



## CITY OF OAKLAND

### NOTES

#### Community Design Charrette Meeting #2

Project: St Andrew's Plaza

Date: March 10, 2016

Location: West Oakland Youth Center

Notes by Valerie Conant

#### Introduction

- WooJae Kim introduced the design team, City staff, and Council President McElhaney.
- WooJae Kim summarized the project scope, schedule and budget.
- WooJae Kim announced the project Community Comment Line, (510) 775-2389, Online Discussion, <http://speakupoakland.org/discussions/st-andrews-plaza-renovation>, and reminded the public about the project website, [www.Oaklandnet.com/SAPR](http://www.Oaklandnet.com/SAPR).
- Joe DeVries made a short presentation describing a traffic calming project on San Pablo Avenue at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Brockhurst Streets, adjacent to the project site. This project will be funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) federal grant obtained by the Oakland Public Works Transportation Division and is a result of community concerns expressed during the St. Andrew's Plaza Renovation community outreach process.
- Golden Associates summarized Community Design Charrette Meeting #1, the results of which are the basis for the 3 design alternatives.
- Golden Associates announced the next Community Meeting:  
**Saturday, April 16, 10:00am to 12:00pm**  
**West Oakland Youth Center**  
**3233 Market Street, Oakland**  
Golden Associates to present preferred design
- Golden Associates presented the three (3) design alternatives.

#### Community Input

- Council President McElhaney led an open discussion about design of the plaza.
- Community Liason, Brigitte Cook discussed the possibility of establishing, "Friends of St. Andrew's Plaza" to support stewardship of the plaza.
- Golden Associates recorded comments pertinent to design of the plaza. 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 to want art added to the park. Many community members wanted the art to be added to the fence.
- The community was interested in how park stewardship and event planning could be accomplished.
- After the comment period, each person was given 12 green stickers to use for voting. They were also encouraged to write-in their own ideas and comments.

## Voting Results Summary

- Questions on Community Boards:
  1. **Entry Gates**

The community preferred the entry gates to the plaza on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street & San Pablo Avenue as in Alternative 1 and Alternative 3.
  2. **Paving Treatment**

Of the paving alternatives, the community preferred the “river” of colored glass in the concrete as in Alternative 1 but seemed to prefer to apply art dollars to a decorative fence.
  3. **Boulder Seating**

The community preferred boulders for seating as in Alternative 1 and Alternative 3.
  4. **Light Options**

The community preferred traditional light fixtures, particularly the “Washington” style.
  5. **Fence Alternatives**

The community slightly preferred the security fence as in Alternative 2 but the traditional gate with finials received only one less vote. The 7’ height seemed to be the most important feature of the security fence.
  6. **Street Tree Options**

The community preferred new street trees along San Pablo Avenue as in Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. One person voted for a trident maple and seven voted for gingko biloba.
- Added Ideas
  7. **Custom Art on Fence** was very popular with 22 votes.
  8. **Art/Light & Sculpture** received 9 votes
  9. **Folding Chairs or Benches** received 10 votes
  10. **Food-Fruit Trees** received 2 votes and one vote for the write-in, “no fruit trees, bring rats and rodents”
  11. **Community Art Tiles** received 9 votes.
  12. **Bike Left Turn Lanes** (San Pablo to 32<sup>nd</sup>) received 3 votes
- A few ideas for art themes were suggested, including:
  - Celebrate the beautiful (Victorian) architecture from the neighborhood
  - Ironwork for fence related to oak trees, “Oakland”
  - Highlight West Oakland’s racial/ethnic diversity.
- Please see the scanned boards for all voting, comments, ideas, and suggestions.

## Conclusion

The meeting ended but many community members stayed to discuss the plaza further with the design team and City of Oakland representatives. The overall feeling in the room was lively and positive.



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

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- Fencing – One community member (Barry) concerned about look of fence; he'd like it to be more open, less austere
- There is no place to sit.
- Gate on the corner of Filbert and San Pablo Avenue?
- Prefer decorative metal on fence or make it a different color
- Suggest oak trees or oak leaf print to honor Oakland
- Activity space is being provided – instead of seating
- Desire for Sculpture
- Desire for Bathroom
- Prefer art in park – budget?
- Fence – Dedicated art panels to improve appearance
- St. Andrew's Oversight Group is being formed.
- Is decomposed granite sweepable?
- One community member said she likes the 7' fence.
- Prefer something to sit on – boulders OK
- Folding bench? To make room for activities and provide seating
- Community unlocks park (steward) dawn and dusk
- Plant fruit trees
- Crowd-funding for art? – YES!
- Park stewards – what if users won't leave at dusk – support? Monitor stewards? Self-reporting
- How does a fence support open space?
- Many traditional parks have wrought-iron fences.
- Money for art on fence, not decorative paving
- North Oakland – example placemaking: street mural, ambassador workshop
- Friends of St. Andrews could champion park and events
- Bulletin board at the plaza