



Flatiron Park – City of Norfolk **Community Design Workshop 2**

October 20, 2010

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

MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the meeting was to:

- Review the comments from Community Workshop 1.
- Review and provide input on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 concepts.
- Group Summaries/Next Steps

This meeting served as the 2nd community design workshop. Approximately 20 citizens attended. One additional public workshop will be held in upcoming weeks.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting / Evening Agenda
- Power Point Presentation
 - Review the comments from Community Workshop 1.
 - Review and provide input on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 concepts.
- Group Sessions
 - Review and provide input on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 concepts.
- Group Summaries presented by a group representative

GROUP SESSIONS

At the conclusion of the power point presentation the group was divided into three smaller groups to discuss the concepts generated for Phase 1 and Phase 2, Concepts 1 & 2. See group summaries for more information.

GROUP ONE SUMMARY

PHASE ONE

1. Proposed Benches = would like a more contemporary bench used with materials such as Ipe to be unique and differentiate from the typical Norfolk streetscape standards.
2. Referenced the High Line in New York City as a design precedent = Style and materials.
3. Proposed Bike Rack = the proposed tree location within the planter wall is too close to the proposed custom bike rack. The bike rack is currently conceptualized as a vertical element (fork/cutlery) and it is felt the tree would compete and eventually block the view to custom the bike rack.
4. Liked the historical marker/Cannonball Trail marker
5. Use smaller tree wells and/or tree grates.
6. Liked the use of the brick border to delineate the former building footprint and tie elements together.

PHASE TWO

1. The group preferred Concept 2.
2. Liked the use of the large, open public space and the smaller private space.
3. Liked the walk to and thru the mini plaza of Concept 2.
4. Liked the green area bump out at corner of Bute Street & Granby Street.
5. Some element or art piece is needed at the pinnacle of the triangle to “lift scale” of that spot and provide additional interest along LRT route.
6. On the concept plan views, add tree, etc. in the green area bump out at Bute and Granby as shown in the perspective renderings.

GROUP TWO SUMMARY

PHASE ONE

1. Liked Phase One
2. Recommend more screening of and/or thought about screening of utility box. Recommendation of screen material as similar to MacArthur LRT Station, planting, fencing, wall extension etc., etc.
3. How to address potential “dead zone” behind and around the utility box without impeding access.
4. One group member didn’t think using planters around the box would work to screen the box and would actually just add more elements to the current “visual mess”.
5. Organize another Downtown Norfolk Council Public Art competition to “dress up” utility boxes, etc.
6. One group member mentioned changing the angle of the proposed north wall to be parallel with the existing wall.
7. Use additional lighting thru the planted area of the park = could be too dark, safety concerns. Use “white” lighting in the park instead of High pressure sodium. See light fixtures and color as used in Town Point Park.
8. Incorporate the stairs from Phase 2, Concept 2 into Phase 1 in lieu of using the benches.
9. Implement streetscape standards along Bute Street during Phase 1 instead of waiting to Phase 2.
10. Incorporate pedestrian lighting along Bute Street.
11. Liked the green area bump out at corner of Bute Street & Granby Street.

12. Would like a different material used in the plaza, not the gridded/scored, brushed concrete. Maybe different color material. Make the space unique.
13. Up-light the custom bike rack.

PHASE TWO

1. The group preferred Concept 2.
2. Liked the use of the large space and the smaller space
3. Liked the green area bump out at corner of Bute Street & Granby Street
4. Some element or art piece is needed at the pinnacle of the triangle to “lift scale” of that spot and provide additional interest along LRT route.
5. Concerned about “intimate activities” the private area could facilitate.
6. Use wider steps at Bute Street as in Phase Two, Concept One. Draw people in.
7. Need plenty of lighting in interior portion of site. Use “white” lighting in the park instead of High pressure sodium. See light fixtures and color as used in Town Point Park.

GROUP THREE SUMMARY

PHASE ONE

1. Extend wall at Granby and Charlotte to create a safety feature to protect people from LRT.
2. Wayfinding incorporated into and around the utility box area. Kiosk to be incorporated.
3. Reduce number of street trees to two and use high canopy trees.
4. Recommend moving away from typical streetscape standards to make the park unique.

PHASE TWO

1. Want to see more grass incorporated.
2. Keep the place accessible.
3. It should be a place for lunch and activity.
4. Design it to be more of an urban oasis with more landscaping, colorful planting.
5. Trees to screen “noise” of Bute and LRT.
6. Meandering path thru the park.
7. More naturalistic feel versus urban feel.

NEXT STEPS

Consultants will review all comments received, meet with city officials, and finalize the design concepts for both phases to satisfy the City’s and citizen’s desires for the Flatiron Park.