

9.20.07

Dear Sande and Kabetogama Community Members,

I hope the beginning of fall is treating you well. I'm sure the colors up there are already spectacular.

Enclosed are three schemes that we've worked out based on our discussions and planning at the June meeting, and analysis of the building as the design evolved. There are a few differences between each of the schemes, but these three should give a good range of the ideas that we considered.

A few of the major concepts were:

- Putting a lot of windows on the south side to increase solar heat gain.
- Putting a clerestory or skylights at the peak of the building to get sunlight further into the northern parts of the building.
- Allowing some or all of the clerestory windows to open for natural ventilation.
- Minimizing the amount of square footage to reduce construction and operational costs.
- Simplifying the exterior of the building to reduce construction and maintenance costs.

While the enclosed pictures show possible finish materials and colors, they are by no means written in stone. Final construction and finish materials will be determined ultimately by the layout that is chosen, and the cost and availability of materials. We think it would be ideal to use local materials, like stone and locally-sourced wood, where possible and appropriate.

We are still hoping for more detailed site information. A site survey would be particularly useful as it would describe slope and vegetation on the site. Both of these are necessary pieces of information to correctly locate the building on the site and to incorporate proper drainage, solar, and wind patterns into the final design. Site topography is of particular concern given the nature of the underlying geography and geology and its impact on building costs.

As you look over the enclosed plans, we have a few specific questions that we'd like you to consider:

1. Do any of the meeting rooms seem to meet your needs more appropriately? There are 3 sizes, and the one in scheme 2 could have a moveable partition wall that could open up and create one large meeting room. (For comparison, the size of your current meeting hall is 36' x 40', or 1440 s.f.)
2. Does phased construction appeal to you? Scheme 2 could be built with just the smaller meeting room at first, and then a hall and the larger meeting room added when funding became available down the line.

3. What is your reaction to the windows and skylights? Do you want natural light from above in the middle of the building? Do you like a lot of windows in the meeting hall(s)?
4. Do you want the pass-through from the kitchen directly into the meeting hall? Or possibly into a separate serving hall such as in Scheme 1? Do you want a door from the kitchen directly into the meeting hall?
5. Does the overall arrangement of the rooms seem sensible and appropriate? Any other suggestions?
6. Is the amount of storage space adequate?
7. How much covered outdoor space do you want?
8. Are there particular elements about the exterior design that appeal to you, or that you desire and are missing? (Think about gables, entries, patios, roof slope, roof overhangs, totem poles, window sizes, siding, exposed foundation, etc., etc.) What about the interior?

The next steps as we see it are to first get feedback and comments via email or in print from committee and community members regarding the suggested designs (answers to the above questions plus anything else that comes up...). Then, we'd like to schedule a follow-up meeting so that we can meet face-to-face about the designs. (It's so much easier to make design decisions when everyone's in the same room!). After that, we'd take all that information to develop the plans to a satisfactory resolution that you could either hand to contractors or to an architectural firm, depending on what was required by law.

Also, we understand that you may need some drawings and/or plans to use for fundraising and community feedback sessions. What other drawings do you need for this stage?

Thanks for your hard work and patience, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
John Carmody
Garrett Mosiman
Dan Handeen