

Public Presented Plans For Rebuilding Fire Station 6

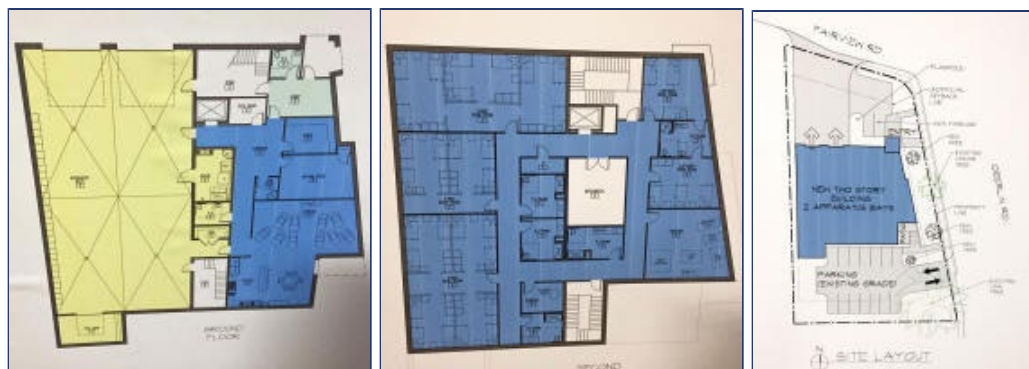
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On Wednesday, October 7, the Raleigh Fire Department held a public meeting at Fire Station 6, to present plans for rebuilding the building. Fire Chief John McGrath opened the presentation with an overview of the project, followed by Architect Ken Newell, from Stewart-Cooper-Newell, who spoke about design considerations.

Questions were posed by the attendees, and answers were provided by city staff and other members of firm. Plus one correction on a historical note from Yours Truly. (See footnote below.) The meeting started about 7:15 p.m. and ended about 8:30 p.m. Less than a dozen citizens attended.



Here's what was shown on sign boards... Click to enlarge:



Here's what was talked about...

Fire Station 6

- Built in 1949.
- Located at 2601 Fairview Road.
- Oldest operating engine house in the city. ([Read history.](#))
- Based on analysis of current response times and requirements, the station site remains the ideal location.
- New station is needed to accommodate second company, a ladder company, Ladder 10, which is planned. (Among other reasons, including station age, condition, systems age, etc.)
- Project is limited by small site size.
- Project requirements have been determined, and prospective floor plan created.
- Design is pending, based on inputs from community.

- Meeting is first of several planned with public, to collect inputs and concerns about the new building.

Background of Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects.

- Founded in 1971 (and based in Gastonia).
- Designed, studied, and/or assessed over 300 public safety projects for municipalities across the nation.
- Raleigh-area fire (and EMS) station projects have included facilities in Apex, Bahama, Carrboro, Clayton, Garner, Morrisville, Raleigh, and Wake County.

Currently involved in four fire station projects in Raleigh.

- Station 6 replacement (design).
- Station 11 additions, renovations (design).
- Station 12 new construction (design).
- Station 14 new construction (design).

Reviewed recent community input projects and historic context.

- Carrboro Fire Station 2
 - Very small lot.
 - Community had concerns that were incorporated into design.
- West Bend Station 13 in Lewisville
 - Designed to align with agricultural and equestrian aesthetic.
- Danville, VA, Headquarters/911/EOC
 - Designed to align with "tobacco district" architecture.
 - Included front, glass-sided section showcasing historic steamer.
- Maplewood, MO, new station/dispatch center
 - Designed on a sloping lot, with lower story below higher grade.

Reviewed the current Fire Station 6 and surrounding community.

- Showed elements of the facility, including proximity to intersection, sloping rear grade, slopping side grades, rear water garden that's part of water collection system, pair of old trees on property (that will be preserved if possible), architectural styles of surrounding properties, notably appealing elements on corner dry cleaner building (former gas station?).
- Noted that their design will be designed to "respond" to the architecture of the surrounding buildings and community.

Design process began with a list of requirements, including:

- Apparatus:
 - Bay 1 with capacity for 35-foot engine and 35-foot reserve engine.
 - Bay 2 with capacity for 63-foot tiller. With inclusions for doors and walking space, 80-foot length.
 - PPE storage room with thirty lockers.
 - Decon/laundry room.
 - EMS storage closet, with controlled climate.
 - Tool shop and outside equipment storage.
 - Total 4,504 vehicle bay square footage.
- Public:
 - Lobby with seats for visitors and display space.
 - Public restroom.
 - Watch room.
 - Captain's office.
 - Total 594 square-feet public space.
- Private:
 - Day room with seating for ten people, open to kitchen and dining.
 - Kitchen and dining area, with exterior door to patio. Commercial food preparation/storage equipment.
 - Partially covered outside patio with gas grill connections.
 - Sleeping rooms, toilet/shower rooms for personnel.

- Exercise room.
- Total 4,818 private space square footage.
- Total 12,874 net square feet, adding space for HVAC, etc.

Showed current site plan with elevations, property boundaries, setbacks, etc.

Showed site layout with new building.

- Building footprint will be larger.
- Apparatus bays shifted a bit west on property.
- Two parking spaces beside apron.
- Two entrances for public, on front and side of building.
- Two new trees planted.
- Two existing trees preserved, if possible.
- Outside parking, using existing grade.

Showed prospective floor plan.

First floor:

Second floor:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● Apparatus bays | ● Two-bed bunk room |
| ● Decon room | ● Three-bed bunk room |
| ● EMS room | ● Four-bed bunk room |
| ● Tool shop | ● Toilet/showers, four |
| ● Lobby | ● Captain's bunk room, two |
| ● Public toilet | ● Captain's toilet/shower, shared |
| ● Radio room | ● Exercise room |
| ● Captain's office | ● Storage/fire pole access |
| ● Day room | ● Mechanical room |
| ● Day room toilet | ● Both floors: |
| ● Kitchen/dining | ● Stairs, two |
| ● Elevator equipment room | ● Elevator |

Discussion notes:

- Architects will respond to community architecture, in their designs.
 - Such goals of multi-color, multi-color brick treatments, masonry details, maybe pre-cast, etc.
 - May include historic elements both inside and outside structure.
 - Though noting that the building itself, basically a box, doesn't have significant architectural significance.
- Design will have considerations for next-door neighbor.
 - Vegetation planned on west side of lot, for visual and noise abatement.
 - Design elements also planned, so there's more than "just a wall" for neighbor's view.
- Basement under consideration in rear of structure.
 - Thus with a three-story rear section.
- Will have sprinklers.
 - All new Raleigh fire stations have them (required to have them?), as well as renovation projects.
- One attendee suggested they survey properties further down Fairview Road, at Five Points.
 - For additional comparable examples of commercial and community architecture.
- One attendee inquired about accordion-style doors for apparatus bay, as a better fit for neighborhood.
 - Architect agreed, though notes they are expensive up front.
 - Legeros: Cost about three times as much, but are typically less maintenance. Open nearly instantly, in seconds. Very hard to hit.
- One attendee asked about building height.
 - First floor height of 20 feet, second story of 12 feet. Thus 32 feet higher or a bit more.
 - Mansard roof cited as possible design.

Historical Correction

In his book *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting*, published in 2003 by Arcadia Publishing, author and burgeoning historian Mike Legeros wrote about the original Station 6, which opened in a rented building on Fairview Road in 1943. He presented a pair of significant errors: wrong street address and wrong building pictures.

The original Station 6 was a single-story structure at 2519 Fairview Road. It was NOT located at 2513 Fairview Road and was NOT housed in a two-story structure. The latter resides beside the former. Both buildings are still standing. In fact, the numbskull author even had a newspaper photo of the original Station 6. The clipping clearly showed a single-story building. But his imagination took over and he saw the structure next door (the two-story restaurant) as a seemingly obvious former fire station. Wrong!



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/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.