



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved CENTRAL PARK DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

8:00 AM

Madison Municipal Bldg., Rm. LL-110
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

City Staff: Kevin Briski (Parks), Steven Cover (Planning & Community & Economic Development), Janet Dailey (Engineering)

Others Present: Mike Statz (MSA), Lorna Jordan (Artist), Ken Saiki & Shane (Ken Saiki Design), Dan Williams (JJR), and Gil Jevne (SSA Design Group)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barker at 8:03 a.m.

Kevin Briski introduced Steve Cover, the new Director of the Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Present: 8 -

Nicole M. Craig; Marsha A. Rummel; Joseph R. Clausius; William W. Barker; Nancy T. Ragland; Bradley C. Mullins; Leslie C. Schroeder and Amy T. Overby

Absent: 2 -

Joe Sensenbrenner and Susan M. Schmitz

Excused: 2 -

Phyllis Wilhelm and Truly Remarkable Loon

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 15, 2010

A motion was made by Mullins, seconded by Overby, to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by voice vote.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4 [21672](#) Presentation and Discussion of Amended Central Park Plan Options with MSA / "3" / Lorna Jordan

Mike Statz, MSA, stated that there is a public informational meeting tonight at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 6:00 p.m. The same presentation will

be given tonight to neighbors and the community as the Task Force hears at this meeting. He introduced his team: Lorna Jordan (Artist), Ken Saiki, Shane (Ken Saiki Design), Dan Williams (JJR), and Gil Jevne (SSA Design Group).

Lorna Jordan gave a PowerPoint Presentation (attached). She has designed a conceptual framework that will be integrated into the landscape. The City applied for and received an NEA Grant. Her design is a synthesis of art and nature. She is interested in how glaciers have sculpted the landscape. She explained proposed site locations, site usage, activities and placement of various parts of configuration of spaces. She is interested in sustainable strategies, community activities and an interactive landscape. She did research by visiting the Arboretum, Olbrich, Effigy Mounds, Garver Feed Mill, and UW Libraries to view historical maps. The State Capitol and biking are an important part of the community. Karin Wolf, Arts Coordinator, took her on a tour. She has attended informal gatherings with community members. There was a Community meeting at the Goodman Community Center. She has also met with City staff and the Design Team. The community has lots of life. The current site is a Brownfield, a blank slate. The City has economic development and transportation goals. She would like to integrate a natural realm into the design. Seasonal changes should also be incorporated. There is a desire to have a place for wildlife. The imminent purchase of Research Products is a phenomenal advance. She envisions dramatic three-dimensional landscapes inspired by the history of the area, interactive, a platform for all sorts of activities. There are two proposed alternatives. B is incorporated into the Master Plan. She advocates for the Great Lawn where it was. Artwork, higher earthworks, stone walls, stairs, and open space form the amphitheater. She envisions cultural and natural gathering areas, eco pavilion, informal smaller events and a Farmers Market. Green infrastructure and buildings reduces flooding risks. She suggests Native plantings, storm water treatment, recycled materials, solar-powered lights. Community activities could include a sustainable landscape with how the community can use it.

Ken Saiki stated there a lot of changes, including the inclusion of Research Products. There is an administrative hurdle - reviewing the funding for part of the park (transportation earmark) having to do with bicycle/ped improvements. Complete the missing link of off-road bicycle path along old Railroad right-of-way. This will serve as an interchange between many forms of transportation - existing City Transit (Madison Metro), biking, and possibly commuter train in the future. The main commuter path goes along the south side of path. Bicyclists can get into the park and move through it. Taking new found opportunities made by Research Products' property, Lorna's work done two years ago with getting community consensus on what the park should be. Keep Skate Park in location that it was. Few Street connection - using it to enter park is still key of the plan. The addition of Research Products' property has allowed them to rethink the vertical expression of the park and the uses of the park. The main stage for large events is proposed on the East side of Ingersoll. Structure of some kind that serves as main event stage, smaller pavilion across Ingersoll contains restrooms for larger events and plaza space that could be Farmers Market, etc. Brings the entry

from east into the Land Works Park which Lorna has been talking about. Garden spaces south of park. How do we accommodate children's play? Integrate throughout the park, but also is present in specific locations as part of park development. Looking for feedback on all of this.

Leslie Schroeder thanked Lorna. She liked a lot of what they're saying. She is affronted by this plan - it's a step back. The playground is not in the park plan. Would like it put back in. Bike path is off the street again. Keeping bike path off the street is an accident waiting to happen. Intersection with Baldwin Street is very hard for a bicyclist to cross. Stage was facing opposite direction before. Hundreds of residents in the neighborhood. More festivals come - speakers are extremely loud and would face the neighborhood. Quiet corner would be nice - she asked how it could be buffered from the industrial area.

Lorna Jordan stated the land forms would hold you in those smaller rooms and plantings. It would provide a combination of buffering and inviting people in.

Nicole Craig stated she lives off Ingersoll and Williamson St. Since East Wilson was created as a bike corridor, it's taken a long time for it to take hold. A lot of progress has been made. Creating longer corridors is important. Important to keep it along the street (East Wilson). Slows traffic. New Park Central Apartments and children living along there. Apartment buildings absorb a lot of noise. People in those apartments are really vulnerable to that noise. Important to hear what they have to say. Event stage could be pivoted so noise is going westward or some sort of natural barrier on other side, i.e., different elements that Lorna has mentioned, but she asked where the area is for community gardens. Dan Williams responded that there is 1/4 acre - same as Willy St. Park. Ms. Craig stated that area is shaded. Need access drive for MGE garage. That would take off 1/2 of area. She likes the artist's philosophy. She encouraged people to visit other parts of park. Garden plots should be more in the park. Neighborhood residents will be most engaged in park. Very few community gardens. Atwood Gardens have a 2-3 year waiting list. Reynolds Garden on East Mifflin St. - 30 people on waiting list. Very small. Strong interest in community gardens. Survey done of neighborhood - 75 people would love to have a garden plot in Central Park. She asked how we can accommodate this interest. 170 people total that would love garden plots. This will not accommodate that. Need 1 1/2 acres at least. Not a huge garden.

Bill Barker brought up the Few Street crossing. He doesn't know how viable it is. He doesn't think we should hold up progress on something that's unknown. The earmark money is driving the design of the Park and he thinks that's a mistake. He would rather see us do something that's more responsible and send the money back. Paving over more green space is not the way we should be going.

Mike Statz stated that City staff and the Design Team met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on this earmark and they made it pretty clear the plan that was presented before would not meet their requirements.

Bike element needed to be more important. The way the grant was written - bikes had to be a part of it. Important to keep path coming through park because we want leisurely bike rides through park. If we go off road with bike path through Sands' property, there is a connection to the Yahara River bike path. It helped with the discussion on the earmark money with DOT and the Federal Highway. The Federal Highway made it very clear what they would allow and not allow. Need to tie into existing utilities with restrooms. Nothing by Brearly; had to be in Ingersoll area.

Mr. Barker suggested taking everything on Brearly lot and put stage where the Farmer's Market is and use that whole block as Great Lawn. Ms. Jordan said it seemed the ideal place for the Great Lawn in that location, because of trains, Skate Park, rail station (potentially), all very active uses. Opportunity of Brearly to Ingersoll with this acquisition; Great Lawn could be used as is. Shape is more conducive. Space is broken up and harder to configure. Brearly and Ingersoll are more conducive.

Mr. Saiki stated that the Brearly block is also in a TIF District so more funds are available.

Mr. Statz stated there are two elements of the bike path. Connect to Rail Street Corridor - DOT pushed for trying to keep a path through the park (part of earmark money). Also have to think about emergency vehicle access for Skate Park.

Mr. Williams stated that it not just a bicycle path. The Feds said it's a pedestrian path. It's a wide path. Could be concrete, could be colored pavement, just has to be 10' wide. It wouldn't scream bike path. Doesn't need a stripe down the middle.

Ms. Schroeder suggested the Bicycle/Ped Committee take a look at this proposal. Maybe they'd have some different and creative ideas. There is a problem with bikers going too fast mixed with pedestrians.

Mr. Barker stated there are a subset of bikers who do not ride respectively.

Mr. Statz stated that the main people commuting would stay on Wilson Street. Leisurely riders could choose to go through the Park.

Mr. Williams stated we don't have to design it to look like a bicycle path.

Ms. Jordan suggested putting it along the edge.

Alder Rummel suggested expanding Tax Incremental District (TID) 36 to include Central Park. She asked the Mayor's Office to get the City Attorney's Office to go forward with the Few Street crossing. Working with Traffic Engineering regarding bike boulevards. The City's goal is to create bike paths for leisurely bikers, not commuters on the fast track. Allow only residential users; limit access to street.

Brad Mullins stated he generally likes seeing a plan that's looking like it can

move forward. He is getting questioned by businesses about when this is going to happen. He would really like something to happen. He appreciates the various comments. This should be in TID 36. He thinks the design elements can be worked out. The Few Street crossing is problematic. We should do anything to avoid hang-ups. There's only so many dollars in the pot, only so many donors. This needs to move forward. He appreciates the efforts that have gone into the work.

Amy Overby stated she agrees with Mr. Barker's and others' statements. Few Street is a no go. It's too problematic. The other issue is Leslie's playground notion. I thought the playground was definitely in Phase 1. She doesn't live in the neighborhood or have small children, but it's a strong advocacy group. It should be somewhere that works for young families.

Alder Clausius agreed with Mr. Barker and Mr. Mullins. Forget about Few Street for now. The Bike path - Baldwin St. south - just eliminate vehicle traffic altogether. Residents would be the only stumbling block - do they need to get through there? He hopes fundraising continues for the Skate Park because that will keep the public's eyes focused on this.

Ms. Craig asked if commuter rail is still an option.

Mr. Barker responded maybe someday.

Mr. Mullins suggested leaving commuter rail in as a placeholder.

Ms. Craig stated that she totally agrees that a playground is an essential part of any neighborhood park. Community gardens are a bigger part; the activities could be paired. She asked if we could be looking at the soil.

Mr. Williams responded that the Great Lawn is 4' high clay, Brownfield. Bearly Street block will be the same thing - the whole block.

Janet Dailey stated haz mat testing has not been done yet.

Ms. Schroeder asked about the soil under Research Products.

Mr. Barker stated lots of edible landscaping would be good.

Ms. Craig stated they are doing great things on top of asphalt in Chicago.

Mr. Williams stated that by raising the elevation in the park, they could bring in good soils.

Ms. Jordan suggested demonstrations of gardening techniques, composting, etc. Programming of site can be moving and changing - occurring at different times, with temporary opportunities.

Alder Rummel asked if there have been Few Street discussions.

Mr. Statz stated they have had discussions with DOT, and the Railroad

Bureau on the Few Street crossing. They have received positive comments. They might be willing to do it, but don't know what ramifications there would be in other areas.

Mr. Briski stated that part of the discussion with Few Street - the conversations with Federal and State officials, have gone very well. \$3.2 Million with this earmark. It's an important component of the funding. Part of connectivity with regards to Few St - future connectivity to East Washington Avenue. It's an important piece to conversations at the Task Force level and spending earmark. The Task Force talked about permitting 3 events. Large-scale events would require vehicles to move through there.

5 Discussion regarding March 2nd Public Meeting, 6-8 p.m. at Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jenifer Street

Same presentation will occur as at today's Task Force meeting. Mr. Barker stated that the Task Force should sit and listen to what the public has to say.

6 Discussion of Central Park Development Update

Mr. Briski stated that we as a team have talked about the inevitability of the Few Street crossing if it's not approved. If it goes away, we still have the park. There is a desire to have the Skate Park there. Need a wider road to get vehicles back there. The Pedestrian Plaza could also be a performance space.

Funding: Approved CIP for earmark period for over the next 3 years - 12.5 million. 1st year - Funding for moving the tracks. Many funding sources. \$950K is for quiet zones that could be used for Brearly or Ingersoll. \$630K for design services. Land acquisition - \$5 Million, \$5.9 million - park construction and improvements, \$3.5 - is earmark and is incorporated in that. Will take more than \$5.9 Million for park construction.

Research Products: Real estate team working on acquisition. It's moving along. Part of acquisition process means environmental testing. Will find out more about soils at that time. Anticipate bad soil. Remediation of site will be necessary. Acquisition of Sands is in the \$5 Million.

Fluidity in the design of this. Mayor's intent is for us to move forward. Need level of consensus. Playground - did leave triangle area blank. Also need playground in design space.

Mr. Williams stated that regarding funding - Time is of the essence because Feds are taking money back.

Mr. Briski stated that the Earmark has been there for 3 years and they are pulling back on funding.

7 NEXT MEETING

March 30, 2011, Task Force Meeting, 8am, LL-110, Madison Municipal Building. Public Meeting 6-8 p.m., Research Products, 130 S. Ingersoll Street.

8 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by Schroeder, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.