Steel City Squash
Proposed Larimer Avenue Zone Map Change
February 2020
Steel City Squash - Who We Are

- Steel City Squash is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and 501(c)(3) entity that provides after-school educational support and athletic opportunities to inner-city school children in the City of Pittsburgh.

- We provide life-changing opportunities to Pittsburgh youth who desire and deserve more, to prepare for and graduate from college, through education, mentoring, community service, travel and the sport of squash.

- Our mission is to provide consistent, long-term and reliable support to students and their families, to help minority children reach their full potential in the classroom, community and on the squash court.

- Although squash is the sport around which the program is centered, the main purpose of our program is to provide one-on-one academic support to the City’s inner-city students.
Steel City Squash - Who We Are

Academic Achievement

ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION
With full-time staff members and volunteers, Steel City Squash offers a unique level of one-on-one support.

STUDENT/ADULT RATIO
4:1 Steel City Squash
14:1 Pitt. Public Schools
16:1 National Average

WHAT THEY SAY:
“My grades increased when I started coming here and I started making the honor roll. I don’t usually make that. It feels good knowing I can come here because if I don’t understand my work, you all help me understand it better.”
- Davayha (7th Grade)

Preparing for a Future

GETTING KIDS ON CAMPUS
- SCS averages 4 trips to college campuses per school year.
- Through University of Pittsburgh volunteers, 100% of SCS students interact with college students on a daily basis.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE
Our College & Career Readiness program is just kicking off. We’ll be helping prepare our students for a productive future through:
- Standardized Test Prep
- Career Exploration
- College & Financial Counseling
- Internship Support
Steel City Squash - Who We Are

Providing Opportunities

THE POWER OF SEA

Through our umbrella organization, the Squash + Education Alliance, Steel City Squash is able to offer students amazing opportunities.

- Summer camps at some of the best preparatory academies.
- Elite squash development camps.
- College Scholarships
- Career Networking

WHAT THEY SAY:

"I learned so many different things. I learned how to code. I learned that kindness goes a long way. It was something different and I’d love to do it again."

- Vaughn (Chsate, Summer ’16)

Squash Success

WHERE WE GO:

As part of our squash programming, our students get to travel across the country for tournaments and camps.

- In 2018-19, SCS students went on a total of 10 tournaments in 7 different cities.
- 90% of SCS students went to at least 1 squash tournament during 2018-19.

OUR RESULTS:

- 1st Place: U15 Boys Div. B at SEA Urban Team Nationals
- 3rd Place: U15 Girls Div. B at SEA Urban Team Nationals
- Da’Neriah: 2nd Place - Girls U13 Div. A at SEA Individual Nationals
- Teshawn: 1st Place - Girls U19 Div. B at Midwest Championships
The Proposed Larimer Steel City Squash Facility

- Steel City Squash has proposed a new state-of-the-art academic and athletic facility to be located in the City’s Larimer neighborhood.

- The facility will include classrooms (which will be available for community events when not in use for academic purposes), squash courts, locker rooms, spectator areas, fitness facilities, and administrative offices.

- Larimer residents will have priority over other City residents in utilizing the community event areas and athletic facilities.

- Approximately 20 off-street parking spaces are currently proposed.

- A rain garden will be located on the southeastern portion of the property.

- DOMI has proposed to grant Steel City Squash a perpetual license to occupy the Regis Way and Rapidan Way rights-of-way, so that no street vacations will be required.
Existing Conditions

Larimer Avenue and Shetland Street, Looking Southeast
Existing Conditions

Shetland Street and Regis Way, Looking North
Existing Conditions

Joseph Street and Larimer Avenue, Looking Southwest
Conceptual Renderings
Conceptual Renderings
Existing Zoning Designations:

RM-H
Multi-Unit Residential High Density

R1D-H
Single Unit Detached Residential High Density

Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor (General) Uses Are Not Permitted In These Districts
Proposed Zoning Designation:

LNC-Local Neighborhood Commercial

Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor (General) Uses Are Permitted By Right In The LNC District
Reasons and Justifications for Rezoning

- Rezoning the subject property by extending the existing LNC District from the West will allow the property to be utilized for “Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor (General)” uses by right, without obtaining variances from the Zoning Board.

- Rezoning will allow for the redevelopment and use of parcels along Larimer’s main thoroughfare that have sat vacant for many years. Steel City Squash believes the project will spur investment and community development along the Larimer Avenue corridor.

- Because the rezoning is the logical extension of an existing LNC District, there are no “spot zoning” concerns.

- The LNC District permits all forms of residential uses that are permitted under the current designation. In the event the facility is not completed, the property could still be used consistent with the current zoning district designation.
Reasons and Justifications for Rezoning

- The rezoning of the Property is consistent with the 2010 Larimer Vision Plan, which provides:
  - “Larimer needs to find large scale land uses for its vacant land. Opportunities exist for active recreation, urban farming and park uses. The market analysis report suggests an active recreation complex, including rectangular fields, and a fieldhouse or other indoor facilities will create a city-wide and regional destination that could be self-sustaining.”
  - “There is unmet demand for additional active recreation facilities in Pittsburgh including playing fields for baseball, softball, football, and soccer. Other facilities for active youth and adult sports are also needed; existing facilities are fully used and even over-used.”

- The rezoning is also consistent with the approved 2019 rezoning of the adjacent parcels to from residential to LNC for redevelopment of the Larimer School property.
Questions?

Thank you

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