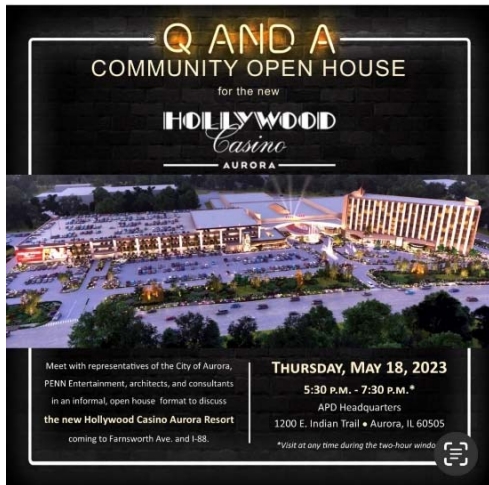


MAY 18, 2023 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY



Location: Aurora Police Department, Community Rooms

Date: May 18, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the open house was to provide an additional public meeting as part of the rezoning and entitlement process for the relocation of the Hollywood Casino from downtown to a new site at Bilter and Farnsworth. This relocation was approved by City Council last fall.

FORMAT:

The open house allowed for an interactive experience. No formal presentation was given; however, attendees were free to roam the community room. Four stations were set up with representatives to help answer any questions. The stations were 1) A Site Plan, 2) Site Specific Transportation Improvements, 3) Broader Area Transportation Improvements, and 4) Renderings including planned green infrastructure and sustainable construction practices.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was widely publicized through newspapers, as well as City of Aurora Social Media including Facebook, Instagram, MyAurora and Aurora Alert. In addition to City Staff, and consulting firms involved in the project, there were seventy-six (76) attendees.

VERBAL COMMENTS

Although it would be impossible to capture all of the many great conversations that occurred at the open house, the majority of the discussions that I was told were involving the following: traffic and transportation improvements, what will happen to the current casino site, the desire for solar panels on the new casino, when will the current site be demolished, when will it be moving, and some questions about the bonding/financing/repayment.

WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED

In addition to having the opportunity to speak with City Staff and Consultants one-on-one at each of the four stations or elsewhere, attendees were provided the options to either fill out and submit a comment sheet, or to email their questions after the meeting. The following is a summary of the comments received (as of 5.30.2023) by category:

General

- Well laid out stations with the proper people to answer questions. It gave people a chance to ask questions they might feel uncomfortable doing in a large group. We are excited about the new Casino and feel it was the right decision for our city. Having a Hotel on site made the project complete.

- Where was Richard for the meeting?
- I would like to see a ground study.
- More information on population draw.
- Very well done. Thank you!

Transportation

- I like that the main entrance is across from the outlet drive and not on Bilter Road.
- We are concerned about the proposed changes to Farnsworth, specifically in front of our building. With the renderings as shown, we would lose access to our building if coming north from I-88. The proposed median would eliminate the ability to turn west into our parking lot, and would require alternate routes or U-turns to enter. We would like to discuss the construction proposed, and seek alternatives to the raised median as shown in renderings.
- Please send the full traffic study commissioned by PENN.
- I request a traffic study for the Bilter Road east of outlet mall entrance (where it's two lanes). Begin study immediately after the casino opens – need pedestrian crossing at the Prairie Path.
- I would like to emphasize the safety importance of a crossover pedestrian bridge to cross Farnsworth. It part of the draw to the casino visiting Aurora is to make both, casino, and outlet mall, a destination place, people need to be assured safety in crossing a huge street like Farnsworth. Fatalities would put quite the damper on this Aurora destination.
- My concern is traffic on Church Road south of I-88 to Indian Trail.
 - We want to keep our neighborhood quiet and safe and crossing Church is already difficult.
 - Looking to make sure no semi- traffic is allowed from Indian Trail to 88.
 - How about checking out a traffic circle at Church and Molitor. Would Rockford Dioceses consider selling the lower grade school to be used for this purpose?
 - We do not want Church widened.

Architecture

- I like the renderings.
- The rooftop of the casino would be a great location for solar panels.
- Can we have a helipad?
- New casino buildings are all flat roofed. Golden chance for solar project.

Liquor License

- The current Aurora Casino has a 5am closing liquor license because their operation was on a river; state-controlled location and licensing. At the new location the entertainment facilities will all be under local liquor license requirements? How is Aurora revising their liquor license ordinance to accommodate?

Future of the Current Casino Site

- Site of old casino should be public open space would encourage grass, trees, low maintenance landscape, walking paths and benches for sitting and enjoying the view. Would need to have fence, or wall around for safety.