



**The Classic Center Arena, Public Engagement Session #3
Summary of Questions and Answers from Community
May 10, 2021**

Did you discuss sustainability plans?

We are planning to include solar panels on The Classic Center campus through cooperation with an outside vendor, as well as other sustainability initiatives.

Equity will not come about by default. Will you commit to equitable labor standards, including benefits and local hires, especially in disadvantaged communities?

We have committed to many of the things brought up but would like to review the specific issues you have raised. JE Dunn was selected in part due to their commitment to make a positive impact on the local community. The JE Dunn team will prepare specific goals which will be published as part of our construction documents to ensure that subcontractors are committed to equity. Outreach events will be publicized in advance.

The MIT calculator which is used by the local government takes in local wages and living expenses. A young mother with 2 kids can't support a family on \$11/hour. Will our program reach enough people to make a difference?

The green jobs pipeline is about paying fair wages and taking care of workers. We want to put enough resources into the project so that labor doesn't have to be squeezed to achieve the budget.

Will you consider people living in persistent poverty who can't take advantage of the training programs available?

A balance is required. The reality at The Classic Center is that we are asked to do a number of things. The building has to be economically sustainable. The Classic Center is self-supporting...all the money comes from events. If Athens-Clarke County were to subsidize operations, then economic concerns would not drive wages and maintenance. The Classic Center Authority is raising money to support scholarship and training opportunities. We are committed to paying a living wage but cannot commit to a specific minimum wage.

Where exactly will the parking be? 800 spaces seems like a lot.

There is an existing deck at The Classic Center now. An 800-space garage is planned on Hickory Street across from the Transit Center. Many will park throughout downtown in existing facilities as well. 300 spaces will be associated with the Arena, and 500 are a project planned by Athens-Clarke County.



Will conventions use the Arena as well?

Yes, it will augment the space available for conventions in The Classic Center.

Will there be a queuing lane on Hickory to facilitate traffic?

There are plans to add a 3rd lane to Hickory Street, but it is not funded as part of this project. There is a proposal before the mayor and commission.

Impressed by the thought that went into the operations of the facility. Fingers are on the pulse of what it takes to stage and rig for events easily and safely.

Noted.

Artists and shows want to come to facilities that cater to their needs. Energy efficiency is now a concern of performers as well. The artists can have an impact on equity issues. Do we have an energy efficiency target?

We are looking at insulating the building as much as possible. Shading is a design feature to control solar gain while allowing for more glass. We are looking at sophisticated control systems to maximize efficiency. It is only when the building is at maximum capacity that the building uses maximum energy. At other times it operates in an efficiency mode. We are looking at solar panels on existing buildings on campus. As a SPLOST project, we are required to be LEED certified at a minimum. We are looking at a higher certification than that. The ice provides some additional opportunities to economize.

Are we planning a clean ice system?

We start out with a water test to determine whether the water is suitable or needs to be treated.

Are the parking spaces a done deal?

300 spaces are part of the SPLOST authorization. The 500-space deck would be a separate project. The mayor and commission have committed, but it is not part of this project.

Will this project create permanent jobs, and is there a way to document that?

There have been studies on the economic impact of the facility.



When the facility opens, will there be an opportunity for the public to skate on the ice?

Yes. There will be an opportunity to skate with the Ice Dawgs as well.

What are the employment numbers anticipated at the Arena itself?

Connecting the facility to The Classic Center does allow for more economy, but we anticipate 15-20 full-time staff not including security, staging, cleaning, and so on.

Are there benefits to being next to the Transit Center for LEED?

Yes, there are points to be gained based on the site and its connectivity to transit.

How have we reached out to local businesses since the last meeting?

JE Dunn in their presentation committed in their interview to reaching out to all the neighbors. We will be following up on that.

Thanks for including the granite detailing at the base of the building. Elberton granite is used throughout downtown. Some cast off stone from the quarry might be useable for the building.

Noted.

Looking at the design, there is a fence around the parking. Will free parking be available for bus riders?

Yes.