

Hillside Community & Leon Young Project
Public Meeting #2 Minutes
11/01/2018

- 1) Welcome and Introductions:

Joan Clemons, from Hillside Community Center welcomed everyone and introduced City Staff, Park Advisory Board Members, and speakers for the night.

 - a. Park Board Members in attendance: Carol Beckman, Hank Scarangella, Gary Feffer, Mina Liebert, Abigail Simpson (Alternate Board Member)
 - b. City PR&CS Dept.: Tilah Larson, Connie Perry
 - c. City Community Development: Catherine Duarte
 - d. Concrete Couch: Steve Wood
- 2) Site Identification and Survey Results – Overview (Tilah Larson)
 - a. Reviewed Community Comments and identified that rehabilitation of the South Shook’s Run Park - Leon Young Pavilion space was the primary location chosen by the community. The project will focus on this site.
 - b. Full list of comments available for review.
- 3) Meeting Goals: Community Project Visioning (Connie Perry)
 - a. Connie has reached out to City Forestry, Streets/Traffic, Neighborhood Services, Concrete Couch, and other Departments.
 - i. Site has been reassessed for ADA accessibility-discussed what the findings were of the assessment.
 - ii. A City Forestry crew removed dead trees and limbs, lightening up the space.
 - iii. City Streets/Traffic will add trail crossing signage and vehicle advance warning signs in 2019; then will track pedestrian use to monitor if there is a need for a crossing signal.
 - iv. Discussing the potential for a Creek cleanup project in 2019. She is speaking with City Stormwater about the Adopt a Waterway program and other community volunteer activity options.
 - b. The Goal tonight: (1) What does rehabilitation look like to you? (2) What does activation look like to you?
- 4) Project Parameters (Catherine Duarte) (Also See Slides)
 - a. Discussed CDBG funding and 2019 allocation, site considerations, job opportunities
 - b. Can include art installations, landscaping, etc.
 - c. Funding can also include in-kind donations, cash match, sweat equity, etc.
 - d. Discussed the floodplain concern and that federal CDBG funds cannot touch the floodplain due to the risk factors
- 5) Concrete Couch: (Steve Wood)
 - a. Presented his team members: Terry Martinez and Faith
 - b. Presentation on projects within the community as well as in Hillside.
 - c. Community Built Option for the pavilion
 - i. CC is able to provide restoration to the wood structure and provided drawings for possible project design

- ii. Attendee Question/Input: Nobody wants to come to the park. Wants the area to be a park but he would not bring his grandkids to the park. He thought they already went over this concern with the structure.
 - 1. Connie: Wants to take everyone's thoughts and come up with a solution.
 - 2. Tilah: We want to come together regarding the site overall and discussed some of the previous comments.
 - iii. Attendee Question/Input: Feels the park is a bad location and a haven for the homeless and drugs. How does Concrete Couch align with the City plan?
 - 1. Steve Response: Could remove all the wood and see what's left. Encourage if people go the route of tearing the structure down, how do we work with community people to train them to get work done.
 - 2. Victoria Input: Discussed the fact that there was an argument about not tearing down the structure.
 - 3. Staff: This is about refurbishing for right now to meet the community's needs. We wanted to come back tonight, obtain enough community vision feedback on what rehabilitation and activation looks like to you, to be able to come back next time with a suggested Action Plan. We wanted to discuss ideas for the space tonight.
- 6) Exercise A: Boards and Discussion, community input on what rehabilitation and activation looks like to them; summarized on sticky notes. (20-30 minutes)
- 7) Exercise B: "Community Design/Build" Concept Discussion (Group) – Led by Tilah Larson.
 - a. Wants the park to be family oriented and the Leon Young memory should be honored. Pastor Paul's concern is fixing up "our neighborhood". He has been saying to tear down the structure. Can we at least keep the name "Leon Young"? Tilah offered to the community how can Leon Young be memorialized.
 - b. Loves the idea of refurbishing the current structure and it brings the community together. Wants to rehabilitate the existing structure.
 - c. Concern: Does the City already know what's going to happen to the park. If so, tell us and let us move on. Staff stated that there is not a plan. Currently, the City is working on securing ownership of properties; and are working through discussions with the railroad. Once those elements are finalized the City will move forward with a planning process for the southern end of the Legacy Loop.
 - d. Question: Could the community get a statue of Leon Young? Response: This idea should be put on a board, to be captured.
 - e. Could there be a framework for active use community gardens, things that can bring people back to the park year after year?
 - f. Leon Young was the only African American Mayor in the City of Colorado Springs. There needs to be money put into honoring his memory and other African American's in the community. Legacy in the community and needs to be treated as such.
 - g. Tilah stated that the current funds can only be used for the proposed project rehabilitation design. Suggests that there be more of an interactive story to educate others so that youth and adults can learn what his biggest achievements were. Ideas would be interactive play for children within the park to teach park goers about who built that part of town.

- 8) Exercise C: Summation and Prioritization of the night's feedback. Connie and Catherine sorted the Message Board Comments so the group could then prioritize.
- a. High
 - i. Safety - generally
 - ii. Lighting (site and structure, Alternatives: Solar, night sky compliant)
 - iii. Visibility (in and out of site)
 - iv. Cameras (many people want a way to deter bad activity)
 - v. Site furnishing and gathering area – for all ages.
 - vi. Leon Young centric (teaching a story about LY, memorial – several ideas, Mr. Smith (Smith Park), story mural, art, sculpture, plaque...)
 - vii. Inspired Restoration (don't put back what was exactly, forward ideas)
 - viii. Electricity – for any activation and events
 - ix. Port-O-Let pad site (ie. event days, along ADA route into space)
 - b. Low
 - i. Parking
 - ii. CSU Demo Garden
 - iii. Climbing and Play Elements
 - iv. Landscaping
 - c. Catherine informed the audience that the park activation public comments will be reviewed to look at organizations that might be able to support the community's desires. Also, all of the design of the project has to go out to bid so this will not be the last time the community sees the list of needs.
- 9) Timeline: Follow up with a date in January and will speak with Joan about her availability. Will send an email out to the current list, post on City website, put out a press release, etc. Staff will sort through all the past and current information; work on a suggested Action Plan and bring forward an agenda for January's meeting.