

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

MASTER CONTRACT#: TOOELENV100523 · TASK ORDER#: 10 · PROJECT#: NHIM0-0016-01(092), BIBB

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 11/6/14

Attendees: GDOT: Eric Duff, OES; Clinton Ford, OPD; Karlene Barron, Communications

EnviroResolution (ER): Banks Craig, Jeff Dickerson

URS: Nick Castronova, Mickey O' Brien, Erin Lane

PHNIG: Peter Givens, Naomi Johnson; Carolyn Nedd

Pleasant Hill Community: Alice Jackson (MCPC), Pastor Jason McClendon (Community Church of God)

Location: GDOT Macon Area Office-4499 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA

Date: 11/6/14

Purpose: Mitigation Progress Meeting-URS presentation of revised Jefferson Long Park plan; Allstate Construction kickoff presentation

CC:

Discussion

Agenda Item 1: URS-Presentation of Revised Jefferson Long Park Plan

Action Item(s)

Clinton Ford called the meeting to order and began with introductions.

- Mickey O' Brien began the meeting by discussing the revised Jefferson Long Park plan.
- Mickey thanked the community for their input and collaboration on the Jefferson Long Park plan.
- He said there have been some design changes to the Jefferson Long Park concept that was previously approved.
- Mickey stated the community held a work session in February 2013 where members of the community made modifications to the original Jefferson Long Park plan.
- Mickey said Mr. Givens has been kind enough to meet with URS and discuss the flow of the park which is a major driver for the development of the park.
- Mickey O'Brien said the Jefferson Long Park is an important part of the Pleasant Hill Community, and URS is only a conduit for the community's vision for the park.
- Mickey O'Brien said GDOT was unable to acquire four parcels at the intersection of First Avenue and Craft Street so access into the Park from Craft Street was moved further south.
- Peter Givens said the park should be a passive park meaning no program sports of any kind will be formally executed in the park. A passive park is a place to contemplate and enjoy the company of community neighbors.
- Mickey said edge of the park will be an important place for people watching and enjoying art festivals.
- He said all great parks have areas of sun and areas of shade. The Jefferson Long Park will have many opportunities for sun and opportunities for shade.
- Mickey said there will be an important pedestrian promenade at the edge of the park.
- He said an important feature of the park will be to protect the existing community garden and upgrade other portions of the park based upon input from the community.
- Peter Givens and Naomi Johnson requested that no cherry trees be planted in the park. They asked that crepe myrtles be planted in the park instead. They said red, pink, and purple crepe

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myrtles are preferable.

- Peter Givens requested that the large open space in the park be modified to prevent people from playing games in the park.
- Mickey O'Brien said there will be great cross movement in the park. The pedestrian promenade has been incorporated into the great lawn.
- Mickey said following the February work session, there was discussion to break the great lawn into an upper lawn and lower lawn.
- There will be a low seat wall, eighteen to twenty inches tall between the upper and lower lawn.
- Craft Street and First Avenue were discussed as major entrances to the park as were potential kiosks.
- Mickey said a pergola will be added to the park to provide an additional area of shade.
- Mickey said the community requested gravel access to the community garden. He also stated the City of Macon requested truck access to the park for special events.
- Peter Givens said there shouldn't be too many benches in the park because the point is to feel as though you want to sit on the grass in the park.
- Peter Givens said there should be at least two drinking water fountains in the park.
- Clinton Ford said the City of Macon said there shouldn't be a water feature in the park because water features are sometimes a maintenance issue.
- Peter Givens said the Memorandum of Agreement is in place. He said if the City comes to GDOT and says the City doesn't want a water feature in the park then the City should discuss this issue with him.
- Peter Givens said information kiosks in the park would be a nice feature.
- Naomi Johnson said lilies and lantana in the park would be beautiful.
- Mickey said the benches in the park could have plaques on them of people who helped develop the garden.
- Peter Givens said too many people have been a part of Pleasant Hill to put their names on plaques, and the community is already putting names of people from Pleasant Hill on the noise/visual walls.
- Mickey said URS will eliminate the name "Founders Garden" and focus the attention more on the Memorial Rose Garden if that is what the community prefers.
- Mr. Givens said the community wants the old brick walkways turned into concrete walkways. He also said raised planters and a low, ornamental border along Craft Street would be a nice addition to the park.
- Naomi Johnson said there should be no fence or gate to the entrance of the park.
- Naomi Johnson requested that the steps into the Memorial Rose Garden be repaired but not replaced because the steps are historic.
- Naomi said the steps have footprints on them of children from Pleasant Hill.
- Peter Givens commented that a kiosk near the steps would help to explain the history and significance of the steps.
- Naomi Johnson also requested the tall corn plants on either side of the steps be left in place.
- Peter Givens said the open space in the park is still too open. Peter said there should be more walkways across the open space in the park.
- Mickey O'Brien asked if the rest of the community is ok with splitting up the open, upper lawn by adding more walkways.
- Alice Jackson said splitting up the open, upper lawn with more walkways might destroy the flow of the larger park. Alice said that parks are supposed to have open spaces to play because they

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are parks.

- Peter Givens said he and other members of the community designed the park a long time ago, and the community never intended the park to have a large open area.
- Naomi Johnson said we don't intend for the Jefferson Long Park to become a playground. The community wants to appeal to the older citizenry in Pleasant Hill.
- Alice Jackson said Mr. Givens doesn't represent everyone in Pleasant Hill. Peter Givens said he represents many people in Pleasant Hill.
- Alice Jackson told Mr. Givens he doesn't want to hear anybody else's opinion.
- Karlene Barron said GDOT will be taking the comments from today's meeting and showing the revised Jefferson Long Park to the larger community.
- Karlene said that GDOT must be able to show that everyone in the community was included in the design of the Jefferson Long Park.
- Peter Givens said this is not the park plan we talked about. This park plan is URS' concept. This park plan is not the community's concept.
- Peter said the community had original meetings and came up with a different design.
- GDOT is trying to make sure everyone in the community is in agreement with the new, revised Jefferson Long Park plan.
- Karlene said GDOT appreciates Mr. Givens' input, but GDOT must move in the new park design direction.
- Karlene said URS is the designer of Jefferson Long Park now, and is here today to get the community's input for the revised Jefferson Long Park plan.
- Alice Jackson said the community is here today to design the new Jefferson Long Park plan.
- Peter Givens said the community wants a statue or bust of Jefferson Long in the park.
- Karlene Barron asked if the Memorial Rose Garden would be a good location for the Jefferson Long statue.
- Peter Givens said the community has not made a decision about where the statue will be located yet.
- Naomi Johnson said the City said it will provide an artist to help the community create the statute of Jefferson Long.
- Mickey thanked everyone in the community for their input.
- Mickey said URS will distribute a revised Jefferson Long Park plan drawing based upon the feedback received from the community today.

Agenda Item 2: Allstate Construction-Kickoff Presentation

Action Item(s)

Adrian Harmon from Harmon Construction gave a kickoff presentation about moving houses:

- Clinton Ford introduced Adrian Harmon of Harmon Construction.
- Adrian Harmon said Ms. Nedd's house is the GDOT's first priority and will be moved shortly.
- Adrian Harmon said there has been an insurance issue associated with moving Ms. Nedd's house.
- Adrian commented that Ms. Nedd's house will be the model home for how other homes will be relocated.
- Adrian said Allstate Construction needs a list of everyone in the community with special needs in case power lines and water lines go out for an extended period of time.
- Eric Duff said GDOT's first priority is moving Ms. Nedd's home and rehabilitating it as soon as possible. Eric said the drawings for Ms. Nedd's home have already been approved by SHPO.

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- Eric Duff said once GDOT is closer to moving Ms. Nedd's house, GDOT needs to meet with Ms. Nedd and have her sign the Exchange Agreement.
- Clinton Ford said GDOT should be able to acquire a vacant lot for Ms. Nedd's home in the next fifteen days.
- Clinton Ford adjourned the meeting.