



# Flatiron Park – City of Norfolk **Community Design Workshop**

August 26, 2010

Norfolk Recreation, Parks, & Open Space Office, 6:00 PM

## MEETING SUMMARY

### MEETING OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the meeting was to:

- Gain an understanding of the site's long term constraints and immediate improvement needs.
- Provide vital input for the development of the park in both the long and short term.

This meeting served as the 1<sup>st</sup> community design workshop. Approximately 30 citizens attended. One additional public workshop will be held in upcoming months.

### EVENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting / Evening Agenda
- Power Point Presentation
  - Contextual and Site Information
  - Background Information – Foundation for Discussion
  - Public Urban Spaces – Best Practices
- Group Sessions
  - Key Contextual and Site Features
  - Vision for the site
  - Desired Activities, Styles, Themes and Elements Identification
  - Specific Improvements Related to the East End
- Group Summaries

### GROUP SESSIONS

At the conclusion of the power point presentation the group was divided into three smaller groups to complete discuss a variety of topics. See group summaries for more information.

## **GROUP ONE SUMMARY**

### 1. Key Contextual and Site Feature Identification

The group was to discuss and identify places and/or areas that do or should play a significant role in defining the use of the site on an aerial map and/or flip chart.

*None Identified*

### 2. Site Visioning - As a group discuss and express your vision for the park in 5-10 words. Document on flip chart.

*“An activated and accessible public green space that respects the historical significance of the site and services as an effective and exciting gateway to Downtown’s dining, entertaining and residential district.”*

### 3. Desired Activities, Styles/Themes, and Elements

*“Durable”*

*“Low Maintenance”*

*“Safe for Pedestrians and Vehicles”*

*“Dynamic/Interesting in relationship to the ‘movement’ of LRT”*

*“Include hardscape”*

*“Public & Private Spaces”*

*“Intimate Spaces”*

*“Pedestrian Corridors”*

*“Bute is important”*

*“Lighting is key”*

*“Lighting – New lights are not on yet”*

### 4. East End Improvements

- a. Based on the previous task, as a group, make specific recommendations for the east end of the park that has to be addressed immediately. Keep in mind there is limited funding for improvements.

*“Plaza area along Granby – Buskers (Street Performers), Seating, Bike Rack, Vendors, Information Booth/Kiosk”*

*“Shift terminus of existing knee wall”*

*“Relocate or dress up utility box at corner of Granby Street and Charlotte Street”*

*“Consolidate LRT poles and utility poles”*

## **GROUP TWO SUMMARY**

### 1. Key Contextual and Site Feature Identification

The group was to discuss and identify places and/or areas that do or should play a significant role in defining the use of the site on an aerial map and/or flip chart.

*None Identified.*

### 2. Site Visioning - As a group discuss and express your vision for the park in 5-10 words. Document on flip chart.

*“An activated, interactive, contemporary, sustainable public space”*

### 3. Desired Activities, Styles/Themes, and Elements

*“Concerned about loiterers”*

*“Low Maintenance”*

*“Drought resistant plant materials”*

*“Steps set into wall location to access open space”*

*“Walkways”*

*“Benches”*

*“Drinking fountain”*

*“Site lighting, embedded lights as out at Town Center”*

*“Opportunity for visual elements”*

*“This group is in love with the High Line in New York City”*

*“Corn Hole Tournaments”*

*“Place for mingling”*

*“Abstract ties to history”*

*“Message Board, kiosk, public notices”*

### 4. East End Improvements

- b. Based on the previous task, as a group, make specific recommendations for the east end of the park that has to be addressed immediately. Keep in mind there is limited funding for improvements.

*“Fix lights”*

*“No haphazard look”.*

*“No Liriope”*

*“Consolidate and screen utility infrastructure”*

*“Last spot on Granby Street for open space”*

*“Activate the site”*

*“Do not like the industrial feel and look of the street = all the poles”*

## **GROUP THREE SUMMARY**

### 1. Key Contextual and Site Feature Identification

The group was to discuss and identify places and/or areas that do or should play a significant role in defining the use of the site on an aerial map and/or flip chart.

*“Bars/Restaurants”*

*“Scope”*

*“Residences”*

*“Gateway to Downtown”*

*“Offices”*

*“Light Rail”*

*“Courthouse”*

2. Site Visioning - As a group discuss and express your vision for the park in 5-10 words. Document on flip chart.

*“Open, Interactive, Pedestrian, Green Gateway”*

### 3. Desired Activities, Styles/Themes, and Elements

*“Stairs”*

*“Bike Racks”*

*“Seating”*

*“Lighting”*

*“Activity space (Sports, Music, Games)”*

*“Historical Marker”*

*“Informational/Way-finding”*

*“Public Art”*

### 4. East End Improvements

- c. Based on the previous task, as a group, make specific recommendations for the east end of the park that has to be addressed immediately. Keep in mind there is limited funding for improvements.

*“Open usable pedestrian space”*

*“Monument to local building history”*

*“Clean, well-lit space”*

*“Maintained”*

*“Multi-Use, Attractive Space”*

*“Green, usable, pedestrian gateway”*

*“Open with lower greenery (sight line)”*

*“Volleyball/basketball”*

*“Interactive, pedestrian gateway”*

*“Acknowledging history – current site does not relate to history”*

*“Don’t want items pulled out of catalogs, custom items that reflect the context”*

### NEXT STEPS

Consultants will review all comments received, meet with city officials and develop design concepts to satisfy the ideas offered for the immediate vision of Flatiron Park.