

PLACE Design Task Force Minutes  
Thursday, November 12th, 2015 12:00pm – 2:00pm  
Location:  
Conference Room, Neighborhood Development Services

Members Present

Mark Watson – Chairman  
Rachel Lloyd  
Ginny Keller  
Gallon Byrd  
Tim Mohr  
Claudette Grant  
Scott Paisley  
Fred Wolf  
Richard Price  
Kathy Galvin  
Andrew Mondschein  
Paul Josey

Public Present:

Bill Emory  
Lena Seville

Staff Present:

Carrie Rainey

Agenda

1. Public Comments – No public comments

Updates from the Tree Commission there is a study done for the mall, Tim Urban who was recommended by Beth Meyers came in and did a tree study (through Parks and Rec) and should be ready in a few weeks. Another study done from the outside of the city boundaries, the Tree Commission, Tree Stewards, VDOT, and Monticello are all working to plant the strip between city boundary all the way up to Jefferson Park, the wide grassy strip on Route 20.

2. Presentation and Discussion on The Pollock's Branch Cultural Watershed Project, Center for Cultural Landscapes

Rob McGinnis, Landscape Architect: This is a framework not a set in concrete process Cultural Landscapes to provide a sense of place and identity; they map our relationship with the land over time; and they are part of our national heritage and each of our lives. This is a research project reinterpreting the Pollocks Branch Cultural Watershed Project which is a natural waterway that is currently piped through much of the city. There are a lot of UVA projects. This is not a design project or a Master Plan project and we are not engaging the public to come up with design recommendations. The basic process is a series of workshops. These workshops will be spreaded throughout and we are not going to focus on any specific area. We don't want to go where we are not invited. He reported how these special sites reveal aspects of our country's origins and development as well as our evolving relationships with the natural world. They provide scenic, economic, ecological,

social, recreational, and educational opportunities helping communities to better understand themselves. This will move into another phase where these workshops, the data collection and analysis and whatever form that takes may feed into a publicly a large event and one idea that we are doing comparable projects outside the United States. The audio tour will than share into project which has the potential to get continuous feedback. One think to note is will there be any value in your small area planning.

There is a fellow at UVa at the Institute for Advance Studies and Culture who is doing city atlases. This could have some similar results that we can't predict right now. for the cultural landscapes. The ongoing care and interpretation of these sites improves our quality of life and deepens a sense of place and identity for future generations.

### 3. Staff Updates on Ongoing or Upcoming Projects (25 minutes)

PLACE Updates - November 12 2015

#### West Main Street

Code drafts have been directed back to Planning Commission for a second public hearing and additional consideration on December 8th.

City staff is working through tackling the list of changes or considerations voted upon by Council in September 2015 for the streetscape plan.

#### Belmont Bridge

RFP for design being finalized with advertisement expected later this month.

#### Walkable Watersheds

The Pollocks Branch Walkable Watershed effort has continued to move forward since the last update to PLACE a couple months ago. Design work is just getting underway, and will include further opportunities for public engagement and input. The project will provide an outdoor gathering space for Crescent Halls residents, habitat for birds and pollinators, and will hopefully include a pedestrian pathway to connect 1st Street S to Monticello Avenue. Construction is slated for spring 2016.

These efforts included several volunteer work days. Our partnership with The Bridge on the Waterwise street mural component of the Walkable Watershed effort also has progressed. Our artist Aaron Eichorst, other project partners, and residents gathered to install a temporary chalk paint version of the first stormwater-based mural on the street, sidewalk, and retaining wall at the intersection of Monticello Avenue and 6th Street SE on

11/8. Unfortunately, the rains that came shortly thereafter made the installation more temporary than we would have liked, but the intent is to install the first more permanent mural next spring.

#### East McIntire Park Botanical Garden

We've got a couple of "future home of..." signs going up late November. Setting up initial fundraising that will be used for a design consultant (landscape architects). Hoping to open the garden in 2018. <http://www.mcintirebotanicalgarden.org/>

#### Streets That Work

Steering Committee will meet on December 2nd to discuss draft documents and begin preparations for an open house in spring 2016.

#### The Mall

Mall crossing work has not begun.

#### City Walk/Coal Tower

The developer is working on the final punch list before it can be accepted into the system. It could be done by this year.

#### Market Plaza

Boring has been underway for a week (at the time of the PLACE meeting) and the applicant is awaiting approval of utility plans to begin the work on undergrounding. That work is anticipated to take 3-4 months. The City is still reviewing the site plan. The applicant is hoping to begin work on the structure in April 2016.

BAR design review is completed.

#### West Main & Roosevelt Brown Boulevard

Building permit issued. The transformer screening and signage is under review.

#### Republic Plaza

The BAR COA approval runs with the site plan- if site plan expires before they apply for a building permit, they will have to start over.

#### Ridge & Cherry Hotel

The site plan is currently under review.

BAR approved massing in October. On BAR agenda in November for final approval.

## SOHO

The site plan is still in review, but no additional comments need to be addressed. The applicant needs to post bonds before the plan is signed and a pre-con setup.

## Landmark Hotel

Following the Council candidates press conference at the landmark, the owners representative contacted us noting that they still plan to work on the site following the opening of their property in Charleston (projected to open Spring 2016).

## Allied Street

McIntire Plaza is under construction.

## Code Audit

Continues to be on hold until completion of Streets that Work.

## Undergrounding Overhead Utilities

Market Plaza development - the city has partner with them to get these placed under ground around the 2 block area. Subsurface investigation has begun on existing utilities to eliminate potential conflicts.

550 Water Street development - the city is looking at partnering to extend the scope along Water Street and remove all poles from 5th Street to the Transit Station.

## 4. Update on Friendship Court Funding for Resident Engagement Consultants (10 minutes)

- The Charlottesville City Council will spend \$350,000 to help the Piedmont Housing Alliance plan for the redevelopment of Friendship Court, a 150-unit low-income apartment complex just south of the Downtown Mall.
- The alliance is expected to purchase the property outright from the National Housing Trust and the Enterprise Preservation Corporation when the existing low-income tax credits expire in October 2018.
- The PHA has hired Stantec's Urban Places Group as well as Studio O to work on a development plan. The goal is to use a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "choice neighborhood" planning model which would include extensive community input.
- This effort would include extensive resident and community engagement that would help shape a highly visual master plan document, inclusive of supporting documentation reflective of public comment and involvement throughout this process.
- The market study will cost approximately \$30,000, and the development of the master plan will cost around \$260,000. The additional \$60,000 would pay for "support services" to engage the community.

- The city made a similar investment in the master planning process for the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority's 376 units. That plan was adopted in July 2010 but has not been implemented yet.
- Piedmont Housing Alliance has said it will keep all 150 affordable units on site. The analysis said that would mean a mix of 70 percent market-rate units and 30 percent affordable at 60 percent of the annual median income.

5. Other Business (25 minutes)

- a. Crosswalks
- b. Private Street Ordinances
- c. Sidewalk Installation Priority Plans
- d. Architectural Review Improvements to enhance Placemaking
- e. Alley Development Pilot Project

6. The Future of PLACE Discussion (30 minutes)

**PLACEMAKING, LIVABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PLACE) DESIGN TASK FORCE**

**PURPOSE AND CHARGE:**

There is hereby created the PLACE Design Taskforce to act as an advisory body to the Planning Commission and City Council charged with the following:

1. Advising on the urban design aspects of development projects on publicly owned or financed land and developing design criteria for such projects.
2. Reviewing the design of city capital projects and changes to existing public facilities.
3. Reviewing the proposals for public art.
4. Reviewing the status of landscape improvements and policies including tree cutting, maintenance and planting.
5. To develop best practices for urban design guidelines and their implementation.
6. Review of special projects as requested by City Council or the Planning Commission.
7. Identify the obstacles and recommend incentives for the redevelopment of our growth corridors.

8. Identify best practices for community engagement in planning and design and recommend processes.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Taskforce will consist of seven permanent members, one each from areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, preservation, arts and the development community, plus two citizens-at-large. The Taskforce will also have two Ex-Officio members, one from City Council and one from the Planning Commission to provide liaison with these two bodies. The City Council at the recommendation of the Planning Commission may also appoint additional advisory members as necessary to deal with specific project or subjects.

TERMS OF OFFICE:

The initial terms will be: three members for three years, two members for two years, and two members for one year and thereafter there year terms. Members will be appointed by City council with the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION:

The Taskforce will be advisory to the Planning Commission and report to the Commission on a regular basis.

STAFFING:

The Department of Neighborhood Services will provide the staffing, in cooperation with the Economic Development Director and the Department of Public Works. The Planning Commission may also request assistance of appropriate University faculty or consultants as necessary.

Adjournment: 2:00