



CITY OF OAKLAND

NOTES

Community Design Charrette Meeting #1

Project: St Andrew's Plaza

Date: February 11, 2016

Location: West Oakland Youth Center

Notes by Valerie Conant

Introduction

- WooJae Kim asked for volunteers (with youth group representation) for the Community Action Group (CAG).
- WooJae Kim summarized the project scope, schedule and budget.
- Golden Associates summarized the Community Kickoff Meeting, the Door to Door Connection, and the Stakeholder CAG meetings that have already taken place.
- Golden Associates presented the ideas that came from the Door to Door and the Stakeholder/CAG kickoff. (Desired Activities Previously Expressed by Community)
- Golden Associates presented Questions generated at Stakeholder/CAG kickoff.
- Golden Associates briefly discussed activating spaces and the idea of a community group taking over use and maintenance of the park as exemplified by Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks relationship with City Slicker Farms.
- The project website was announced: www.Oaklandnet.com/SAPR

Community Input

- Golden Associates requested additional proposed activities and desired uses of the park. When these were suggested, the activities were added to the "Desired Activities Expressed by Community February 11" board.
- Golden Associates requested additional questions for the "Questions" board.
- When comments didn't fit into either of these categories, Golden Associates added the comments to blank boards to record other community input. Golden Associates did not record comments made multiple times. We typed up these comments. Please find them attached to these notes.
- In general, the group seemed divided into two ways of thinking about the park:
 - people who want the park improved and believe illegal activity can be reduced
 - people who think it will always be used for illegal activity and improvements will be wasted
- After receiving comments for over an hour, each person was given 6 red stickers and 6 green stickers to use for voting. Green stickers were for the Desired Activities boards and red stickers were for the Questions board. Voters were allowed to use their stickers multiple times for a single activity or question.

Voting Results

- Desired Activities:
 - Market/Vendors (this was related to Food Trucks): 31
 - Services: Medical & Social: 31
 - Lighting: 22

- Multiple Uses: 16
- Flex Use: Tai Chi, Drum Circle, Spoken Word: 9
- Community Garden: 8
- Trash Receptacles & Recycling: 8
- Move Bus Stop to Plaza (Increase Activity): 7
- Buffer between San Pablo and Park: 7
- Library/Bookmobile: 6
- Fitness: 4
- Tot Lot: 3
- Farmers' Market: 3
- Make a Sacred Space: 2
- Basketball Court: 2
- Recycled Shipping Container: 1
- Skateboard Park: 1
- Bike Share (on Filbert): 0
- Dog Park: 0
- Make it look good with places to sit: 0

In addition, voters put green stickers on some of the photos about activating spaces:

- Putnam Triangle Plaza, Brooklyn: 9-This photo shows a storefront/triangle plaza relationship that could be similar to St Andrews. The street between the plaza and store fronts has been closed to cars. The scene is during a block party.
- Bryant Park, Manhattan-Reading Room: 6-This photo shows an outdoor space with carts full of books and movable outdoor seating with tables and umbrellas.
- Detroit Riverfront: 3-This photo shows people participating in an outdoor fitness class
- Cadillac Square, Detroit: 1
- Pearl Street Triangle, Brooklyn: 1
- Questions:
 - Do we need a permanent fence around the park?
Yes: 44
No: 3
 - Do we need a continuous community presence in the park?
Yes: 34
No: 0
 - Primary User Group in the park?
Seniors: 10
Youth: 0
Children: 0
All: 25
 - Park for residents only?: 4

Conclusion

- Golden Associates announced the next community meeting (3 Plaza Options to be presented):
Thursday, March 10, 6pm-8pm
West Oakland Youth Center
At that meeting, Golden Associates will present 3 Design Alternatives for community input.



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Additional Comments from the Community (in addition to results of voting exercise)

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- Can we get community contributions? – Crowd sourcing
- Valuable items in park will create more problems (bikeshare, movable furniture)
- What will change the environment around the park?
- We need a park-not a building.
- Desire for food trucks – emphasis on need for commercial food services in the area
- Need continuous activity
- Need to keep illegal element out of the park
- Need transparent process → sacred space
- Need resources for the community
- Need structure on the property (building) not open space
- Need senior center
- Problems are plaza is dirty, abandoned spaces, drugs
- Need wash station for homeless
- Need traffic calming on San Pablo Avenue – park not safe
- Rezone to allow building
- Need housing – affordable
- People with problems as stewards of the park
- Sense of community of people in park – and frustration with misuse of park
- Why has undesirable activity been allowed to continue for so long?
- Community needs to take ownership of the park.
- Work with services – as part of the process
- Need resources posted in park
- Need walkability – safety – street crossing
- Service providers should be supported to work together
- People in park don't care about this process – they will take the park over.
- Need traffic light or stop sign on San Pablo
- Need security guard or police presence all the time
- Concern: crumbling sidewalks at 32nd and Filbert
- Commercial strip needs work.
- Commenter will contact HGTV's Curb Appeal to improve look of nearby residences.