



2450 Riverside Avenue
Fairview Corporate Office Building
Minneapolis, MN 55454

May 31, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Peter Musty, Zoning Administrator
Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
204 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 204
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Fairview Zoning Application – Bethesda Hospital Redevelopment
Response to Open Design Issues Regarding Art and Community Meeting Space**

Dear Mr. Musty:

This letter responds to certain Design Issues and Questions included in your May 23, 2022 Progress Memo regarding art and public amenities at the proposed redevelopment of the site located at 559 Capitol Boulevard, formerly known as Bethesda Hospital (the “Project”). This letter intended to accompany Fairview Health Services’ (“Fairview”) Zoning Application to the CAAPB for the Project.

20. Community Meeting Space (Inside and Outside)

You asked Fairview to address the CAAPB’s request to continue the tradition of making a meeting space available for community use at the Bethesda Hospital, both inside the new hospital and the gazebo outside.

To date, Fairview has supported the community and neighbors through the use of the green space and gazebo across from the existing hospital. As stated previously, Fairview and Acadia will continue to support neighborhood requests to use this outdoor area as a community space, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. With respect to an indoor meeting space for community use, we are not aware of routine use of the site when operating as a hospital for this use. As is true for our other system hospital, as well as others, the building and its operations are focused on patient care and are operated under various state and federal regulations that impact nonclinical care use with various considerations such as safety, infection control issues and safety/security issues for patients, employees and allowed visitors. This is particularly true for the planned mental health hospital, which will operate as a secured facility with limited public access as required to ensure the safety of patients, employees and visitors, as well as to support quality of care for patients in the facility. Therefore, the community use of indoor meeting space is not appropriate.

22. Art at hill-top circle on axis with Capitol/Capitol Boulevard.

Your Progress Memo noted that the sidewalk canopy and stormwater green along Park is a good opportunity for creation of human scaled art installations such as wall murals, art integrated into the landscape design that is complimentary to the architecture of the building and campus, and you asked whether Fairview will incorporate art along Park Street.

Fairview and our project partner appreciate the community suggestions for art installations such as wall murals and art integrated into the landscape design that is complimentary to the architecture of the building and campus along Park Street. We will work with the community, local artists, and the City of Saint Paul to advance this initiative to move forward with art as appropriate and feasible.

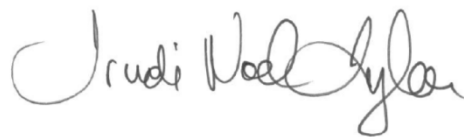
23. Art off Park Street

You noted in the Progress Memo that there is support for an art installation in the proposed new hilltop circle, and asked whether Fairview will commit to exploring themes that relate to the larger history of the Capitol Area as it considers additional art in future phases of the Project.

Fairview and our project partner appreciate the significance and importance of art and recognition of the history of the Capital Area and the impact of art to Minnesotans visiting the area. For potential future phase(s) for this project, we will explore themes that relate to the larger history of the Capitol Area and the indigenous history of the region

We are happy to answer any additional questions the CAAPB Staff or Board Members may have about these or other design elements of the proposed Bethesda Redevelopment as the Zoning Application process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Trudi N. Trysla
Chief Administrative Officer
Fairview Health Services

