

PLACE DESIGN TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 13, 2013

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Jefferson School/City Center

Attendees:

Members

RL Rachel Lloyd, Vice-Chair
BM Beth Meyer

Ex-Officio Members

BE Bill Emory, *Tree Commission*
KG Kathy Galvin, *City Council*
GK Gennie Keller, *Planning Commission*
TM Tim Mohr, *BAR*

City Staff, Neighborhood Development Services

MS Mary Joy Scala
JT Jim Tolbert

I. Call to Order

II. Update on Annual Report

- West Main subcommittee report has been drafted but not reviewed, and will be distributed to full committee once it's been revised. It may also be sent to short-listed firms for the project once it's been vetted. (JT will also send out the revised West Main Street project area diagram to short listed firms. The West Main steering committee will be the entire PLACE committee.)
- The Comp Plan subcommittee report has been drafted.
- The SIA subcommittee will include an update and summary of the project's progress.
- The Green Infrastructure subcommittee report is in progress. BM suggested that the report will include a list of "next steps": 1) audit of city guidelines on green infrastructure, 2) storm water management incentives for fee relief, 3) designs for new small parks and plazas (public spaces), 4) coordination with Karen Firehock, 5) coordination with Architecture School faculty for site designs, 6) development of a Landscape Framework plan to establish landscape metrics for improvement.
- Need to include other committee work over the last year in the report: McIntire RFP support and Belmont Bridge design review, etc.
- GK suggested that PLACE undertake a "retreat" with other city committees, Council, planning commission, BAR to set priorities for urban design issues. For example, the retreat could examine complete street policies and the need to create a holistic approach to urban public sphere design.

III. Update on SIA

- The design team has made lots of outreach into the community and had a good public meeting. The next public engagement will be during July 16-17 (16th-steering committee, and 17th- public meeting). JT will ask the design team to coalesce the project's critical design principles into one statement and send to the City in advance of the July meetings so that PLACE can review and affirm.
- PLACE agrees there needs to be more communication with the public to set expectations about the realistic level of about city investment vs. private investment that will arise from the project. Also to communicate effectively about the benefits of increased density in the project area.

IV. Belmont Bridge

- The designers have updated the “bridge” plan to an equal level with that of the “tunnel” plan.
- The city will get an independent cost estimate for the two schemes.
- Legal issues for tunnel scheme are being identified by the city attorney.
- Communication is underway with the RR.
- The goal will be to present the plans to Council at the end of the summer. PLACE will have an advisory role after Council decides what the project options are.
- The SIA team will assess aspects of the redevelopment potential for the schemes.

V. Water Street Extended Plantings

- The meeting of different groups generated some good design ideas.
- MW will help with the design.

VI. PUD/Zoning Tools

- The need for better PUD and subdivision guidelines and ordinances was highlighted during the recent Stonehenge PUD discussion at City Council.
- Agreement that there needed to be better ordinances that support the goals of the Comp Plan.
- There are three problems: how can we improve the process (applications, review, citizen engagement), how can we improve what is submitted for review? and how can we improve our design standards so there is clarity? Should place-making design principles be included in the PUD standards?
- PUD and subdivision guidelines could be a topic at the proposed retreat.

VII. Next Meeting

- Everyone get their subcommittee reports to Richard.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned