

Pavilion Update Town Hall 8-9-06

By Steve McKernan

Review:

Approximately 40 people were on hand for the monthly Town Hall Pavilion meeting. Steve McKernan made a brief presentation and took questions. The powerpoint presentation of the meeting is available on the “Our Star is Rising” site under presentations.



Updated photos of the building were reviewed, and Steve explained how the look of the building is reflective of the New Mexico landscape: riverbed to rock to sky. The blue at the top of the building was chosen to “disappear” into the color of the actual sky, and lessen the impact of the size of the building. The theme is also mirrored on the inside with its décor; as you travel higher on the floors you go from ground to space, with fifth and sixth floors having flying balloon and space themes. The distinct look of every floor will also help make wayfinding easier.

Other tidbits:

- The north and east of the building will open up onto a plaza once the wings of the critical care area come down. The entrance of the hospital there will become the main access for patients and visitors.
- The roof of the building is covered in a special material that will not be adversely affected by jet fuel, as the heliport will be there.
- The 270° views from the Pete’s Playground area on the sixth floor are spectacular; a Plexiglas enclosure will be added for security.
- ER trauma bays and diagnostic areas will be in close proximity and immediately accessible for more convenient and efficient care.

Sheena Ferguson is in charge of the activation plan, which is already in process. We have acquired the services of a firm that specializes in moving hospitals operations. All areas involved in the move have their own activation plans that are being approved and implemented. We are still looking at the April 14 date (Easter is the previous weekend), though the contractors are behind in their schedule. We have not released them from the April turnover date. We will require all hands on deck for moving day and subsequent days. This is a massive undertaking that will be best accomplished with everyone participating. Backfill planning is underway.



Questions Asked by Attendees at the Town Hall, and The Answers:

Where will the main patient drop-off and pick up area be?

Once the construction is complete, the main entrance will be right at the front of the Pavilion, covered by awnings. For the first six months or so, that area will not be accessible as demolition and plaza construction continue.

Can you tell us a bit more about the staffing needs of the Pavilion?

The budget is for about 200 new FTEs, with about 100 of them being nurses. We've expanded services in virtually every area in the new building. All types of positions will be needed.

Are you anticipating a problem in hiring nurses?

Yes, that is always a challenge and issue, not just for this new building staffing. We're at about a 4% vacancy, above the average. We will continue to aggressively pursue nurses to meet patient needs.

What is the cost of the project?

\$243 million.

Will we be the largest hospital in the city when it's all finished?

We will be at about 430 beds, so if we're not the largest we're close. Pres may be larger, but our square footage per bed will be larger, and we will have the largest ER by far.

Monthly staff Town Halls specific to Pavilion will be scheduled. Look for special delivery e-mails and posters in the main hospital.