

MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting #1
La Avenida Phase II Streetscape Improvements

Meeting Date: October 8, 2013 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Location: Isla Housing & Development
 1164 N. Clinton Ave.

A. MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE	EMAIL
Jeff Mroczek	City of Rochester	585-428-7124	mroczekj@cityofrochester.gov
Daisy Algarin	City of Rochester	585-428-7711	Algarin@cityofrochester.gov
Sonia Nunez	Isla Housing	585-544-3486	sonia@proway.com
Shirley Boone	Group 14621	585-482-7321	sboone@neadrochester.org
Mark Johns	Bergmann Associates	585-232-5137 x434	mjohns@bergmannpc.com
Dominic Fekete	Bergmann Associates	585-232-5137 x308	dfekete@bergmannpc.com
Ted Liddell	Bergmann Associates	585-232-5137 x378	tliddell@bergmannpc.com
Anna Liisa Keller	Highland Planning	585-362-7550	annaliisa@highland-planning.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Albert Algarin	North Clinton	585-284-7609	albertalgarin@yahoo.com
James Thompson	Cutle PLUS Neighbors		jimthomp@rochester.rr.com
MaryAnne Reed	Farbridge Kohlman		reed1978@juno.com
Miguel Melendez	Project Hope/Healthi Kids	585-467-6410	mmelendez@iberodevelopment.org
Tanya Zwahlen	Highland Planning	585-315-1834	tanya@highland-planning.com

B. MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the meeting was to (1) solicit feedback on the completed Phase I streetscape improvements from neighborhood stakeholders and (2) present proposed Phase II components. Issues and opportunities also were presented and discussed.

Phase I Overview:

- La Avenida Phase I Streetscape Improvements included the segment of N. Clinton Ave. from Upper Falls Blvd. to Avenue D.
- The project team conducted a field assessment of existing conditions on 8/22/13 for Phases I and II and documented areas of needed repair. Phase I elements were also evaluated for applicability and potential use in the Phase II project.
- Brick Print crosswalks at intersections have held up relatively well and will be used in Phase II. Different patterning may be used in Phase II.
- The gateway piers and walls at Upper Falls Blvd and at the small and large plazas in Don Samuel Torres Park were in good condition. There was very little vandalism and there were no signs of skateboard use.
- The fence in Don Samuel Torres Park is not holding up well. Sections of the fence appear to have been hit by a car or vandalized. The hardware attaching the fence to the fence posts are not holding up well. Grass is growing underneath the fence and the fence appears to be hit by a lawn mower on a regular basis. If the fence pier treatment is used in Phase II a more heavy duty fence should be explored and a mow strip of gravel or concrete be placed under the fence for easier maintenance and a cleaner look.
- The exposed aggregate pavement throughout Phase I is holding up well.

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- Concrete blocks from Phase 1 used in the vacant lot treatment were removed from the corridor. The concrete blocks resulted in a loitering problem.
- Concrete planters are holding up well. However, most of the flowers have been stolen.
- Light fixtures are a success. They were installed with both banner arms and an arm for a hanging basket. Banners and hanging baskets have never been installed on the poles since the completion of Phase I. Banners for the light fixtures have been designed and will be installed shortly. Flowers can be hung from planters, but height creates an obstacle for maintenance by community members.

Phase II Inventory and Analysis:

- Phase II Streetscape Improvements includes the segment of N. Clinton Ave. from Avenue D to Norton Street.
- As plans are developed for Phase II, the PAC will look at existing features and decide where elements could be added to lighting gateway features.
- A buffer treatment is needed at Red Wing Plaza.
- Planters at busy intersections would lessen the opportunity for people to steal plants.
- A possible bus shelter on the southbound side of the street could be located adjacent to a vacant parcel. RGRTA only places bus shelters on routes heading into the city so only the southbound side of N. Clinton is feasible. The team will work with RGRTA. RGRTA will not maintain a custom shelter. Groups in the community can look into grants that would assist with maintenance and upkeep of custom shelters.
- The project should highlight the connection from North Clinton to El Camino Trail.
- Existing curb ramps appear to be in good condition. However, several curb ramps are not handicap accessible. Phase II will incorporate ADA compliant curb ramps with tactile warning strips and exposed aggregate concrete.
- Heaving in the sidewalk especially near existing tree pits was noted. Anything not in compliance with ADA shall be repaired (grinded) or replaced.
- City will provide tree assessment, including locations and places where sidewalk adjustments around tree roots need to be made. Existing tree frames and grates will likely be removed throughout Phase II.

Phase II Schematic Improvement Plan:

- Bergmann shared conceptual ideas with the PAC. The initial concepts included ideas for the physical streetscape and pavement treatments.
- The concept incorporated the history of La Avenida and aims to express the welcoming nature of the neighborhood. The group agreed that the concept could include the phrase “welcome” in different languages.
- The concept could incorporate different games from different cultures. Daisy Algarin will research cultural games and community pioneers.
- Gateway piers could include interpretive plaques of prominent community figures like Father Tracy and Julio Vasquez.
- The pier fence treatment used in Phase I could potentially be used as a buffer between the sidewalk and the parking lot of the Red Wing Plaza. Three of the four corners of North Clinton Ave and Norton Street would be ideal for gateway treatments. Easements may be required at the two southern corners and the northwestern corner of the intersection in order to locate gateway elements.
- Locations throughout Phase II were noted for potential green infrastructure / rain gardens especially in the tree lawn areas in front of vacant lots.
- The Schematic Improvement Plan presented at the meeting will be posted to the project website.
- Bergmann Associates will continue concept development and begin preliminary design drawings.

Bicycle Enhancements:

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- Jeff discussed the City of Rochester's Bicycle Master Plan and Bicycle Enhancement Program. Bicycle accommodations along N. Clinton Ave. from Upper Falls Blvd. to Clifford Ave. are rated with a Level of Service C and from Clifford Ave. to Norton St. a Level of Service D. Level of Service is a measure of bicycle safety from A being the best to F being the worst. The City would like to be at least a C. This section of roadway has one of the highest rates of bicycle crashes in the city. Although the section south of Clifford Ave. is rated a LOS C, it has a high bicycle accident rate. The area has a low amount of vehicle ownership, which correlates to a high rate of bus riders and bicyclists.
- Bergmann presented a graphic depicting installation of striped bicycle lanes from Upper Falls to Norton Street in order to create a safe location for bicyclists and to slow traffic on North Clinton Avenue. A tradeoff of improved bike safety, however, is the loss of on street parking. The graphic depicted a complete loss of on-street parking on the west side of N. Clinton and preserved the on-street parking on the east side. There is about 15-20% more available on-street parking on the east side. Parking is an important aspect of the commercial district. The PAC agreed that further study was needed to mitigate the impact of lost parking near Saint Michael's church.

Bump Out Curb Extensions:

- A graphic depicting a few sample locations for bump out curb extensions was presented to the PAC. Bump out curb extensions reduce crossing distance for pedestrians, improve intersection sight distance, and slows/calms traffic. They also can provide a safer location for bus pull-offs.
- A photo of a bump out curb extension recently installed on Mt. Hope Ave. was shown to the group.
- Incorporating green infrastructure within the bump outs was also presented by the design team.

Next Steps:

The next PAC Meeting is scheduled for December 5th at Isla Housing and Development.

Action Items:

Responsible Party

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| 1. Research cultural games and community pioneers | D. Algarin |
| 2. Schedule a meeting with the owner of Red Wing's Plaza | D. Algarin |
| 3. Forward graphics for the Welcome sign and banners | D. Algarin |
| 4. Create project website and post graphics from this meeting | J. Mroczek |
| 5. Continue concept development & begin preliminary design | Bergmann Assoc. |

The above constitutes our understanding of issues discussed at this meeting. Please contact the undersigned, in writing, with any errors or omissions.

Sincerely,

BERGMANN ASSOCIATES



Dominic Fekete, PE
Project Manager

HIGHLAND PLANNING



Anna Liisa Keller
Project Planner

cc: All Attendees, All committee members not in attendance, Eric Shaw (BA)