

- Mount Washington Community Development Corporation Sign
 - Greg Panza, MWDCD

Mr. Panza spoke of the signs in the Mt. Washington neighborhood directing visitors and shoppers toward area businesses and has come to the commission in hopes of expanding the program to another sign that will stand outside of the PNC Bank (which his organization has an agreement with over its location) that will further direct visitors to other businesses that may be a little more difficult to find. He explained that because of the difficult topography that small business districts are separated by hills and curves and the casual visitor would not know to find them.

Mr. Indovina asked what would be on the currently proposed sign, given that the presentation was a mock up.

Mr. Panza explained that there would 3 or 4 arrows noting destination points and businesses, depending upon which businesses come through on funding.

Ms. Lockett asked about directional signage.

Mr. Panza continued to explain that there is \$4 million in investments and businesses in the area and stated that he is planning to expand the signage program to include City-standard wayfinding throughout Mt. Washington in the future.

MOTION: To grant Conceptual and Final Approval.

MOVED: Slavick

SECONDED: Lockett

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

- Cliffside Park
 - Susan Rademacher, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
 - Andrew J. Schwartz, Environmental Planning and Design

Ms. Rademacher spoke of the current condition of the park; the fact that members of the nearby community still heavily use it despite the run-down condition, and because of that and its amazing location with a view from the bluff, the Cliffside Park is set for the redesign they are presenting.

Mr. Schwartz gave a presentation demonstrating before and after elements of the redesign of the park through photographs of existing conditions and maps and cross-sections of what the park will look like.

- A new lower entrance, different from the one previously proposed, will be built allowing easier sight-lines and increased transparency of the park.
- The slope of the park and the new sidwinding path that is ADA accessible to the lower portion of the park, as well allowing, maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles and patrol cars down the path. The path allows for vehicles to drive down and back up without having to perform a dangerous 5 point-turn.
- Locations of existing trees that will stay and will be removed. Future trees to be planted.
- A new hillside-hugging playset that makes use of the slope.

- A centralized spray fountain.
- The basketball court will be halved and resurfaced. The community is behind this.
- Water filtration through a downhill trench drain and runnel system.
- An unused, freestanding wall may be used as a future mosaic wall. The wall will be graffiti-proof. Concepts based on quotes from August Wilson's writing are being considered. No artwork has been developed yet.
- Seat steps are being included in the plan.
- Native grasses will be planted allowing for easier maintenance. Turf grass will be kept in areas for seating.
- Park furniture will follow PPC standards.

Ms. Lockett asked how ongoing safety and maintenance concerns will be addressed.

Ms. Rademacher explains that there is a line item in their budget for a two-year establishment maintenance over and beyond what the city provides, and that the PPC has just received state funding to support a volunteer program. The PPC has been working with the Hillside Community (group) and the PPC feels they have gained wonderful results.

Mr. Indovina mentioned that the plan is heavily developed and asked where the program elements came from.

Ms. Rademacher answered through a community design development process was used in creating these plans over the years. Many elements of the park that currently exist will continue to exist in a more integral fashion.

Mr. Schwartz explained that the plan uses these elements in new ways that are visible and accessible. Currently, these elements are neither visible nor accessible.

Ms. Rademacher says the plan is creating more solitary places, more imaginative spaces that are more welcoming to girls, and more multi-purpose spots.

Ms. Slavick asks, concerning graffiti, how cleanable park furniture and stonework will be.

Mr. Schwartz explains that the perception that the park seems more neglected and run-down because of its location and unmowed grass; however, the park doesn't get any more defaced than other parks, and that new native grasses will remedy the issue of the lawn appearing unkempt. Also the park furniture will be the standard and will be easier to replace if vandalized. He says the park structure is in good shape. The basketball hoops are good condition, yet the court does need some repaving.

Ms. Slavick asks if the wall inscriptions and park art are down the road.

Ms. Rademacher responded that they are hoping they will be able to afford it. They haven't selected an artist, but when they do it will be a competitive selection process. She says children will be involved in mosaics. The inscriptions will be developed from a potential list of artists (part of a later development phase).

Mr. Astorino thanked Rademacher and Schwartz for a well-done presentation and expressed his appreciation for all the new activity crammed into the plan for the park. He felt these elements will make this park plan successful.

Ms. Loretta Payne, from the audience, lives in the neighborhood expressed her approval of the plan. She said the park is a community gathering point and is well-used; and that the community

is 100% behind the plan. The changes in accessibility and design will benefit the community. She also states the community's voice was heard in the design.

Ms. Terri Baltimore of the Hill House Association stepped up to announce their ongoing support of the park plan. She mentioned the exhaustive community process involved. Many volunteers have been involved in taking care of the park. She mentioned the therapeutic benefits of the current park, and predicted that the future park will only be better.

MOTION: To grant Conceptual Approval.

MOVED: Astorino

SECONDED: Briggs

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

- Oakcliffe Greenway Entrance
 - Genevieve Barbee, Community Human Services

Ms. Barbee started by explaining the location, genesis, and condition of the greenway. A fence owned by PennDOT is on its border. Much work has been done to clean it up, and deserves an entrance that respects this work and space. She explained the entrance structure and how it will be built from reclaimed materials. Then entrance is meant to increase identity of the space in hopes of keeping the area clean and increasing proper usage.

Mr. Astorino asked if the memorial plaque and community bulletin board were still a part of the proposal.

Ms. Barbee answered by stating that the bulletin board and memorial plaque have been removed from the proposal at the request of Mr. Brown, noting that he had found legal and policy conflicts with these items.

Ms. Barbee mentioned that the group is also planning to add entrance signage that would read "Oakcliffe Greenway".

Mr. Brown responded that the signage cannot be approved at this time because the design for this piece has not been developed or presented.

Ms. Barbee agreed that this piece would be presented at a later date, once designed and presented.

Mr. Indovina asked about the timeline of carrying out the project.

Ms. Barbee explained that as part of the Love Your Block program, the structure must be installed by October 31, 2011. They are hoping to install it on Oct. 22 since that is a day they can get all their volunteers together.

Mr. Indovina asked if these volunteers will be professionals who have the expertise to construct the project.

Ms. Barbee responded that one is a landlord with construction and mortaring experience. The other volunteers are helping with planting. She was unsure if the landlord or anyone were professionally licensed.

Mr. Astorino asks for clarification on a maintenance schedule.

Ms. Barbee explained that the Oakcliffe Housing Club have been the stewards of that space, and elaborated that David Panasiuk has donated much time and energy to keeping that area clean.

Mr. Indovina suggested installing a solid cap on the sloping bricks to avoid faster erosion from the elements.

Ms. Barbee said she will bring that up to Nathan Hart, architect and resident of the neighborhood, who created the design for the piece.

Ms. Christina Burke from the Mayor's office introduced herself and reported Mayoral support of this project. She stated that they feel this is one of the stronger Love Your Block projects.

Ms. Slavick asked how the Commission could be assured that the builders of the piece would have the necessary expertise to properly construct the piece.

Mr. Brown explained that projects like these must procure stamped architectural drawings in order to gain an occupancy/building permit from BBI after Art Commission approval is gained. It would be BBI's call to ensure that the project was deemed safe and built to spec.

Additionally, the piece would also need to return to the Art Commission once built, to gain Final Acceptance, attesting to the Commission that the project was built as proposed.

Mr. Carlise stated that Public Works supports the Mayor's initiative and will do what it can do to help these projects succeed.

Ms. Barbee responded that she has listened to all the input they have received and will adhere to it because her community group wishes this project to be successful and the structure to be long-lasting.

MOTION: To grant Conceptual and Final Approval with the condition that a maintenance program and signage be approved by staff.

MOVED: Astorino

SECONDED: Slavick

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

- East Liberty Bus Stop
 - Loralyn Fabian, East Liberty Development, Inc.
 - Joel Perkovich, Tsuga Studios

Ms. Fabian thanked the commission and introduced herself and Mr. Perkovich, the landscape architect consultant on the project.

Mr. Perkovich started his presentation by placing the location of the project (in front of Rainbow Kids on Penn and N. Whitfield). The standard bus shelter has been donated by Port Authority. He pointed out the custom cor-ten edging, solar panel, interior cistern/bench, overflow to tree pits, proposed interpretive panel (which they will present at next month's meeting for final approval), three rivers graphic, and an artistic wrap-around pvc downspout.

Mr. Perkovich discussed the planting palette and the habitat elements of the green roof. The structure was assessed and stamped to carry the load. They are just waiting for final approval

from DPW. He further states that the purpose of the shelter is to advocate green roof systems to people in the busy East Liberty neighborhood.

Ms. Slavick asked if the cor-ten steel will rust.

Mr. Berkovich replied that it will and is intended to contrast with the greenery.

Ms. Slavick continued that she likes the idea, but has reservations about the top not being harmonious with the existing aluminum shelter structure and the primary colors (red and blue) of the panels down below.

Ms. Katherine Kamp jumped in to explain that there is talk of changing the colors of the bus shelter to be of an “earthier” pallet.

Mr. Astorino asked if there are any standards for city bus shelters.

Ms. Kamp replied that the Port Authority gave them permission to do whatever they wanted with the shelter, as long as it is maintained. ELDI has been keeping them updated on their entire process.

Mr. Carlise mentioned a different, sleeker, larger bus shelter green roof project that is being developed close by that he confused for theirs.

Ms. Kamp replied that is indeed a different project, inspired by her group’s that is going up outside of Target in East Liberty.

Mr. Carlise wondered why they could not have similar, if not smaller version of the other project.

The members of ELDI responded that it is a funding situation. The other project is costing considerably more money (\$250,000) and can afford to gear up the aesthetics. The project for review is costing \$15,000.

Ms. Briggs stated that she doesn’t have to see the other shelter to know that this project is good. However she cautioned anyone from thinking anything crazy is artistic, and that is what she sees. She felt that the bus shelter is looking toward the future and needs a language to relay that rather than looking backward (Steelers logo, Terrible Towel, Three Rivers).

She said she sees the top and bottom of the bus shelter having two different conversations and hopes that they can be combined. She cautioned them about the use of cor-ten (which she is familiar with), which as it rusts, tends to drip and stain. She also wanted them to keep in mind the language of the bottom of the shelter. As the subway lights in NYC are identifiable by their color, so are the standard red bus shelters in PGH. She reminded them to keep in mind this is a green roof on a bus shelter in an urban environment. It needs to relate to its environment and doesn’t have to be all earth-toned. Keeping the piece simple and recognizable as a standard bus shelter with a green roof might be preferable. The project should be beautiful in and of itself and does not need the “lipstick.”

Ms. Luckett asked about the inspiration for the project.

Ms. Fabian explained that there was a similar project in San Francisco and then they found out about the Penn loop Station was being built and they felt that something educational could be built to educate people in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Indovina thought the project is very good and thought out, but suggested that they need to think it out just a bit more. He agreed with much of the statements made today, and suggested that

the group consult with Kolano design, which is a neighbor to this project location. He stated that Kolano has a good eye for simplicity and might be a good local resource for the group to utilize.

Ms. Slavick furthered the idea by saying to simplify the idea and focus on what is important.

Mr. Astorino brought up maintenance issues. He suggested that the group get in writing that Port Authority will have replacement parts for the shelter itself over time.

MOTION: To grant Conceptual Approval.

MOVED: Slavick

SECONDED: Briggs

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

- Allegheny Landing
 - Chuck Alcorn, Riverlife
 - Natalie Byrd, LaQuatra Bonci Associates
 - Caryn Rubinoff, Friends of Allegheny Landing

Mr. Alcorn introduced himself and the project. It is in three phases and they are bringing the first two to commission. He gave the location and history of the park. The park is currently neglected and abused. Issues of deterioration, graffiti, and tire-tracks are mentioned. The park is widely used and people are reporting the sad shape of the park. The Carnegie Museum of Art is working on the renovation of the sculptures. Landscaping is being designed by LaQuatra Bonci.

Ms. Byrd, of LaQuatra Bonci introduced herself and gave a synopsis of the landscape plan: replacement of plantings and pavings. Most trees will be saved, but most tree grates will go. City standard lighting and furniture elements will be used throughout the plan. The Smyth artwork nearest to the river will be moved out of the way of the walkway to provide a better path for trail users and utility trucks.

Ms. Byrd explained that Phase 1 is the northern upper level. Phase 2 makes up the Riverfront restoration, while Phase 3, not to be considered at this time, involves restoration of the park's artwork.

Ms. Rubinoff explained that the City will continue to perform basic maintenance such as garbage removal and lawn mowing. The Friends of Allegheny Landing will take on the responsibility of a higher level of maintenance in order to preserve the place over time. The intent of the renovation and ongoing maintenance is to bring the standards of this park up to others in the area.

Stakeholders in the area want to protect neighboring land values and to create a space in which workers and visitors to enjoy their experience.

Mr. Brown brought up the fact that he has met with the group on several occasions and fully supports the project. He went on to say that another good outcome of this project is going to be an agreement between the City and the Carnegie Art Museum establishing placement and ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the Carnegie Museum of Art for the artworks—which are owned by the CMA--on this City-owned property. Currently there is no such agreement in place.

Ms. Slavick wanted to know if the redesigns consider widening pathways so that trucks aren't driving on the lawn.

Mr. Alcorn stated that this is correct.

Ms. Slavick brought up the idea of placing skate-guards on walls. Ms. Byrd stated that they will consider them, and that this was a good suggestion. She also brought up considering other benches to go with the new granite scheme. Ms. Byrd replied that because of funding they are sticking with park standard benches now, but they would consider placing stone or other type of benches as future funding might allow.

Ms. Piechocki introduced herself as Director of the Office of Public Art and a Northside resident, to speak on behalf of the project. She stated that she has seen the park's neglect grow in the short time she has lived in Pittsburgh, and is excited that a turn-around is being planned. She also stated her happiness with the moving of the lower Ned Smyth piece.

MOTION: To grant Conceptual and Final Approval for Phases 1 and 2.

MOVED: Astorino

SECONDED: Luckett

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned