A photograph of a modern brick building with a prominent circular window and a large overhanging section. The building is set against a clear blue sky with some trees in the foreground. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band.

# Oak Park Municipal Campus

Project 24-26

Programming and Design Exercises Summary



# Programming and Design Exercises

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Members of the Facility Review Committee, Police Department, and Village Hall came together with the team to turn ideas about Oak Park's Municipal Campus into plans and options.

Through a series of seven design and visioning exercises, Oak Park attendees developed a vision for the future of the Municipal Campus.





# *The Process, Part 1*

## **Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas**

Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality

Exercise 3 | Visions for Success

# Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas

Attendees were given a series of visioning images and asked to think about how these images embody aspects of Oak Park Village Hall and its community.

Attendees were asked...

*What is community?*

*How does policing serve?*

*What does a citizen need from the Municipal Campus?*

*What is the relationship between community government and the citizen?*

*What works about the current Village Hall and Police Department? What does not?*



# Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas Findings

## Village Hall

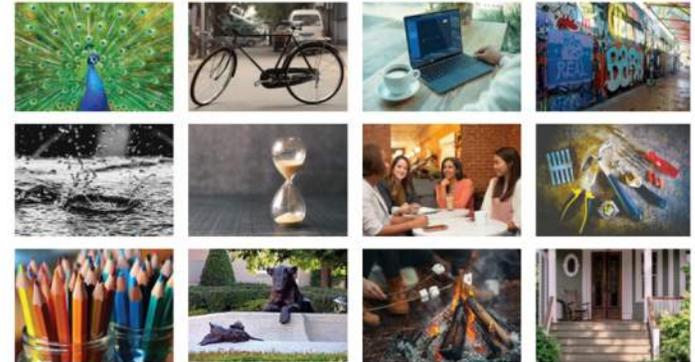
- The Village Hall feels like home and is a great workspace

## Police Department

- The Police Department is a home for the officers, but the department needs to be good neighbors.
- It stands the test of time and is a place for officers to decompress.

## Facility Review Committee

- Something “warm and cozy” may be at odds with the scale of the project.
- Idea of art, design expression, mutual sharing of activities would be appealing.



# Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas Opportunities

## Village Hall

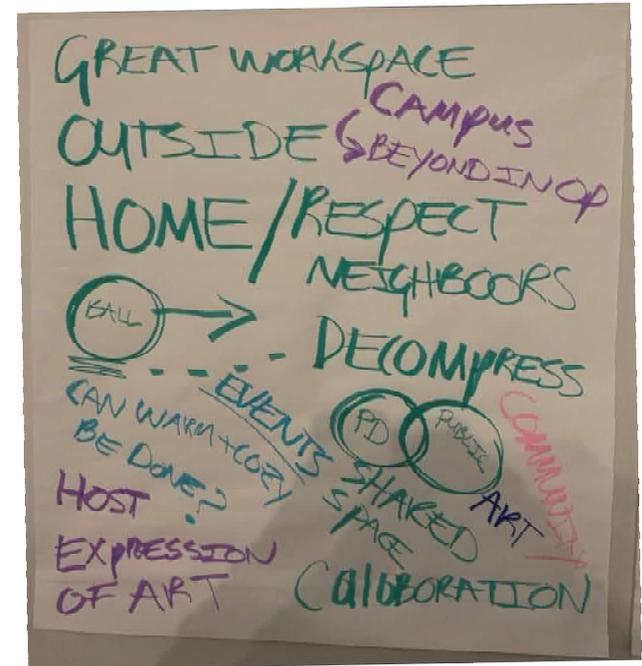
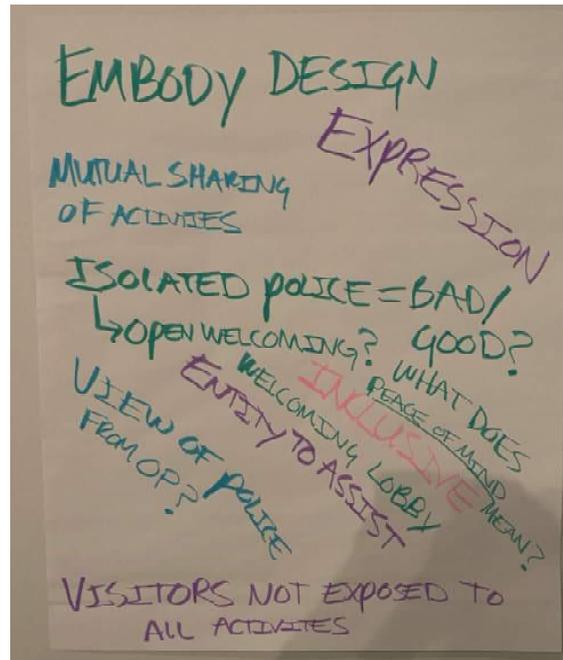
- Balancing public and private, feeling welcoming with safety and security.

## Police Department

- Connection and engagement with the community.
- Idea that the Police Department provides peace of mind to the campus and neighborhood.

## Facility Review Committee

- The building can embody all the police do.
- There are opportunities for collaborations with the Park District.





*The Process, Part 1*

Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas

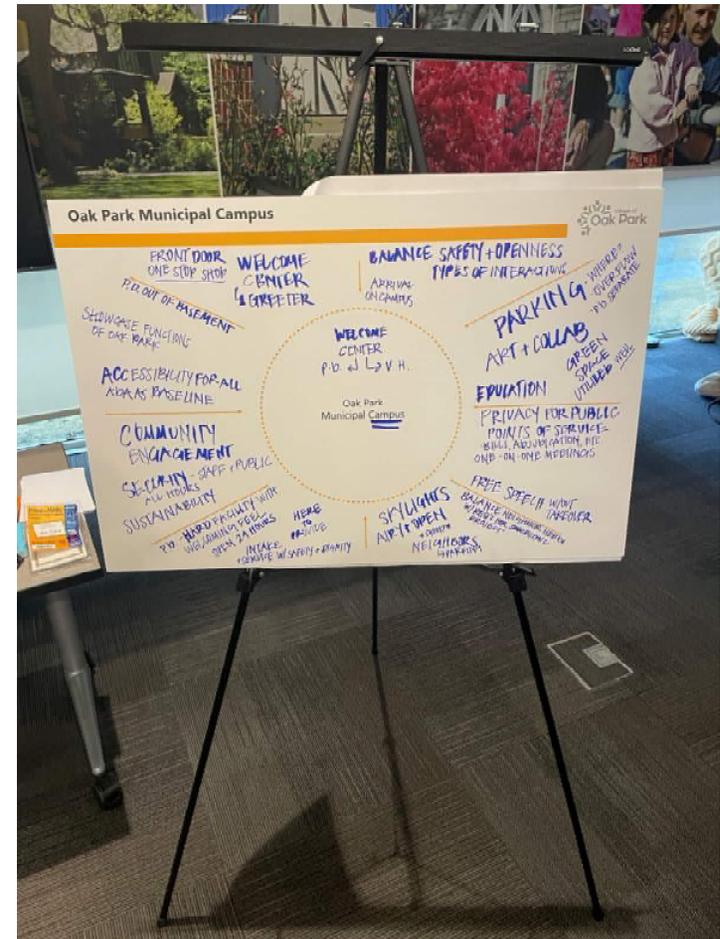
**Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality**

Exercise 3 | Visions for Success

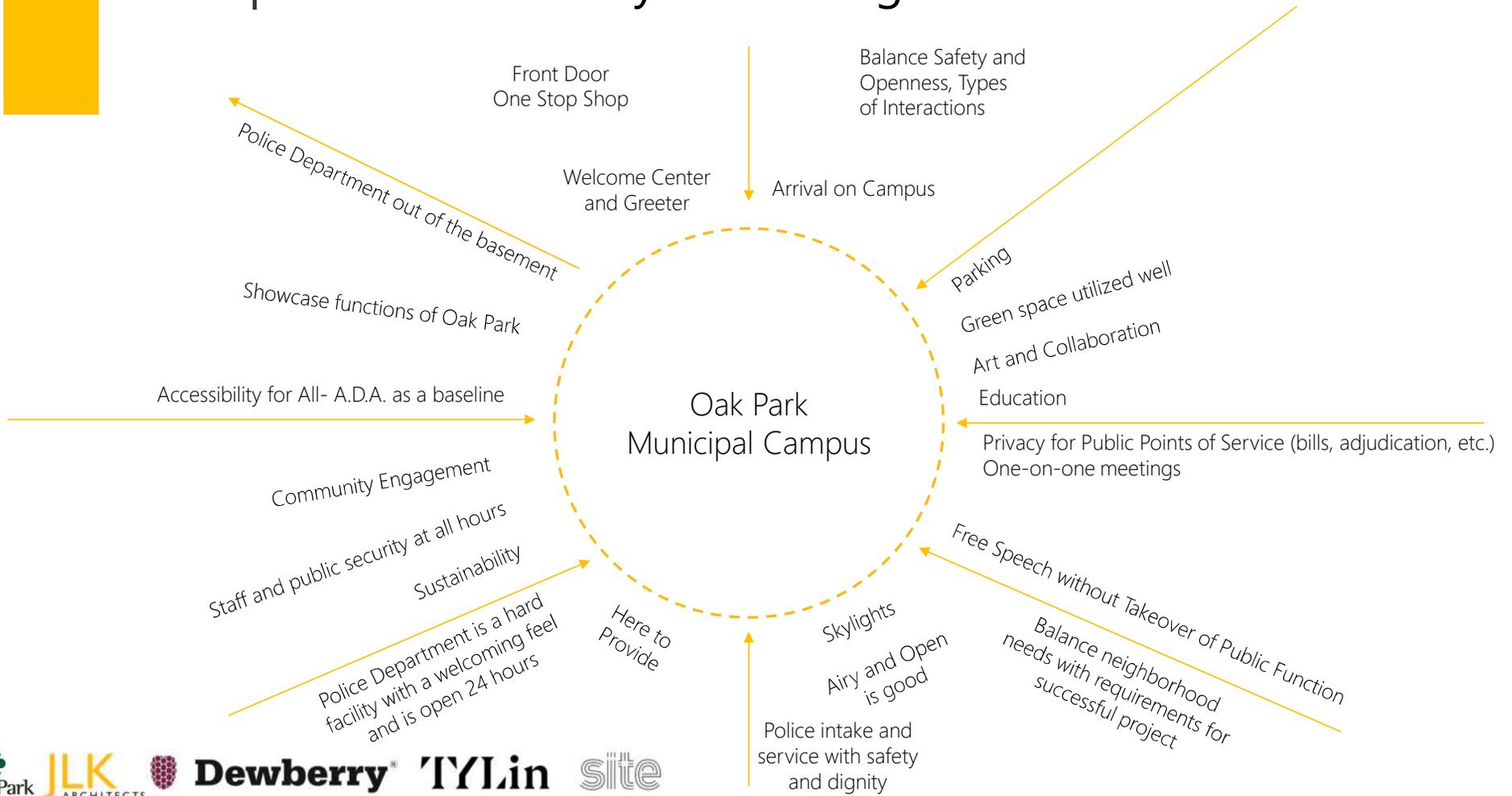
## Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality

After exploring how the site should feel and what opportunities exist to improve the function of the Village Hall, attendees were invited to explore what should go on the site.

As attendees discussed the tangible and intangible drivers of activity to and from the building, JLK facilitators wrote down their findings on a large circle diagram.



# Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality Circle Diagram



## Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality Findings

Parking, places for collaboration, and community engagement areas are high priority for all groups.

### Village Hall

- There should be more security, but also an inviting feel
- The Village Hall staff shouldn't have to find visitors, they should be able to find Village Hall staff.
- There should be better accessibility.
- They should be better neighbors- parking on site instead of parking on the street in front of neighbor's homes.

### Police Department

- There is a need for ease of access, but not exactly openness.
- It could be something inviting, airy.
- It would be a place for people to exercise free speech without government services being overtaken.
- They liked the idea of a one-stop-shop, one building, and connection to other government departments.
- Intake to the Police Department should be unassuming.

### Facility Review Committee

- The Council Chambers currently does not feel safe.
- There is an opportunity for education- what does my village hall do for me?
- The building should remind people that the government is working on their behalf.
- Currently, the entrance is confusing and better wayfinding should help make it easier to navigate.



## *The Process, Part 1*

Exercise 1 | Images and Ideas

Exercise 2 | Ideals Into Reality

**Exercise 3 | Visions for Success**

# Exercise 3 | Visions for Success

Similar to Exercise 2, Exercise 3 asked attendees to think about drivers to the campus, rather than just the Village Hall.

The key question attendees answered was...  
**What does success mean for this project?**

Attendees considered the values of Oak Park and the needs of the space to define metrics for success.



### PLACE OF PRIDE

Village Hall should be a place of pride that is welcoming.



### COST

Village Hall should be a cost-efficient facility.



### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Need new space that meets modern standards for policing. Prefer existing Village Hall site.



### INCLUSION

Any changes should come through a lens of inclusivity, creating accessible and inclusive spaces that meet current accessibility codes including Illinois Accessibility Code and Americans with Disabilities Act.



### PARKING

Need for additional parking. Existing parking is in high demand.



### SECURITY AND SAFETY

Go beyond life safety, and balance the need to provide a secure workplace that also remains open, welcoming, and accessible to the public.



### SUSTAINABILITY

Meeting established sustainability goals for both renovation and new construction as outlined in the Climate Ready Oak Park Plan.

## Exercise 3 | Visions for Success Findings

### Important Factors for Success Include

#### Village Hall

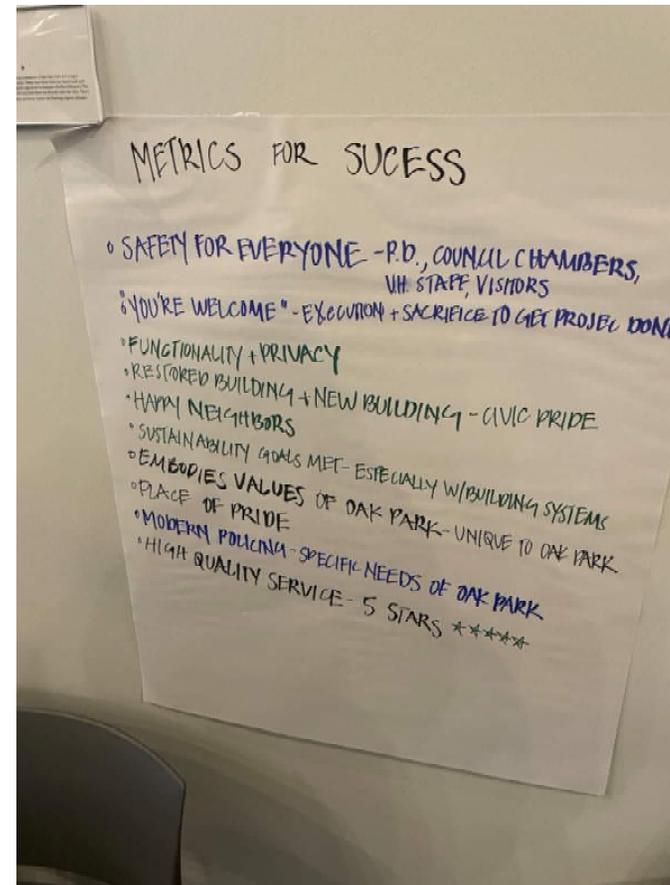
- Functionality
- Happy neighbors
- Everyone is comfortable in their space.

#### Police Department

- Safety for everyone
- Feeling welcome in the space

#### Facility Review Committee

- The building embodies the values of Oak Park





*The Process, Part 2*

**Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning**

Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning

Exercise 6 | Site Planning

Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

## Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

Attendees worked in groups to consider the changes to Village Hall with the Police Department moving out of the space. How did they envision the space a place to **work**, a place of **service**, and as a **symbol** of their community?

Attendees were asked to consider...

*What overall improvements are needed?*

*What are sustainability and wellness considerations?*

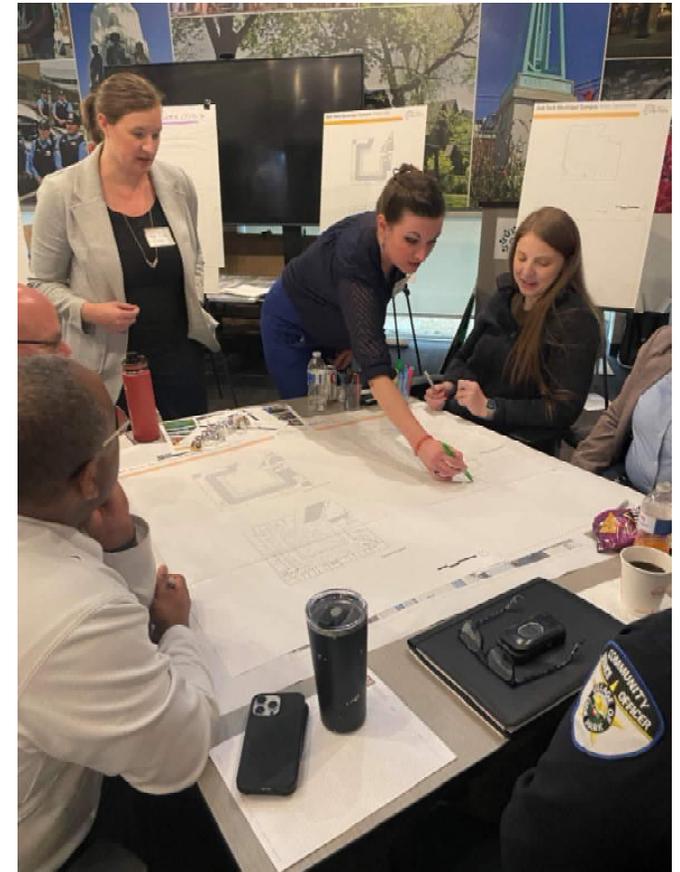
*What can the lower level be used for?*

*How can the courtyard space be incorporated?*

*How should Council Chambers and meeting rooms be addressed?*

*How should lobby space and points of service be considered?*

*Within the site, what is Village Hall and what is the Police Department?*



## Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

Brainstorming sessions generated the following ideas for the space:

### Police Department Group

- Fitness and wellness center
- Council Chambers
- Expand underground parking with potential tunnel to new police station
- New council chambers under existing chambers

### Village Hall Group

- Community rooms
- Council chambers
- Classrooms
- Open up front space with glass
- Expand underground parking with grand stairway to lower level



# Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

## Facility Review Committee Group

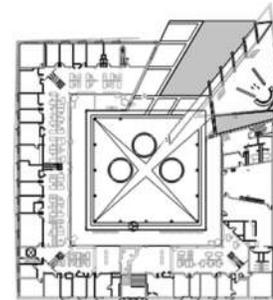
- Additional meeting and conference space
- Lobby and courtyard function
- Use the existing lower level as a parking garage
- Consider what to do with the existing council chambers

## What else could this space be?

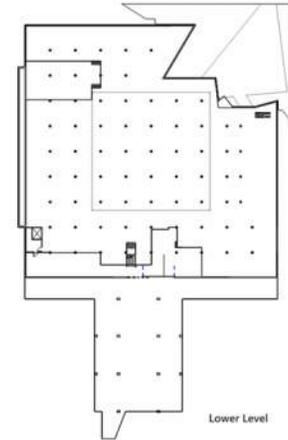
- Function as open and inclusive community space
- Host public functions and events
- Serve as voting location



Mezzanine Level



Ground Level



Lower Level





*The Process, Part 2*

Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

**Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning**

Exercise 6 | Site Planning

Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

## Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning

In this exercise, attendees worked in groups and were asked to consider the drivers of successful best practices for policing on the site—what can foster opportunities and what could serve as constraints?

Attendees were asked to consider...

*What are security concerns?*

*Where should entrances be located?*

*What are sustainability and wellness considerations?*

*How can the meeting rooms be used?*

*How should lobby space and points of service be considered?*

*Within the site, what is the Police Department and what is Village Hall?*



Attendees brainstorm uses for the police station site



# Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning

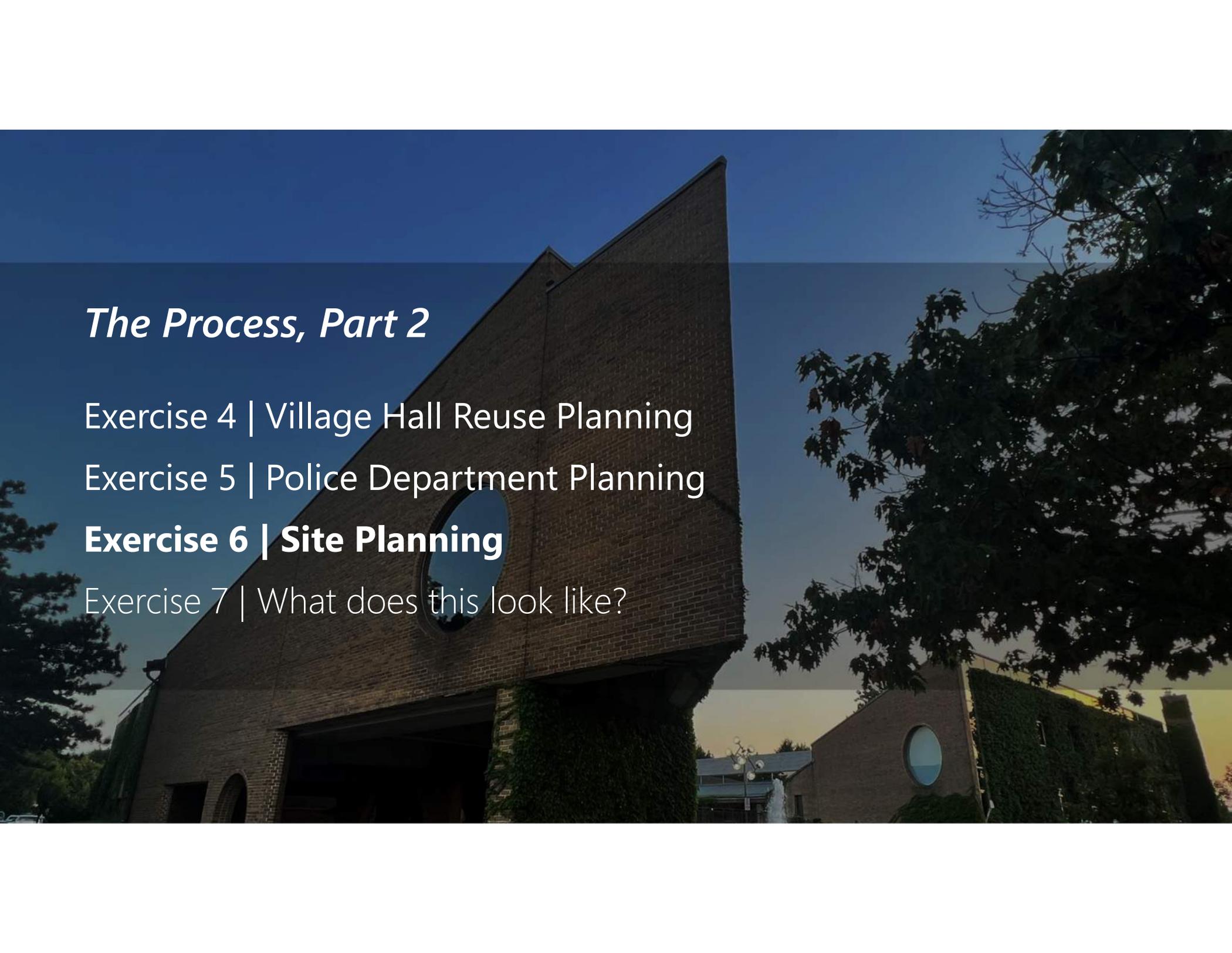
## Drivers Translated to Police Department Site

- A space for front and back yard.
- A large green space as a sustainability showcase.
- Hosting events for kids on green space, such as casual soccer games, would invite people in.
- Parking for visitors to avoid parking in front of houses.
- Police intake should be unassuming and not exposed to the public
- Educational events should be offered to the public.

## Potential for Shared Space: Police Department and Village Hall

- Roll call room
- Lunchroom
- Meet-ups coordinated by Human Resources
- Fitness space





*The Process, Part 2*

Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning

**Exercise 6 | Site Planning**

Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

## Exercise 6 | Site Planning Exercise

Each group was given a chance to lay out the municipal campus that best fit their needs and preferences using blocks to represent site elements. Each group presented their preferred scheme and a group discussion followed.

Attendees were asked...

*Who are the users?*

*How do we connect to the neighborhood?*

*Where is the parking? How much space do we need for parking?*

*Where and how much green space will be on the site?*

*Where do we connect the Village Hall and the Police Department?*



# Exercise 6 | Site Planning Exercise

## Village Hall Group Scheme

- 1 The new Police Department would be 3 stories, with the third story cut back along Adams Street. Green space is maintained along the south side of the site.
- 2 A Welcome Center “link” connects the two buildings, allowing for easy access and wayfinding.
- 3 The parking was split between underground parking (secure PD and VH staff), at-grade parking (for visitors), and street parking for overflow.
- 4 The Council Chambers would be located in the center of the courtyard or centered in the lower level of Village Hall.
- 5 Village Hall could utilize the recaptured space in the lower level for meeting and training spaces.



# Exercise 6 | Site Planning Exercise

## Police Department Group Scheme

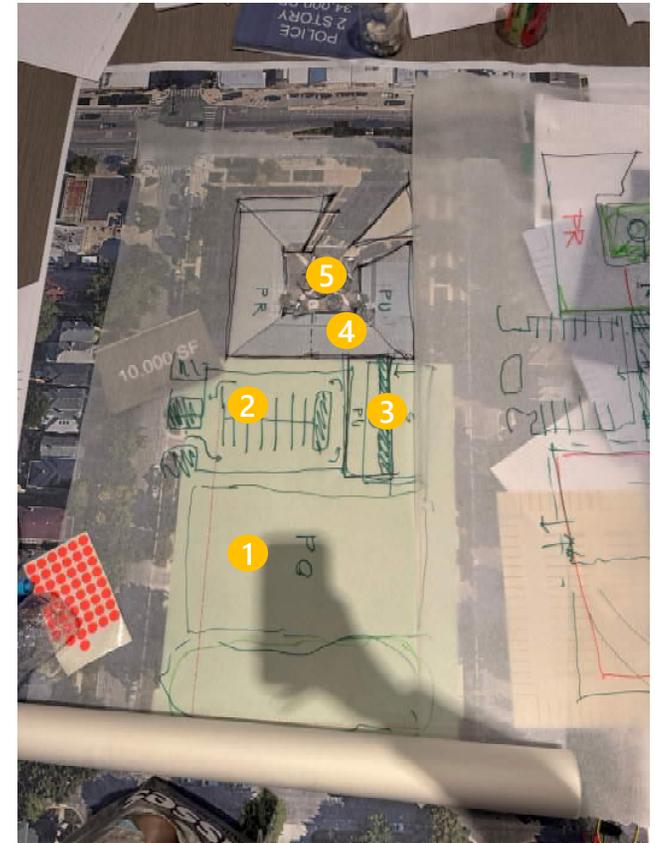
- 1 Parking is located on the roof of the police department and under the entire site.
- 2 The police department would be a 2-story building with the third floor having a parking lot with solar panels as shading.
- 3 A welcome center connects the two buildings. It is located in the center of both buildings.
- 4 Public green spaces will be dedicated to the Adams Street side of the site.
- 5 The Village Hall will have a lower level parking garage, and the council chambers will move to the ground level or the welcome center.

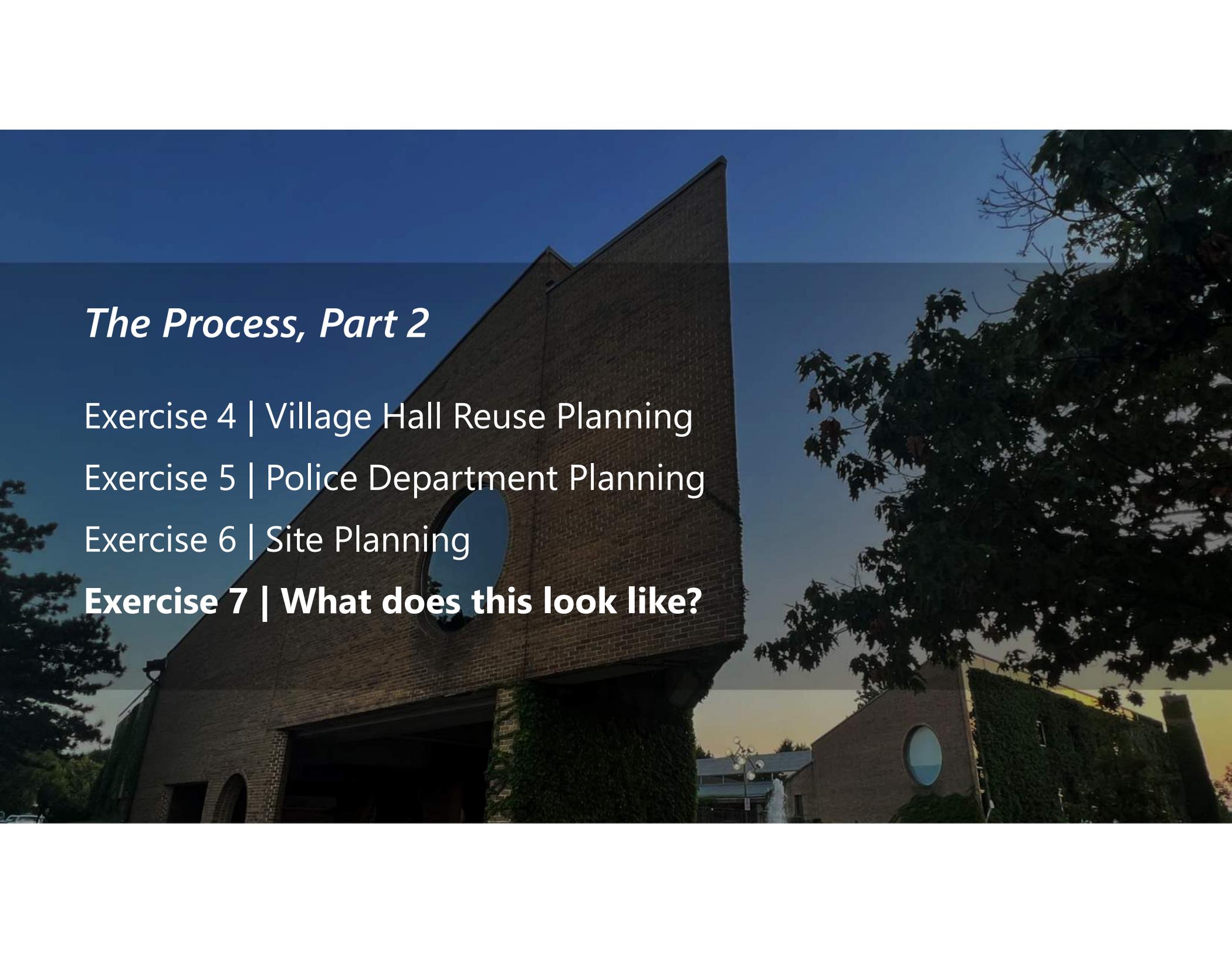


# Exercise 6 | Site Planning Exercise

## Facility Review Committee Group Scheme

- 1 The Police Department will be 3 stories and pushed closer to the middle of the site to allow for green space along Adams Street.
- 2 Parking will be accessed from Lombard Street. Secure Police parking will be under the new Police Department building .
- 3 A Welcome Center will connect the two buildings, creating a public spine that runs along Taylor Street.
- 4 The existing Village Hall will be split into public and private wings.
- 5 The council chambers will be moved under the courtyard on the lower level.





## *The Process, Part 2*

Exercise 4 | Village Hall Reuse Planning

Exercise 5 | Police Department Planning

Exercise 6 | Site Planning

**Exercise 7 | What does this look like?**

## Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

Attendees were shown a collection of images that could represent the future vision of this project. Each attendee was given sticker dots to post on images that best align with the interests of the future design, and a group discussion followed.

Attendees were asked...

*What should these buildings look like?*

*What materials should it be made of?*

*What does the site look like?*

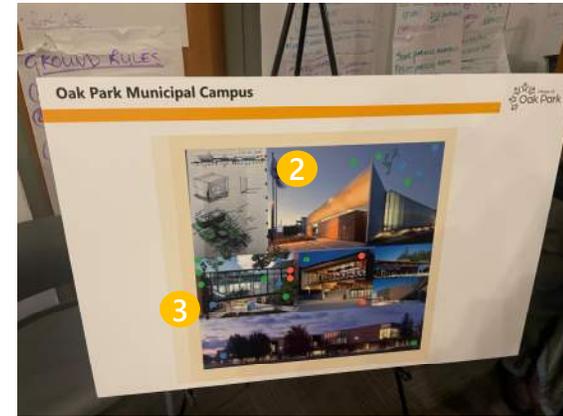
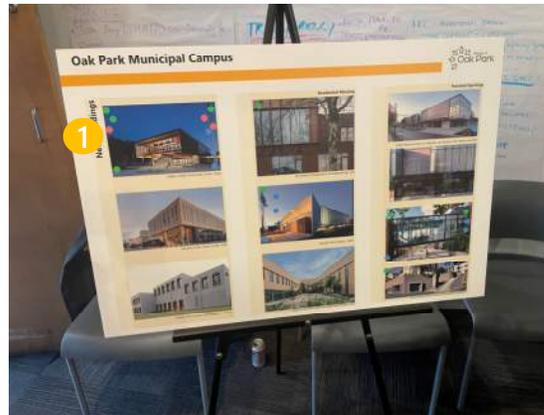
*How does sustainability fit into this project?*

*How does being a good neighbor show itself in this project?*



# Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

- 1 Architectural massing should be inviting and scaled relative to the neighborhood.
- 2 Architectural expression should be unique and representative of Oak Park.
- 3 Glass connection between the buildings could offer a sense of openness.
- 4 Interior spaces should feel open and airy.
- 5 Wood and glass are the preferred building materials.



# Exercise 7 | What does this look like?

- 1 Native plantings and organic arrangements were preferred over highly manicured greenery.
- 2 Green roofs were a popular concept.
- 3 Solar panels were considered as additions to the roof.
- 4 Mass timber framing and daylighting were the most popular design concepts.



# In Conclusion

- 1 The existing Village Hall and new Police Department will share some kind of connection in the form of a Welcome Center.
- 2 More community spaces will be included on the site.
- 3 Entry to the building is preferred through Lombard Street.
- 4 Visitor parking will be shared. The parking will be prioritized on-site but reduced in scale to maximize green space.
- 5 The building will be unique, prioritizing natural materials and daylighting through the use of mass timber and glass.
- 6 Occupant safety is important to this project, but the Municipal Campus should be welcoming and offer visibility to the Police Department and Village Hall.
- 7 Green space should be usable by the community, available for small events.
- 8 The Oak Park Municipal Campus feels like home and focuses the wellness of all who work there and visit.
- 9 The Council Chambers should be relocated to be fully accessible, inclusive, and safe.



**THANK YOU**