

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting April 23, 2014
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Indovina, Lockett, Rhor

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Ray Gastil
Morton Brown
Ben Carlise on behalf of Mike Gable

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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1. GTECH Strategies: The Gearing Garden	1
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A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lockett moved for the minutes to be approved. Rhor seconded. The March minutes were approved.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Brown presented the modification for the St. Clair Corners project that is to be presented. The modification included a game board design for the project.

C. Items for Review

1. GTECH Strategies: The Gearing Garden (Conceptual and Final)
 - *Gordon Hodnett, Project Manager, GTECH ReClaim South Ambassador*

Evaine Sing, of GTECH, introduced Gordon Hodnett, a lifetime resident of Beltzhoover, to present the plans for The Gearing Garden which is on the corner of Gearing Avenue and Freeland Street. GTECH Strategies have trained community members to be ambassadors for land use and site design.

The Gearing Gardens includes six raised community garden beds that will be filled with vegetables and fruits. Fruit trees will also be on the property.

The project has worked with two partners, Voices Against Violence and Kelly's Kids, and will continue to do so. The raised beds on the site are being reused from a previous DPW edible gardens project. They were provided by DPW and will be relocated to this site.

Ms. Rhor inquired about the mural project referenced in the letter of support. Ms. Sing confirmed that the mural project was excluded from the presentation as the mural is on private property.

Mr. Astorino asked about the size of the trees. Mr. Hodnett said that the trees will be dwarf; a request has been placed through the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank fruit tree program.

Mr. Astorino requested that all of the projects be approved at one time, so motions will be reserved for the end of the presentations.

2. GTECH Strategies: St. Clair Corners (Conceptual and Final)

- *Suzanne Photos, Project Manager, GTECH ReClaim South Ambassador*

Suzanne Photos, a resident and native of Mt. Oliver, presented the project of St. Clair Corners which includes game tables and a game board. At the moment, the area is used for a parking lot. The project will add vitality and add a different flavor to the neighborhood.

The game board will be done with pavers and include multiple pedestal game tables. The pavers are 2' x 2'. A core group of volunteers will oversee the project.

Ms. Rhor asked about the material being used around the pavers. Ms. Sing said that the site was a former gas station and the concrete pad is still prevalent. The pad will be uncovered and leveled. GTECH has spoken with Public Works about leveling the area.

There will be boulders installed to prevent parking.

[some audio is inaudible]

There will be a small free library installed at the space, with tables that will be stained. The library is similar to a birdhouse, it is about 2'x2'.

There will be security cameras placed on the corner.

3. GTECH Strategies: Knoxville Incline Overlook (Conceptual and Final)

- *Cara Jette, Project Manager, GTECH ReClaim South Ambassador*

Cara Jette explained that her project would take place about halfway up the incline. Currently there are concrete barriers and overgrown weeds that can be seen by foot and also from a vehicle. There is a well worn foot trail and this trail is heavily used.

Ms. Jette explained that the jersey barriers will be replaced with planters, there will be a timber lined trail, and the group will be cleaning up the space. She showed images explaining the changes.

Ms. Luckett asked about the maintenance agreement for all of the projects.

Ms. Sing said that the Southside Slopes Neighborhood Association does litter cleanup in this area and will continue to do so. The Allentown neighborhood group also has a 'cleanup day'. She further explained that this space already exists and is maintained, this project is just to make the lot better. She said she had spoken with the department of public works.

Ms. Rhor stated that she would be in favor of removing the existing signage in the second project.

Mr. Brown said that he would have to followup with public works about that.

(audio inaudible)

<u>MOTION:</u>	Concept and Final Approval		
MOVED BY	Slavick	SECONDED BY	Rhor
IN FAVOR	All		
OPPOSED	None		
			<u>CARRIED</u>

Meeting Adjourned