



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
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Stanyan Street Improvements Community Meeting #2 Notes – June 15, 2017

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

- Part 1: Background Information (bond program and site discussion)
- Part 2: Overview of first meeting and public feedback
- Part 3: Review of concept options for primary project areas
- Part 4: Comments/Questions/Next Steps

Proposed Areas of Improvement (Part 3)

Project Area 1 - Kiosk / Restroom Renovation and Surrounding Plaza

- Kiosk improvements are welcome in this historic structure
- We are moving through a separate RFP process for the concessionaire option. There was a concern that any concession may negatively impact nearby businesses. Dan Mauer and Cassandra Costello (RPD staff) assured the process will include extensive outreach to local merchants to see if they are interested in participating. It's not RPD's goal to create competition with the neighboring businesses but rather join them and/or compliment them.
- The community was interested in the hours and operation of a single occupancy restroom. We outlined that the restroom would not be open if it wasn't monitored for safety concerns. The idea is that the concessionaire maintain and control access to the restroom but the restroom is still a public amenity.
- There was a request to see if the restroom could be controlled similarly to the Decaux when the kiosk is closed. This is an option that we could explore but it is actually DPW who manages this operation and funding would be required for this option.
- There was a concern if one restroom was enough given the increased programming.
- There was also discussion about having a walk up window or having an internal counter for service. Folks were fine with both options. Staff stated that the planning department would need to weigh in on what options are viable based on the historic character of the building.
- The community thinks it is a good idea to provide city information and referral services at the kiosk (i.e. maps for tourists, info on youth hostels/housing services for the transient population in the area).

- All in attendance preferred having both a petanque and bocce court area with movable tables and chairs.
- Additional lighting around this area was also encouraged
- Staff will hold a meeting with the merchant organization regarding the RFP process

Project Area 2 - Stanyan Street Frontage:

- All attendees were fine with the new sidewalk improvements and the post and chain barrier.
- There was a concern voiced for having less paving in general in the park.
- One attendee suggested we look into an alternative material such as at Lobos Creek (rustic decomposed granite paving and plank walkway on dunes.)
- Look at options to infiltrate. Make the paving permeable or at least make sure that we were not putting storm water into the sewer system. Dan mentioned that PUC will be guiding us on storm water management requirements.
- Small planting/accent areas are welcomed
- Curving the path around the corner tree at JFK was acceptable given the mature trees surface roots

Project Area 3 – Stanyan/Haight Entry Plaza

- There were mixed reactions to the options presented.
- There was some concern about making sure that pedestrian circulation is address minimizing “cross cutting” through the landscape.
- Agreement on the proposal to open visual connection to Alvord Lake for safety concerns.
- Several attendees preferred the larger plaza design with the idea that these area could be used for various/un-programed activities. (More flexibility for use)
- Several other attendees preferred the narrower plaza design which would reduce a formal gathering space while at the same time allow better views to Alvord Lake and keep pedestrian traffic flowing.
- There was on concern for saving money in general and specifically due to the grade changes for the larger plaza at Haight Street. Money better spent on maintenance vs. capital expenditure discussion followed. Staff added that by renovating parks through capital spending with lower maintenance design it aides in long term maintenance.
- Staff discussed the benefits of both options and described the possibility of a hybrid between the two which the entire group agreed was appropriate.
- Moving the bike vendor operation to the south of the Haight/Stanyan plaza was not an issue. Folks wanted to make sure that the paving area at this location was wide enough to accommodate the vendor while providing room for circulation on the sidewalk

Project Area 4 - Oak Woodland

- Staff presented two options for this space both with Natural Pave pathways hugging the top of slope and rustic wooden fences. Both options provided native oak woodland habitat restoration. The differences were simply one option had a more robust trail system while the other was more minimal.
- Redesign for both includes removing stairs (where much loitering occurs) with path. Loved by one attendee. Flows better.
- In general, the community did not have a preferred preference to either option. They believed that both solutions were good options for this area.
- It was determined at the end of the meeting that the minimal pathway system was probably the best option which would provide more landscape area and would be less expensive to construct and in general be less hardscape in the park
- Staff outlined the idea of making one of the pathways through this area wide enough to accommodate a police vehicle. The idea was that the police would have vehicle access through the space in order to discourage illicit behavior. In general, the public recognized the reality of this need but did not like the idea of vehicles having access to this area. Staff committed to engaging with both RP Park Patrol, SFPD and operation staff to see what options were available with the goal of trying to reduce or eliminate this design idea.
- The rustic fence option around planting areas was well received.
- There was a strong agreement to the native plant palette that was called out for this area.

General Items:

- Will construction activities increase rodents in the neighborhood? Staff couldn't answer this question with certainty but stated that we believe that rodent migration, if any, would be inward towards the park. Staff stated that they would engage with the Department's IPM (Integrated Pest Management) staff to get their thoughts and feedback.
- There was discussion about providing some directional markers at the site which would minimize conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. Staff mentioned that this would require a two-pronged approach. The first effort would be to educate the bike vendor so that they would communicate with their patrons on where best to enter and exit the area safely. The second suggested solution was to install discrete paving markings and signs to help direct both user groups.
- There was discussion about having more police presence on the site. The idea of resurrecting a small booth for an officer would be helpful. There apparently was a small booth at the Height entrance many years ago that served this purpose.
- Implement the reduced schemes throughout to make sure we have enough funding and to reduce cost.
- There was concern that the schedule for construction might impact the neighborhood because there would be construction work taking place on Haight Street at the same time (especially detrimental for merchants during peak sales season). Staff mentioned that we will examine the schedule as we get closer, work with our permits division to make sure

we are not impacting park events and commit to maintaining adequate public entry points during construction. Staff also mentioned that the longer we wait for construction the more expensive the project becomes.

- Installing post and chain barriers at the bottom of slopes was agreeable. This design solution is to discourage the public from entering the landscape/planting areas and to reduce erosion
- Providing way finding signage was encouraged
- Safety concerns were predominant. Neighbors pointed out Alvord Lake as a constant nuisance area.

Next Steps:

There was discussion about not having a 3rd and final meeting but rather post the consolidated concept plan on the web site and inform all participants that it's available for viewing. Staff will most likely host one final meeting that will be hosted as an open house opportunity for final viewing and discussion. The goal is to host this last event at the end of July.