

**Emerson East Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, December 7, 2016 - Minutes
Pennsylvania Park Meeting**

Present: Laura Birkeland, Tim Cordon (Facilitator), Amanda Duesterbeck, Nancy Dungan, Diane Farsetta, Becky Halpin-Beck (Bashford), Chris Heaton, Jessica LeClair (Facilitator), Jini MacAdam, Lynne MacAdam, Larry Palm (Alder), Terri Pepper, Gail Piper, Adam Schabow, Adrienne Sella, Carrie Simon, Erin Way

This month's meeting concentrated on future plans for Pennsylvania Park. Tim Cordon and Jessica LeClair served as facilitators for this discussion.

Tim opened discussion with questions: what kind of park do we want? A barrier from a busy street, pedestrian/bike corridor, place to gather, place to share info/items

Jessica explained that there is funding available for a park project. Pennsylvania Park does not currently have a master plan, but needs one before a project can be implemented. This meeting is a broad visioning session with city staff. Next year the parks department will hold another session or two before completing the master plan.

Alder Palm offers some things to consider:

- Water at 217 N. First St. (house recently torn down) may or may not be capped.
- Bike path project will be completed regardless of the outcome of the park improvement project.
- Trees and landscaping clean up can be done without additional funds. Explains that city engineering owns the former site of the house, the parks department owns the park (landscaping, etc.)

Discussion of trees and shrubs functioning as a noise barrier between the backyards of homes on E. Dayton St, Pennsylvania Park and E. Johnson St. An in formal vote confirms represented neighbor's desire to maintain and or improve this barrier.

The following are ideas listed on the flip charts at the meeting:

What kind of activities and things do we want to see in the park?

Kiosk with Earth flag
Little free store
Exercise course
Edible landscape
Sitting area with flowers and pollinator plants
Tiny home bus shelter with solar heating

Welcome to Emerson East sign (new sign or relocate existing sign to First & E. Johnson corner).

Interactive equipment

Little stage

Fence and mural

Noise wall

Sculpture (perhaps that celebrates wind, the environment)

Bike map and pump station for bike tires (is this already part of the plan?)

B-Cycle station (there is one on 3rd, but not available all the time. It could be moved to the park)

Art

Biking, water bottle filling station, ability to fill a dog dish

Meditation walking path

What kind of park do we want?

Barrier from busy street - yes

Ped/bike corridor - yes

Place to gather – a rest stop, indication to slow traffic, shelter to encourage bus ridership (limit the amount of green space taken, but create a space to stop off for transportation and community) Transportation section located on First St. side, sitting area nearer Second Street.

Emphasis on green space and a buffer between Dayton Street yards and the park.

Place to share info, etc.

What should the park be named?

Gateway Park

Something related to Alice (owner of 217 N. First St, house that was torn down)

Discussion:

Larry – There will be a bus pull out and possibly a right turn lane as part of the E. Johnson construction project.

Laura – Can we do anything about the rail yard? It's unkempt, etc.

Adrienne – Are there any plans for Burr Jones Field/Park down the road?

Tim – Keep green space green, rather than allowing more paving.

Gail – Larger sculptures or pieces to draw people in.

Laura – Sculpture that sends a statement that we are a neighborhood.

Someone - Embrace the industrial nature of our neighborhood.

Nancy Dungan – Caryn Wolf, city arts coordinator is willing to come to future meetings to help us think about art.

An informal vote on park art showed that neighbors are unanimously in favor of art in the park.

Bubbler/drinking fountain – it is recommended that we keep bringing it up. There is hesitation to install them due to cost of upkeep.

Nancy Dungan - \$45,000-50,000 will likely available for our park.

Bus stop: Embrace the fact that there is a bus stop. Perhaps there can be a unique bus shelter that is part of the park. Nancy – metro has legitimate issues about the structure of bus shelters. As long as it is within their guidelines, Metro may get on board with the idea. Larry – suggests not making the structure a bus shelter, but instead making it a park amenity that serves multiple purposes. If we go with the standard bus shelter, we would not have to use funds for it. The city probably will not heat a structure. Solar powered shelter? For light and heat.

Announcements: In January we will have a regular neighborhood meeting, perhaps a February meeting devoted to the park.

Sustainability Task Force meets at 5:30 before the neighborhood meeting.

Just before the meeting there were burglaries on the 1900 block of E. Dayton, 2100 block E. Mifflin St., N. 4th St. and also E. Main St. Suspects captured on a security camera were two white men, one wearing a red coat and one wearing a black coat. One of the suspects knocks on the front door while the other goes around to the back and breaks in. The burglary on the 1900 block of E. Dayton was around dusk. Police say there is an increase in burglaries between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and that thieves are looking for small valuable items and cash.

Treasurer Report: 74 current members Current balances: Paypal \$117.47, Bank \$1262.22, Total \$1379.69.

Thank you to Pizza Pit, for donating pizza for this meeting.