

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Public Stakeholder Meeting 5

Monday, May 20 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Final Schematic Design Presentation

Attendees had the opportunity to fill out feedback cards following the large group discussion session. This report records all responses collected on May 20.



Existing v. Proposed Building Attributes: Rate your perception of the proposed solution associated with each of the following building attributes:

Gift Shop	Frequency
Outstanding	30
Very good	14
Good	2
No opinion, neutral	2
Needs some improvement	1
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	1

Greeter Desk	Frequency
Outstanding	25
Very good	14
Good	3
No opinion, neutral	6
Needs some improvement	1
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	1

Library	Frequency
Outstanding	33
Very good	12
Good	4
No opinion, neutral	1
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Office Space	Frequency
Outstanding	19
Very good	21
Good	6
No opinion, neutral	3
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	1
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Maintenance Facilities	Frequency
Outstanding	16
Very good	16
Good	8
No opinion, neutral	8
Needs some improvement	0

Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	2

Greenhouse	Frequency
Outstanding	32
Very good	10
Good	4
No opinion, neutral	3
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	1
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Headhouse	Frequency
Outstanding	19
Very good	24
Good	2
No opinion, neutral	5
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Facility Circulation	Frequency
Outstanding	21
Very good	18
Good	6
No opinion, neutral	4
Needs some improvement	1
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Guiding Principles

- **Be an exciting, engaging, and relevant destination** where visitors personally connect to **the beauty and importance of plants** in a sustainable world.
- **Provide exemplary and innovative educational and interpretive opportunities** based on best practices for informal education.
- **Be known as a leader** in Midwest horticulture by the residents of the Madison area, the 7-county region, the State, and nationally.
- **Be a leader and model in sustainability** in horticulture, landscape design, facilities, operations, and programs.
- **Strengthen the relationship between the Gardens and its neighbors** and foster trust in this relationship through both the process of this study and the end result.



Rate your perception of how the proposed design satisfies the project's guiding principles.

	Frequency
Outstanding	20
Very good	21
Good	3
No opinion, neutral	1
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Additional Comments

I seems like the gardens and staff fulfill the guiding principles.

I don't think storage problems have been addressed adequately

A lot of emphasis on the facility, but not enough concern for the effects on the gardens.

I have concerns of safety for bike access vs. automobile access and parking.

HGA has done a very impressive job of addressing current issues and future needs of OBG. Thank you for the excellent solutions you have come up with.

Work on transition from new entry to garden.

Like the reduction of parking along housing on Atwood and greening parking lot.

Crossing Atwood!

Transplant process for expanded use of garver and north.

Reuse of existing building is appreciated.

Watershed approach = yes!

Foot access from Atwood needs simultaneous improvement.

Like the traffic patterns and multiple entries.

Sustainability seems to have been carefully integrated.

Geothermal, yes!

Innovative without overreaching. Not too big.

Appreciate the though that is going into achieving these goals/principals, especially the sustainability principle (collecting rainwater/minimizing the impact on Starkweather creek). Need to pay attention to feedback on getting across Atwood Ave and work with the city to improve crossing safety as well as parking for the many facilities in this area of the city.

Where are the bike racks?? How will bikes get to the entry?

Excellent on all levels. Please ensure that public transit access is integral to the site design.

Is there enough room for break space for employees?

Need to be a leader in renewable, sustainable and model for community.

Pleased to see rainwater harvesting and green roof.

Would still prefer consideration of solar panels on roofs.

The design solves many issues, but maybe not for the long term. This design seems to aim to fit the size Olbrich should be to accommodate current operation, but not taking in future growth.

It's a fine garden now, but it will be difficult to remain a leader if the gardens remain land locked.

Growth of the gardens is essential.

Like the amount of glass/windows and skylights.

Like the live longer trees in orangeries and courtyard.

Like the expansion of educational area.

Like all of the water, storm, creek, etc. considerations

Like the overall look of the additions.

Rate your perception of how the public design process contributes to the quality and experience of the proposed design.

	Frequency
Outstanding	25
Very good	15
Good	5
No opinion, neutral	1
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Rate your level of satisfaction with the public stakeholder process.

	Frequency
Outstanding	28
Very good	14
Good	2
No opinion, neutral	2
Needs some improvement	0
Needs significant improvement	0
Strongly dislike, disapprove	0

Additional Comments

Very interesting to follow intentions.
Excellent! So rare to have input solicited and used.
"Strong prairie lines" and orangeries do not seem compatible. Please rename!!
You all did an outstanding job of incorporation our ideas. Going forward, it would be great if session could be even more interactive.
Good Job
Many options if you missed a meeting. Good PR via OBG and media.
Great video work. I appreciate the PDFs too.
I appreciate you listening to suggestions, well done.
Very interesting - I've been at four meetings.
Need to involve public in final design stage
HGA did a very professional and engaging job throughout these meetings. Great how they managed comments and input. Good job!
Liked the feedback time/discussion.
As always, there are questions not related to the project directly, which slows the convo.
The process can easily get out of hand with small numbers of vested interests dominating. Seems to have been quite well handled. Good discussion tonight.
Very interesting process. Really enjoyed the feeling that the public's interest and concerns are listened to and incorporated.
Appreciate the thoughtful process of seeing public input, also the
Seems excellent. My fist meeting.

Tell us what you liked about today's meetings and what you found to be effective.

Detailed explanation with pictures are very informative. Like the sustainability ideas!

Overall design is excellent.

Very organized. Great use of technology to show design. Speakers were good and prepared.

Very informative and respectful of the public and the gardens.

I have a better idea of how the new spaces will be used.

Presentation was very thorough and interesting.

Q&A session was good, people got a chance to be heard. Brought up some points that need to be addressed.

I enjoy the public meeting and including the community in the future of a public/community space.

Seemed to have more times for questions from the floor. Good.

Pleased to see that public ideas were considered.

A positive attitude towards comments or suggestions. You did not limit any discussion.

Clear explanation of plan as currently developed.

Very nice effective use of time.

The use of visuals, posters etc. Well Prepared comments.

Next steps and process were addressed. Fund raising.

Happy to see reduction of parking surface and more infiltration, plus parking is needed on Atwood, absolutely!

Love the deep green roof.

Great to see the drawings!

Thank you for all of your work.

Very helpful.

Everything.

Tell us what elements of today's meeting didn't work for you; or, elements you thought were missing from the discussion.

Need more parking for cars and bicycles. Gift shop addition seems too small for projected attendance. Library also seems small. Maybe leave room for expansion.

"Journey" used too often. OBG is not a person, but a thing. Use accurate terms.

Linear "garden lines" in courtyard are not very "natural" looking also hard to make interesting gardens. Skylights tend to leak, need to be very careful in construction.

I think more parking will be necessary sooner than expected.

That support facilities such as solar are not present for public consideration.

Outdoor band concert in summer?

What qualifies as high rain event for run off purposes?

Maybe I missed it, but how is the green roof integrated into education, viewing?

A 10 minute break for people to move around and look at the drawings on the easels again would have really helped audience energy levels.

A green roof in a botanical garden is not necessary and a waste of money. It does not work for me. Instead of a green roof, a roof design that is more similar to the existing roof structure would be more pleasing.

To get the cost down I urge keeping the existing greenhouses as is.

Where are staff restrooms? Need more staff restrooms and locker rooms. Overall need to increase restrooms.

Parking doesn't seem sufficient for expanded programming and space.

Please use this space to give us comments about the project or the Gardens overall.

The design strategy is very good. Good diagnosis of problems and good design to solve problems. Unfortunately, I don't think that the overall appearance of the complex is very good. That might have required a much costlier design.

Excellent

Talking about orange trees in the glass house seems to directly contradict the priority to sustainability/native plants.

Overflow of gift shop merchandise into "hallway" as presented as kind of a negative thing, but I like the look of the displays as you come in the door. It makes the lobby look more colorful and exciting. Can't hurt sales either.

Good reuse of existing buildings. Sorry to see no expansion of the gardens. Glad to see more usable outdoor space. Wish the plan addressed the softball diamonds and old factory. Glad the building can still house art shows. Seems to need more parking off street. Don't need traffic signals or pedestrian bridges. Proposed new space is attractive, and will encourage funding.

That roof with Wisconsin winters...will this shorten usable life and increase maintenance issues long-term?

This looks like a place I really want to go to and bring visitors.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for listening and incorporating important changes and thus improvements.

We are so lucky to have these fabulous gardens available to us, and free!

We need good heating and cooling equipment.

Parking is not enough to support capacity.

Design - I am more concerned regarding green roof which causes more money, people can't see, requires more maintenance and is in the midst of a botanic garden. Does the city allow two sources of water, portable and non portable? Orangeries doesn't fit prairie design. Use overhangs and more FLW prairie feel.

Geothermal under parking lot?

I'm wary of the "polished concrete" floor in the orangeries. I hope it's not "quarry" and doesn't end up looking industrial. Could be tinted a warmer color similar to the light beige/brown in the current building?

I hope to be involved. Thank you all!

Please be sure the windows will not encourage bird collisions. Not sure the overhangs are sufficient.

Engineered Soil - I'm reading the Edgewood master plan/storm water management and the consultant/expert stated that typical sod is actually better for infiltration than engineered soil. This should be considered in your plans. 43% reduction in impervious surface is to be commended. Overall the entire design is very engaging and exciting.

I think that both the city of Madison and OGG/OBS were very wise to spend the money to hire HGA. My thanks to HGA for the excellent job they have done on this project.

The proposed new library of? Space may be cold in winter. Seems like too much glass. Can you find ways to reduce glass? Suggest more prairie style with overhanging roof that looks more like existing buildings, lower saves more energy. Geothermal heating is much too expensive. Electricity is much more expensive than natural gas, a furnace has much lower initial cost.

Is staff and volunteer lunch/break room big enough? Should accommodate 24 or more.

Is the dedicated space for library archives?

Said "gaining a couple desks" for staff...does not seem adequate for new expanded space and programming Please carefully evaluate future staff needs. Don't want to outgrow the office space again.

Orangeries sounds elitist. Olbrich is free and accessible but sometimes battles this image. Please come up with a more welcoming term.

Please continue to plan much light and windows that open for staff offices. Also plenty of private quiet offices.
