

Hello all,

On behalf of Palo Alto Neighborhoods, I am writing to you to request that the October 4 meeting planned by Concordia for the Cubberley Master Plan be reconsidered and rescheduled.

First, the date conflicts with PAN's Council Candidate Forum, which will be held in Council Chambers that evening.

More importantly, we do not believe an adequate community needs assessment can or should be made at a single two-hour meeting based on who shows up.

As a member of the Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Community Needs Subcommittee, I believe our conclusions included:

“Exactly what is needed for the growing school population and what is needed for the evolving city of Palo Alto requires more work and expertise than was available to the Cubberley Community Advisory Committee. PAUSD has the capacity to identify its needs as population growth unfolds and to identify the best way to meet those needs.

Deciding which buildings to build or remodel as well as deciding on renting and leasing priorities for a community center requires a very thorough community needs assessment to identify what services and opportunities are needed by the community, where such services exist now, and what services are best offered at Cubberley to meet community needs. We need professional expertise to do this work well. Only by investing in such a systematic study with the school district as a willing partner can we be sure we are planning well for a facility that will serve Palo Alto for years to come. Such a study will require that PAUSD and the Palo Alto Planning Department work together to determine how to meet this broad range of community needs.”

We need services for all ages and cultures, singles and families, workers and retirees.

We need specificity on community needs, obtained through a *professional* Community Needs Assessment.

While there is great pressure to use the entire site for a school, the reality is that the City owns a portion of the site and there is just as great a need for a modern, comprehensive community center, not simple a library with meeting rooms as we have at Mitchell Park.

I repeat, a single two-hour, who shows up meeting does not qualify as a true needs assessment.

Thank you for your consideration

Sheri Furman
PAN Co-chair