

**AKRON URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**166 S. HIGH STREET**

- (1) **CORRECTION** and **APPROVAL** of Minutes of May 2, 2023.
  
- (2) **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **UD-2023-01-REV** – Architectural review of Patterson Park Community Center.

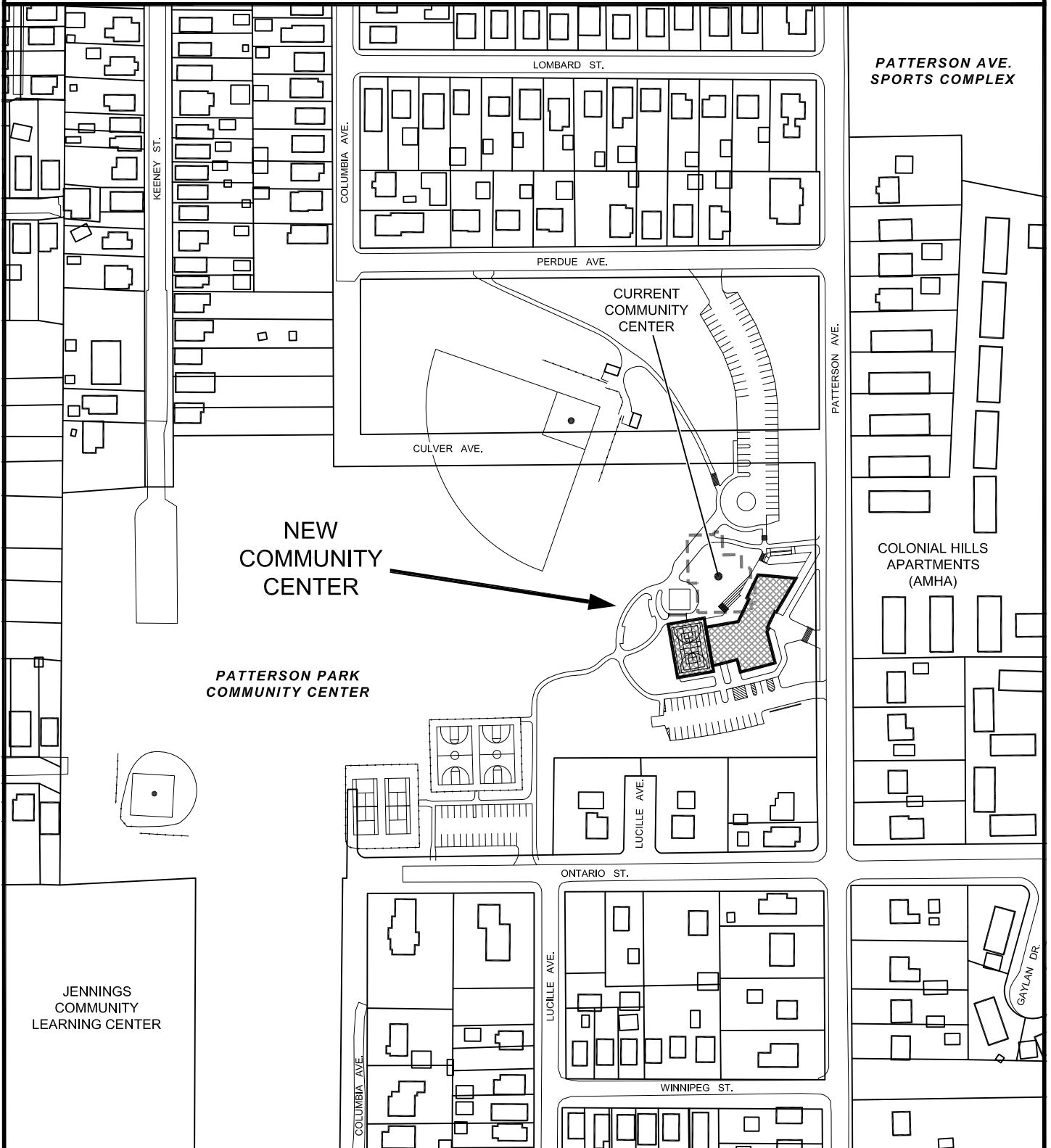
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# UD-2023-01-REV

Architectural review of Patterson Park Community Center



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Created 05/26/2023 jwh  
Revised 05/30/2023 jwh



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** AKRON URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION      **ITEM # 2A**  
UD-2023-01-REV

**FROM:** DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**DATE:** JUNE 13, 2023

**SUBJECT:** UD-2023-01-REV – Architectural Review of the Patterson Park Community Center

### **COMMENTS:**

The City of Akron is planning to replace the existing Patterson Park Community Center with a new facility on the site at 800 Patterson Avenue. The new building will embrace the scenic nature of the park and will be better suited to meeting current and future programming needs.

The community center will be sited to provide a strong street presence along Patterson Avenue, with a welcoming entry plaza to invite visitors into the building. This plaza, as well as patios on the north and west sides of the building, will provide opportunities for outdoor programming at the center. An activity lawn on the west side of the building will offer space for outdoor activities, such as the city's summer concert series. An existing splashpad constructed in 2019 will remain at the northwest corner of the new building. It will be incorporated into the adjacent outdoor spaces and enhanced with seating, landscaping, and a new playground nearby.

A new accessible parking lot with 30 spaces will be constructed south of the new building, with a driveway entrance off Patterson Avenue. The existing 61 space parking lot to the north of the building will be repaved and will provide direct access to the activity lawn, as well as additional parking for existing and future ball fields at the park.

The new 12,400 square foot facility will include several community meeting rooms, a game room, a room for art and gardening activities, a teaching and warming kitchen, and a multi-purpose space for larger gatherings and sports activities such as half-court basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. The shape of the building takes its cues from the park's topography. The building footprint is splayed to maximize views to the park and the bowl-shaped lawn to the west. Some roof planes tilt upward at the edges to further open the building up to the landscape. Glass curtain walls maximize views from the interior spaces to the surrounding park. The building lobby and gathering spaces open onto the west patio and activity lawn, reinforcing the building's connection to the site.

Brick, porcelain panels, and wood are used on the interior and exterior of the facility to reflect the park setting. The community rooms facing Patterson Avenue are clad in face brick, with fully-adhered porcelain infill panels between the windows. The multi-purpose space on the west side of the building is clad in textured CMU. The building base facing the west activity lawn is finished in patterned concrete. Aluminum soffits have a wood-like appearance. Dark bronze aluminum storefront glazing and curtainwall systems are used at window and door openings.

Two color options are being provided for community input. One option is darker, using a gray CMU on the multi-purpose space, and beige and brown porcelain infill panels between windows throughout the building. The other, lighter scheme features a light CMU color, and more colorful white and blue porcelain infill panels interspersed across the facade.

The budget for the Patterson Park Community Center is \$11.2 million. The majority of the cost will be funded using part of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation.

The design of all buildings and sitework located on City property is required to be reviewed by the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Commission. Since the new community center will be located within the city's Patterson Park, the Commission is tasked with making recommendations on the design of the project to the City Administration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Office of Integrated Development and Planning Staff recommend **APPROVAL** of the new Patterson Park Community Center.

DD/emd