



# SEED Classroom Facility Plan-Open Town Hall

June 6, 2019, 5:32 PM

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## SEED Classroom Facility Plan-Open Town Hall

We encourage and welcome your feedback on the proposed Facility Plan to develop a successful program in Northern Montgomery County. Please reiew the site plan rendering and tell us what you think!

## Summary Of Registered Statements

<b>As of June 6, 2019, 5:32 PM, this forum had:</b>		<b>Topic Start</b>
Attendees:	35	April 22, 2019, 9:55 AM
Registered Statements:	2	
Minutes of Public Comment:	6	

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We encourage and welcome your feedback on the proposed Facility Plan to develop a successful program in Northern Montgomery County. Please reiew the site plan rendering and tell us what you think!

## Individual Registered Statements

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### **Name not shown**

inside Germantown

April 27, 2019, 12:49 AM

Are there concerns with the capacity of the building? I know it was mentioned that the building would be able to hold 20-25 people. It seems like having a capacity so low would restrict the usability of the building when the whole point of the building is to support a growing community. The average size class is currently over 20 and that doesn't include the teacher or the chaperones. Having a larger capacity would allow for better accommodation of a variety of groups whether that be school classes or private events.

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### **Jim Riley**

inside Silver Spring

May 9, 2019, 9:43 AM

I believe this environmentally sustainable small house is a great project to demonstrate the various systems available to be incorporated into building projects. The experience should enlighten students and adults about living methods more in line with environmental standards and beliefs. Jim Riley, 20910

## Huang, Wen

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**From:** Scott Knudson <scott@knu.design>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 6:52 PM  
**To:** Huang, Wen; Lai, Judie  
**Subject:** Black Hill SEED

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Wen & Judie,

I am sorry I missed the April 2<sup>nd</sup> community meeting about the SEED classroom at Black Hill Regional park – I apparently misread the sign in the park as being for April 22 rather than April 2.

In any case, I am a neighbor backing up to the park on the other side of the bridge, frequently bicycle through the park, and was a minor donor to Montgomery Parks Foundation for this project.

If it's not too late, I'd like to add my ~~two~~ eight cents of design comments based on my review of the online presentation and siteplan:

Big Picture:

1. The site design feels cloistered, but I think it should be a hub. Instead of fencing most of the complex off, can't we make it a ped/bike crossroads that interconnects with the trail system? After all, none of the other buildings in the park are fenced off. But even if that is required for some reason for some elements, it would be great to make the non-secured portions of the site feel available for casual use – meaning having a bike / hike trail link between the adjacent paved trail and the driveway/road. I'd love to be able to stop for a drink of water and ponder the laws of nature under your apple trees or seek some shade in your shelter.
2. The major elements of this project that might spark the interest of an off-hours park visitor to learn something about sustainability are hard to see when driving riding or walking by on the road or path. I suggest rearranging the elements to make some features more prominent with signage along those two passer-by routes to educate the general public passively. For instance, can the orchard be planted along the road or along the bike path? Can the wildflower meadow expand to be the entire eastern edge of the property (if not also along the road please?) Can the Classroom be more prominent than the toolshed? Can we add solar panels over the parking spaces – or solar-integrated paving or some other cutting edge thing?
3. I feel like there is way too much asphalt for a project that is supposed to be about environmentalism, particularly for one in proximity to a lake where there is a story to be told about stormwater (too bad this site is out of sight from the lake!) At the very least, paint it all a light color, but preferably reduce the amount of paving (is it really required to run asphalt around 3 sides of the classroom??) and change what must remain to pavers, ideally something like PaveDrain.

Other thoughts:

- A. Please add a bike rack, at least symbolically. It would be fabulous to have a bikeshare there for park visitors (with information about how to get to the Transit Center in Germantown or to the outlet malls in Clarksburg).
- B. Awkwardly enough, the shed is the most prominent building on the site. Please make it beautiful. Not store-bought.

- C. The shelter is also quite prominent. Please make it beautiful and accessible to all park visitors. See Confluence Park in San Antonio.
- D. The speed bumps should hold 2' away from the paving edge so bicycles can fit by without hitting the bumps. I struggle enough with the uphill slope that is there now, and once broke my arm hitting a bump on a downhill slope.
- E. Shade the paving more with large trees – unless you make the paving solar-integrated.

Lastly, I sit on the board of the Potomac Valley Architecture Foundation, which advances design and sustainability through outreach. We'd love to connect with the SEED folks when they are ready to begin ramping up their programs.

**Scott Knudson**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Knu Design, LLC

[www.knu.design](http://www.knu.design)

240.372.0185

