

CID Framework and Implementation Plan

Work Group 5 - Public Realm

March 1, 2018 Meeting

Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

Location: Hing Hay Co-Works 409b Maynard Ave S

MEETING SUMMARY

Work Group Members Present

Sonny Nguyen; Andrew Tran; Tom Im; Jeff Hou; Tiernan Martin; Jamie Lee; An Huynh Alicia Daniels Uhlig; Betty Lau; Quynh Pham; Kathleen Johnson; Ziyi Liu

City Staff

Janet Shull (OPCD); Gary Johnson (OPCD); Karimah Edwards (Parks); Shwu-jen Hwang (Parks)

Notes:

Workgroup Chair Sonny Nguyen opened the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Little Saigon Park Discussion:

Karimah Edwards gave an update on the planning and development of the Little Saigon Park. She is talking with Department of Neighborhoods (DON) staff regarding the application of International Special Review District (ISRD) guidelines and review process as the park site is now within the ISRD boundary.

The park budget is \$1.7 million.

The next step in park design and development is to begin the consultant selection process for parks designer. The RFP process will begin in about a month and the interview panel will include members of the community. Once the consultant is on board, public engagement activities can begin. This could occur in late spring or early summer. Workgroup members were encouraged to reach out to Karimah directly if they had recommendations for park design consultants.

Karimah brought a comment board from the February 28 CID Planning Open House Event to share with the workgroup. Comments received responded to the prompt "What are Your Dreams for the Park" and included:

- Public Art



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- Food vendor space
- Space for events
- Lighting/light up panels
- Address safety
- Uses – community festivals
- Kids playground and exercise areas
- Space to ride bikes and climb trees
- Safe refuge for shoppers and walkers
- Not a place for negative activities
- Small plaza near Jackson St – place for chess, ADA access, trees, paths, lights, cultural decoration, eat, rest
- Seats with backs

General Discussion

Jamie Lee had helped staff the Public Realm station at the February 28 Community Event and noted that some people who attended the event indicated they did not know about the new park in Little Saigon.

Parks will be placing a sign on the future park site that will include a timeline. Other ideas for bringing attention to the park development include holding a festival event at the site, going door-to-door with information, and looking for other places in the community where information could be displayed about the future park (Nisei Vets Hall was mentioned as a possibility).

Friends of Hing Hay Park was suggested as a resource for potential consultant interview panelists and what to look for in a consultant.

There was general discussion around recommendations for the future park including:

- Park space could be multicultural with reference to the history of the neighborhood and include welcome signage in multiple languages.
- Consider what will surround park 10 years from now. Future development will likely change the context of the park dramatically.
- Consider the importance of the site serving as a through-block connection.
- Incorporate public seating and places to eat.
- Rain and Sun protection.
- The existing Willow tree at the site was noted.
- Culturally relevant activities on site



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- Jazz concerts in summer.

There was discussion on the limitations of impervious surface in the park site per funding requirements. However, ADA access pathways don't count toward impervious surface limits.

Alicia Daniels Uhlig mentioned ILFI's report on King St – looking at it as a green street. She can share information with the workgroup and parks staff.

Discussion on upcoming community events that might be good places to conduct outreach included:

- Spring Clean – April 28
- Dragon Fest – July
- Celebrate Little Saigon – late August

Under I-5 Improvements Discussion:

Andrew Tran and Tom Im of InterIm CDA presented information on community workshops they conducted in partnership with Site Workshop. This work began in 2016 and included a survey with 300 participants, two workshops in 2017 and 4 steering committee meetings.

The goal of the Under I-5 community planning effort is to turn what is today an eyesore into something positive. Andrew in his role at InterIm will be responsible for guiding the project as it moves forward.

The community workshops have focused on public safety, placemaking and activation.

Workshop discussion has led to a general consensus that the Jackson St area should incorporate more active uses like a skate park or sport court and the King St area should be more passive with activities for elders and should consider proximity to Wing Luke and the Food Bank. Some additional ideas generated in the workshops include using sculptures as bookends, incorporating art and lighting, and seating around the columns.

The Workgroup agreed that they support this project going forward for further design development and implementation as one of its



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recommendations. More work is needed to arrive at a preferred design and associated cost estimates.

There was some discussion about potential funding sources and Gary Johnson mentioned that he recently contacted staff at WSDOT and that they were supportive of improvements to this area.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Shull

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 4:00 to 5:30 PM

