

Development Activities Meeting Report (Version: 4/18/2019)

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

Logistics	Stakeholders
Project Name/Address: Frick Park Extension at Summerset Phase II Artistic Enhancement	Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident): Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition (SHUC), Residents, Council District 8's Office, Department of City Planning
Meeting Location: SHUC Zoom	
Date: 04/19/22	
Meeting Start Time: 07:30 PM	
Applicant: Tim Kaulen	Approx. Number of Attendees: 28

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.

This piece of art will be used as a teaching tool in this passive park not as a recreation piece. It is an approximately fifteen-foot-tall metal structure that echos the flora and fauna aspects of the aesthetic of the park neighborhood it will reside. The bird and other natural elements are meant to be an attraction for all visitors and withstand all elements.

Input and Response

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
Can you show the location within the park	Parkview boulevard and Shelborne lane, close to the terrace structure, the structure could be situated and then the plantings placed around it
Public Safety, has that been taken into account?	It has been important for me to take the public safety into account
I am concerned about the safety about children that may want to climb although it is a set piece of art and the location, it should be evaluated and think about materials due to wildlife in the area.	Nice. Thank you.
This park is about 2 Acres and the URA has invested in the park and stakeholders should be better informed	
Is this classified as an active park or passive park?	I am unaware of the classification. There are no play areas within the park. It is supposed to be mostly passive

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
This is being overseen very closely by the Homeowners association and they will also be maintaining the park.	

Other Notes

An additional meeting will be held on May 3rd during Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition's regular Built Environment Committee/DAM scheduled Meeting time.

Planner completing report: Ose Akinlotan, Planner

Development Activities Meeting – Form to Use During DAM

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Logistics	Stakeholders
Project Name/Address: Summerset Artistic Enhancement at Shelburne Park – Shelburne Ln and Parkview Blvd (Part 2 DAM)	Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident): Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition Summerset Neighbors Homeowners Association
Parcel Number(s): 88-M-200	
ZDR Application Number: n/a	
Meeting Location: Zoom (DCP-hosted)	
Date: May 3, 2022	
Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM	
Applicant: Tim Kaulen – artist	Approx. Number of Attendees: 15
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.

- Tim Kaulen presented six slides at a follow-up DAM regarding the proposed sculpture at Shelburne Park in the Summerset development. The follow-up DAM was meant to be a continuation of the conversation on the sculpture’s design and to present the specific sculpture for the park.
- T. Kaulen began by describing his experience in the Pittsburgh area, which includes running a nonprofit high school program for sculpting and welding in Hazelwood. He intends to fold the Shelburne Park sculpture into some programmatic exchange with his students.
- T. Kaulen noted that a couple of prior community meetings have been held on the art project, one of which was in-person and the other virtual. He noted that the City requires public art in all City parks.
- T. Kaulen described the sculpture as encompassing a symbolic heron to celebrate the natural amenities of the area, especially Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods and their relationship to the rivers.
- T. Kaulen went through the site layout plan, showing a slide on the placement of the sculpture within Shelburne Park, near the intersection of Parkview Boulevard and Shelburne Lane. He noted that this part of the park was to be occupied by landscaping with trees such as maple, dogwood, apple, and serviceberry. He mentioned that the proposed gazebo in the park would have utility and function to set a code of user expectations for the park as being a place to spend time with family friends rather than being an active recreational site or playground.
- T. Kaulen showed a slide on his inspirations, which included some flora and fauna. He remarked that he chose the sculpture to speak to the area’s natural surroundings and to the resiliency of the neighborhood and a healthy environment.
- T. Kaulen showed a slide on the structure of the sculpture, with a rendering of the bird object and the assembly of parts, materials, and shapes, discussing how he will begin to form the structure as part of a larger art piece.
- T. Kaulen showed the scale of the art piece, describing its internal structure and the materials, which are to include a recycled tapered steel tree limb as a frame under the surface treatment of a “whimsical” heron in motion.

- T. Kaulen mentioned that the base of the sculpture would be a concrete form 90% below grade and would be designed by a licensed structural engineer with about one cubic yard of concrete poured.
- T. Kaulen said that he wanted a plastic pipe to be integrated under the concrete base to potentially run electric lines one day to light the sculpture.
- T. Kaulen showed a slide of the structure and surface showing how he conceptualizes his sculptures. He noted that the surface treatment for the heron was not fully realized yet, so he has to “tighten up on that” before presenting to the Art Commission. He mentioned that an easy solution for the armature could be to use smaller pieces of metal panels to bring out the featured or layered approach to the bird. Another option would be to layer the bird in natural shapes such as flowers (he noted Queen Anne’s Lace, serviceberry, and trillium as examples) made up of recycled materials.
- T. Kaulen closed by showing a preliminary sketch that he made when he first visited the site.

Input and Responses

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
“When are you going to the Art Commission?”	“The materials are due tomorrow. The presentation will be three weeks from tomorrow, so the fourth Wednesday in May.”
“What would secure the heron in a windstorm”	“Wind resistance is the biggest factor in design. The engineer will articulate all of those capabilities. The shape will hopefully not be a 100% solid shape, so the density of the sculpture will have air passage through it. That will be part of the engineer’s specifications.”
“Please address safety concerns Re young children climbing”	“That has been a conversation on how to design public sculpture. The sculpture will demonstrate ‘code of conduct’ in its placement, in that 90% of participants in the park will understand that it’s art and not a playtoy. We can’t design something that’s 100% free of climbing, but the elements will be tall enough that people will not be able to grab onto a handhold and pull themselves up. Someone could climb trees or the gazebo or a lamp pole all the same. The sculpture will be something with integrity and with respect. For the few people who do climb, it’ll be safe for them and won’t fail.”
“Is there electricity nearby?”	“There is electricity nearby; this conversation has come up in a couple of our site planning meetings. The concept of lighting the piece so that it’s visible and safe at night is an important one. The idea of having illumination in the piece is intriguing, but we want to be respectful of the timeline and budget. We like the nighttime illumination idea but can’t say we can 100% afford to do this in the first step.”
“Who is your contract with?”	“With the URA to start. It will be turned over to City property, who owns the land and will make it a City park. The sculpture belongs to the neighborhood and is kind of their community possession, as with the park.”

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
<p>“I think it’s hard for people to understand the ‘climbability’ of the sculpture based on these 2-D renderings. How are you going to consider the handholds and footholds? It will be hard to understand. If you could emphasize where the first break is on the tree branch, it’s hard to tell without an engineering drawing or more-to-scale schematic.”</p>	<p>“I don’t have a drawing that would remove the concern of what a person is capable of doing. I can certainly take consideration of the piece that doesn’t have a first few steps for a person to climb and that isn’t climbable. I have giant sculptures in a park on the South Side and they’re very climbable; it’s a City park and they’ve been there since 2012, and I haven’t heard anything about people climbing it. People do what they want to do.”</p>
<p>“Paying attention to where those footholds and handholds are would do a lot to appease our community. We are concerned about the liability. Where does the liability fall? It’s URA land being deeded over to the City. Our neighborhood also has a role in the maintenance of it. What kind of maintenance will the sculpture need?”</p>	<p>“It’ll be a real aggressive clear-coat called Permalac that’s applied to rusting materials. It can be brushed or sprayed on; might need to be reapplied every 10 years or so. This would fall under the City’s art collection responsibility, in my opinion. Other low-maintenance treatments that could be applied as well would be also to oil it with linseed oil each year, which is a low-tech, nonaggressive product that soaks into metal and cures to keep it from changing. I can put a little maintenance plan together, and it would be that Permalac product with a grassroots community day of putting on linseed oil.”</p>
<p>“The flora and fauna are fun. Would you still use sheet metal or another material with the floral shapes?”</p>	<p>“It would be fun to cut out of sheet metal and apply it as a lace or doily type of texture; maybe some complimentary texture of shaping the bird. It could be sheet metal. I’ve done some sculpture using recycled acrylic signage before but haven’t decided if I’ll do something nonmetal.”</p>
<p>“How are you applying color to the bird itself?”</p>	<p>“I’m open to feedback. The natural makeup color of bird is that the bird is a surviving animal that can be camouflaged. It’s often gray but can be found in terrific blues and a red-rust color. I would like to incorporate some color beyond natural tendencies in the field that makes it fun and whimsical and interesting.”</p>
<p>“Summerset HOA has been doing most of the maintenance in the parks, so we would like to see them pleased. We would like to think that maintenance is considered in every project, but it’s not. We just want to make sure we know how much it costs. What are some ballpark maintenance numbers?”</p>	<p>“I hear that, and the maintenance of public art is often the last thing that is considered. I can definitely put together a maintenance budget. In some cases, maintenance can be self-performed. It’s entirely possible to maintain artwork as a community. Personally, I would love to see City of Pittsburgh take care of it as part of its art collection. Permalac is a high-performance coating that’s expensive and meant for superstructures. The labor component would probably be the biggest factor in putting a permanent coating on this — \$200-\$300 of product that would be done by professional painters in a day; could be \$1,000-\$2,000 in labor for one coat of Permalac that could last 10 years.”</p>

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
<p>“Maintenance of the park is a little of a gray area. We still have to come to an agreement with the City for what the HOA is responsible for and what the City is responsible for. It’s unclear what the City is responsible for. A couple of thousand dollars is a significant number for our neighborhood. It would be good for us to be allies on this in presenting to the Art Commission to identify what’s needed to maintain this properly.”</p>	<p>“There could be possibility to create more clarity in the URA contract so that it’s more defined for you. You can always call on me to get advice on what to do and how to take care of this. Those numbers are not a bid; they’re just off the top of my head what you could expect to do. If I went with the scaffolding and low-tech linseed option every two years, that’s probably a few hundred dollars in materials and couple of pizzas. Let’s try to create a little more clarity through the contract related to the City’s ownership of the piece.”</p>
<p>“The City is pretty good at capital projects but iffy on maintenance. We then have to raise money to keep park bathrooms open, like with Wightman Park.”</p>	<p>“I would be glad to represent that in the presentation to the Art Commission that the neighborhood would want a maintenance agreement and more clarity.”</p>
<p>“Why a heron? Not sure what it has to do with Summerset?”</p>	<p>“What I like from the view of that site is that you can see the river from where we are. I like the connection between the neighborhood and rivers, the history of the rivers and why the city is how it is, with industry, etc. Shifting back to natural habitat from industry is a nice connection. The heron is a real dynamic creature. I have seen herons flying there along the riverfront.”</p>
<p>“I haven’t really thought of that. I just associate herons in a different climate — a few herons here but not enough that people would see them frequently. I would like to see something more eyepopping like the magnolia tree downtown. I just don’t think of it as a bird that most people see.”</p>	
<p>“We love the plan and feel the heron represents all wildlife from the rivers to the parks.”</p>	

Other Notes

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Planner completing report: Phillip Wu