,000 square feet for the mechanical space below.

Individual study rooms are proposed to be on the north side of the addition. These rooms would have a lower ceiling over them that would allow a more intimate study experience and also double as housing for the mechanical duct system for the space. These rooms could be advising offices as suggested by Maura but would require them to be screened for privacy.

The west façade is proposed to have an exterior glass lens wall that would emulate the existing entry shape and the tile mural wall. This element would be shaded with a thin steel plate brow element. It is possible to reduce the solar heat gain through other means such as vertical fins or through silkscreened ceramic fritted glazing, but these options would block the view to the interior of the building.

VCBO prefers to reuse existing ‘Biology’ and ‘Natural Resources’ exterior signage at the interior of the building. The font is modern looking and would be the perfect wayfinding element to allow people to understand where to go within the building.

The west expansion will have a reduced basement area to further allow the preservation of the Bob Hope trees. This mechanical space is proposed to house the following equipment: Air Handler for the West Expansion, domestic water heater, heat exchanger, pure water system (for the entire building), acid waste system (for the entire building (the current building utilizes the same glass piped acid waste system that is deteriorating)), and an industrial water system (for the entire building). This mechanical space shall also reserve room if possible for a future air handler for the west wing of the existing building and future heat exchangers to be placed when the west and the south wings are renovated.

USU suggested using displacement ventilation to cool and heat the west addition. USU desires the glass lens wall as a feature element for the expansion but is concerned on where to place the area way for the mechanical room.

USU asked the group where the 1% of the arts piece might go and how it could be integrated in the building. VCBO suggested the art could take various forms and exist as smaller works scattered throughout the building.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25.

Chris Luecke