



APPROVED: February 18, 2015

CITY OF ALBANY
Central Albany Revitalization Area Advisory Board
City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Wednesday, October 15, 2014

MINUTES

Advisory Board Members present: David Abarr, Russ Allen, Rich Catlin, Floyd Collins, Loyd Henion, Bessie Johnson, Rich Kellum, Sharon Konopa, Ray Kopczynski, Kevin Manske, Mark Spence

Advisory Board Members absent: Bill Coburn (excused), Dick Olsen (unexcused), Maura Wilson (excused)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rich Catlin called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 17, and September 18, 2014

MOTION: Loyd Henion moved to approve the September 17 and September 18 minutes. Ray Kopczynski seconded. The motion passed 9-1-1, with Rich Kellum voting no and Catlin abstaining.

Kellum said he voted no because he had not received the packet. Catlin said he abstained because he did not attend the September 17 meeting.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

There was no business from the public.

Main Street Roundabout

Economic Development and Urban Renewal Director Kate Porsche reviewed a request from the Public Works Department that CARA consider participating in costs to furnish design features in the center of the Main Street Roundabout. She distributed and reviewed renderings of the proposed design. She said that staff worked with City of Albany Graphic Designer Matt Harrington to create the design and that the rough estimate for the design including landscaping was \$70,000 to \$90,000.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Civil Engineer Nolan Nelson further reviewed the proposed design, dimensions, and materials. He said that if CARA does not participate, the roundabout will be landscaped similar to other roundabouts in the City at a cost of roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Kellum suggested that, if the proposal is approved, Corten steel be used for the posts because it withstands the elements and holds up over time better than wrought iron.

Floyd Collins suggested that the posts should be capped off for safety.

Russ Allen said the Police Department might have concerns about creating potential hiding space in the middle of the roundabout. Porsche said staff would work with the Police Department when firming up the design.

Mark Spence asked if staff had discussed the proposal with people in the area. Porsche said staff worked much of the previous feedback into the proposed design, but they did not take the design back out to the neighborhood.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to direct that staff firm up the design and costs. Allen seconded. The motion passed 11-0.

Dave Clark Conversation/CPTED Presentation/Discussion

Porsche introduced Officer Sandy Roberts, Community Education Specialist for the Albany Police Department, with whom she has been having conversations about the Dave Clark Trail - ways to make it safer, more inviting, and higher used by the community.

Roberts gave a presentation on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). She said the goal with crime prevention is to anticipate crime before it happens through organized prevention, mechanical prevention, and natural prevention. There is often a focus on target hardening, but that does not address street crime. There is a high rate of street crime in Albany, including property crimes and drug use.

Roberts said that CPTED is defined as “the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.” The purpose of CPTED is to improve quality of life in the community. This is done through four overlapping concepts: access control, natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement and maintenance. She showed photographs and reviewed examples related to each of the CPTED concepts. She said that lighting has two purposes within the CPTED model – illumination of human activity and security. Pedestrian walkways and access routes should be illuminated up to 4FC with uniformity. She reviewed examples of places where lighting has been used to increase safety.

Roberts showed a number of photographs taken on the Dave Clark Trail and reviewed issues associated with trash, alcohol and drug activity, graffiti, illegal camping, and other criminal activity. She said Parks & Recreation crews have done an immense amount of work on the trail to clean up transient camps, remove trash, and trim and prune vegetation for increased visibility. She reviewed existing lighting on the trail – the acorn plastic fixtures yellow over time, the lighting is not capped to put light on the ground, there is glare, and there is no uniformity. There is no lighting on the section of the trail from the Wheelhouse to the Community Garden. She reviewed different types of lighting options. She said the best lighting is a white light that gives good color contrast, is capped so light is directed to the ground, and provides uniformity.

Henion asked how many lights are currently on the Dave Clark Trail and how many are needed. Roberts said that assessment has not been done. A rough estimate for lighting the 2,500-foot currently unlit portion of the trail from the Wheelhouse to the Community Garden is \$200,000.

Bessie Johnson asked how new lighting might affect people who will live along the trail. Roberts said there are many factors and options to consider when deciding on lighting, such as directing the lights in certain ways or limiting the hours they are on. It is also important to consider lighting that is anticipated to occur with future development in the area.

Spence said a lot of transient and crime activity occurs in this area. He thought consideration should be given to this not only in the context of a downtown amenity, but also as a City crime issue.

Kellum discussed differences between the different types of lighting. He said there was a lot of good information presented and he thinks it makes sense to look at lighting. He wouldn't want to do a lot in the area where development is expected to occur before we know what that area will look like.

Kopczynski said he would like to get more information about what is needed. He said that once a plan is in place, the work could be budgeted for and done in stages.

Catlin said he would like to see a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire path which identifies priorities and what is needed for each area. It was agreed that staff will provide that assessment.

Project Updates

Porsche gave the following updates:

- The Innovative Housing, Inc., project on Salem Avenue is well underway.
- The City has issued building permits for the first five houses of the Edgewater Village Project.
- Scott Lepman's project on Third Avenue has undergone historic review and a plan is expected to come forward soon.
- The Novaks continue to work through financing issues.

Porsche referred to the Wayfinding Signage Program. She said staff has worked in-house to do this project for the least expense possible; however, at this point, she would like to consider professional assistance to help with placement, including quantity and location. This is an important project, and it is important to get it right. She will provide additional information at the next meeting.

Porsche said the street design for Second Avenue, Water Avenue, and portion of Third Avenue, as well as Lyon and Ellsworth Streets, is in process. Public Works Engineering staff is moving forward on the preliminary work and will bring back a proposed design and cost estimates.

Staff Updates and Issues

There were no additional updates or issues.

November and December Meeting Schedule

Porsche said she will be out of town on November 19, the next regular meeting date.

It was agreed to cancel the November meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Allen referred to the previous discussion about the Dave Clark Trail, and he asked that staff bring back whether there is a need for engineering work to help with the needs assessment. Manske said he would want to come up with a plan for that entire area before spending money on engineers or other experts. Porsche agreed that there was a need for a holistic plan prior to spending funds.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is Wednesday, December 17, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Catlin adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Signature on File

Signature on File

Teresa Nix
Administrative Assistant
Director

Kate Porsche
Economic Development & Urban Renewal