

Development Activities Meeting – Form to Use During DAM

This report created by the Neighborhood Planner and included with staff reports to City Boards and/or Commissions.

Logistics	Stakeholders
Project Name/Address: Enright Park Master Plan and Improvement Project – Amber, Eva, and Topaz streets	Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident): Village Collaborative of East Liberty East Liberty Development Inc. Friendship Community Group
Parcel Number(s): 84-A-176	
ZDR Application Number: n/a	
Meeting Location: Zoom (DCP-hosted)	
Date: April 18, 2022	
Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM	
Applicant: Andrea Ketzel – City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works	Approx. Number of Attendees: 28
Boards and/or Commissions Request(s): Art Commission – improvements to City property	

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

Ex: Community engagement to-date, location and history of the site, demolition needs, building footprint and overall square footage, uses and activities (particularly on the ground floor), transportation needs and parking proposed, building materials, design, and other aesthetic elements of the project, community uses, amenities and programs.

- Andrea Ketzel of the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works presented on the park master plan. She began by going over the timeline and schedule, noting that the Department of City Planning completed a master plan for Enright Park in 2017-2018 as part of the redevelopment of Penn Plaza. When the master plan was completed, the project was handed over to DPW. DPW has since been working on the design with the community, which she noted included Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Friendship Community Group, and neighbors of the park.
- A. Ketzel said that the project was now in its construction phase. The hope is to start construction this summer and wrap up by 2023.
- A. Ketzel went over recent engagements, including two advisory committee meetings, a July community meeting in which several concepts were presented to the community, and the project’s presence on Engage PGH, the City’s engagement website launched during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A. Ketzel noted that the final design incorporated feedback from Engage PGH and used surveys to gauge support. A November community meeting was then held, and further design development such as stormwater management took place over the new year.
- A. Ketzel showed some of the conceptual plans, which were refined into a preferred concept. This included several types of playground equipment, on which the community members and Engage PGH participants gave feedback. The feedback was that natural playground features were preferred, including the preservation and reuse of trees.
- A. Ketzel showed the preferred concept site plan and walked through each of the items, pointing out the new Eva Street alignment across the northern boundary of the park; a new full basketball court; a multi-purpose court space (on which an artist has been engaged to work on integrated pavement murals for younger children who may not be ready for full-court basketball); a playground space with features for 2 to 5-year-olds as well as 5 to 12-year-olds, a pavilion space; inclusive swings for children in wheelchairs and other inclusive features throughout the

playground design; the whale spray feature salvaged from the old park and integrated into the new park; standard park amenities such as trash receptacles, benches, and picnic tables; and the rain garden.

- A. Ketzel pointed out that there will be port-a-potties on site, with hopefully future hookups for permanent bathrooms.
- A. Ketzel mentioned that that next steps for the project were to continue through construction documents and obtain a number of permits prior to starting construction. Additionally, the project team will work with a public artist and hold more meetings with the community on the art. The project will also be reviewed with the Art Commission.

Input and Responses

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
<p>“We had discussed a while back about water fountains including bottle filling stations. I feel like the pandemic will stick around. Will people feel comfortable using traditional fountains or would bottle filling station be of more use?”</p>	<p>“I had not updated the image from the last community meeting, and we are incorporating those now. We have a project in Lawrenceville with those water filling fountains with a dog bowl at the bottom as well.”</p>
<p>“Will the existing fence at the Amber St sidewalk and the adjoining private parking lot remain? Will they remain a chain-link fence? Will there be fencing at any other part of the park border?”</p>	<p>“Our plan is to keep existing fence. We will also be adding a fence behind the backboards of the basketball court to keep the ball in the area of play. Our intent is not to close off entire basketball court. We had discussed incorporating some public art into the fence on left side to make it more welcoming. We’ll be talking about that more with the public art piece. In terms of adding fence to other areas of park, we do not have plans to add other fences.</p>
<p>“The portions of the park along the skinny portions along Eva Street — I know the current grading is not final, but basically the function is swales cut off by the street. I’m worried that the parts of the swales going toward Negley will be mud pits, or they’ll just end up as drainage issues. I just want to make sure there’s an outlet for the stormwater there.”</p>	<p>“That’s a really good point. We’re working on getting a survey from developer there to finalize the stormwater management pieces.”</p>
<p>“I see some faint lines for crosswalks on Eva. Are those going to be actual crosswalks from north of Eva to the two entrances of the park? Will there also be crosswalks to the entrance to the park on South Euclid? Under that north tree line, is there a pathway there for crosswalks coming from the east? You have at least two pathways into the park from Euclid.”</p>	<p>“I can confirm there will be the two crosswalks on Eva Street. We had talked to DOMI to make sure we were connecting those to the other side. I don’t know about South Euclid. I would be happy to follow up with DOMI. As part of the scope of this project, we are not doing anything on South Euclid Avenue.”</p>
<p>“On the Friendship side, part of the reason to extend the long skinny area was to make a connection. Is there going to be crosswalk across South Negley for Friendship residents? I would rather have people cross safely than against traffic.”</p>	<p>Not that I’m aware, but I can speak to DOMI. I’ll follow up with you after the meeting.</p>
<p>“Will the crosswalk be painted on asphalt?”</p>	<p>“It’ll be a striped safe crosswalk.”</p>

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
<p>"I wanted to agree with the previous comment about South Negley Avenue. Eva doesn't connect with Coral Street. Coral is famously a much more friendly street for bikes, but there was never a completion of the crosswalk of Negley, which remains a hazard for people using the Coral Street bus stop. Access from across Negley is an important feature of this for Friendship residents."</p>	<p>"I'll do follow-up with DOMI on those crosswalk features."</p>
<p>"Is there any picture that shows what this looks like to the north?"</p>	<p>"We don't have any renderings of this coming through the development?"</p>
<p>"It shouldn't be much trouble walking down from the north?"</p>	<p>"Yes."</p>
<p>"I'm looking at lighting for evening hours. Will we have lighting for security?"</p>	<p>"Yes, pedestrian lighting and lighting for the basketball court."</p>
<p>"We had talked in the past about the funding. Looking in current City budget, I'm not seeing a funding line item for DPW. I'm only seeing TRID funding. I want to make sure City is still committed and putting their portion of their money."</p>	<p>"I'm not sure which budget you're looking at, but we contributed \$300,000 toward design of park, so some of the money will be transferred to construction, as well as \$1 million received as part of the developer agreement, and we added another \$300,000 toward construction of the project."</p>
<p>"I just want to make sure we're getting what we bargained for. This has been a five-year planning process. I really appreciate you, and you've been an ally to us. I appreciate the new administration being supportive of the park."</p>	<p>"With the \$1 million from the development, and budgeting \$1.4 million for the park, we have all the funds available."</p>
<p>"I wanted to ask about ongoing maintenance and about the park tax."</p>	<p>"I'm not sure about the source of additional money that we put into the budget this year; it may be coming from the parks tax. We definitely want to see equitable investment in this community. In addition to the capital budget, some of those resources will fund additional staff (day-to-day trash pickup, etc.) and maintenance; it's also needed for stormwater management."</p>
<p>"Is there any programming plan for the park? Will there be closures this summer with the construction?"</p>	<p>"I'm not sure about any specific programming other than for the shelter. I'm not sure of any time the park will be closed to the public. Once we start construction, will have to close the park for the safety of residents and safety for the construction site. We'll put up construction fencing around the site, and the contractor will have their equipment there. We will also post on the Engage PGH website and put out press releases through the new administration. We're looking at Fall 2022 and hopefully will be open by the summer of 2023."</p>

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
<p>“Have you been able to determine, working with the developer on the development of the B parcel and work on the park, if there be overlap with B parcel work and work on the park?” (The B parcel is the Whole Foods parcel bounded by Negley and Penn.)</p>	<p>“We have not been involved with anything outside of the park property.”</p>
<p>“The development of the B parcel will be a concern for people on Friendship side, particularly with zero setback from Negley. Does this park have a formal entrance or portal?”</p>	<p>“There are multiple entrances. Being surrounded by the community, there are multiple entrances. We try to accommodate all the locations where people may be walking from. There will be multiple entrances from each side.”</p>
<p>“I think there’s an opportunity from St. Clair Street to have an opportunity for an attractive portal to make that attractive for people to join in the activity of the park.”</p>	<p>“The reason there’s not a more prominent entrance there is because there are some rather large trees. We don’t want to disturb those.”</p>
<p>“It’s disturbing to me that the developer is dumping fill on this property for City to get rid of. I’ll be interested to see what will happen once development of the B parcel takes place.”</p>	<p>“We’ve tried to push back on that, but it hasn’t panned out.”</p>
<p>“When will you be going to Art Commission?”</p>	<p>“We haven’t scheduled Art Commission yet, but we’re hoping to go for their May meeting. That would just be for the park; will go back for the public art component. We’re not sure about the Planning Commission date yet.”</p>

Other Notes

--

Planner completing report: Phillip Wu