

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 6:30-8:00pm
Hybrid Format: WhittierAlliance (10 E 25th St) +
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: Nick Hutchinson ,

Presenters: Jay and Adam, Bianca Paz, Kellen K, Fransica Pass

Staff: Meggie Garcia, Kaley Brown, George Rishmawi

Welcome/Introductions

-The meeting is called to order at 6:30pm.

Attendees completed a round of introductions.

The meeting chair presented the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda is seconded and passes unanimously.

The meeting chair recognized Standard of Conduct; Non-discrimination and Anti-racism; and Conflicts of Interest Policies.

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2718 Grand Ave S Update

- Jay and Adam partners in this development project (12 units)
- Here to give an update and also being intentional with the community about what they are doing to bring a sustainable lifestyle
- Project is in the heart of Lyndale and Nicollet, greenway - trying to promote a mobility hub
- Timeline currently and moving forward:
 - Nov 23: Framing (currently building 3rd floor, roof going up after thanksgiving)
 - Dec 23: Windows/Siding/Roof
 - Jan 24: Interior/mechanics
 - Feb-March 24: Interior
 - Apr 24: Final grading and planting
 - May 24: Punch list items
 - June 24: Certification of Occupancy
 - July 1st, 2024: Targeted opening day
- Call for artists + community engagement: Centered around the idea of public art and noticed some other opportunities to support neighborhood
 - Ex. street cleaning between park and greenway: open to facilitating this activity and even partnering with Whittier Alliance to accomplish this
 - Community engagement events they like to make possible
 - Community garden beds → gardening party
 - Little free library
 - Sidewalk poetry
 - Edible lawn plants - Apple trees
 - Harvest festival
 - **Will be collecting rainwater - Opportunity for artist to design what it looks like**
 - Promoting: Resource sharing - tools etc.
 - Bike racks
- Overall: there are MANY opportunities for artists to design features in the project development. They want this project to be full of mini projects showcasing artist work

- Do NOT want landscaping that requires mowing and other landscaping
 - Want a hands on community green space
- Wanting to grow urban canopies - how can we utilize this for our space
- Connecting transitways
 - Very close to greenway
 - Include a fix it station
- Looking to include and promote non fossil fuel transportation
 - Working with Stacy from the sustainability department at the city to be a pilot site for electric charging stations in the public right of way
 - Might look towards WA to help promote this
- Reframing 'Waste' to Resources
 - Trying to be a place to take either recyclables that city doesn't collect - (Ex: Ridwell example of what they want to replicate in some form)
- Connect with the neighborhood
 - Trying to do more with less - being intentional about what they create and looking to the community for what already exists
 - Looking to partner with other businesses already here to further intersect on this site
 - If WA has an idea on how to partner and bring in members open to it
- Connecting neighbors beyond the building
 - Ex: porch fest - How can they help/partner with than event like that
- Connecting to personable amenities
 - How to reduce waste and cost by allowing people to check out items like printers, paddle boards etc.

Clinton Field Park Update

- 400k for improvements approved
- Master plan approved in 2018 to start doing improvements in parks in area
- Some designs shown are likely to change as more input is received and funding
- Listened to community needs
 - Futsal was one of the needs asked for by the community
 - Drawing up designs to show a court to support this activity
- Ultimately, this project is being broken down into phases because the ask was to redo the whole park instead of just one section
 - Breaking down improvements into phases
 - Will be receiving more funds in 2026 and will revise what is possible for improvements
- Phase 1 - start next summer, may wait until there is more funding
- Some parking on the sound wall side. -Street parking
 - Street parking very limited in this area
 - Might need some parking
- Master Plan layout has lots of wiggle room but was missing key elements like stormwater management especially since this takes up a lot of space
 - Both groups needs were combined and produced a large court
- Sport courts: Their designs were influenced by the Futsal and bike poll communities to meet their needs in park space.
- Concept 1: Preserves most of current structure with some additions

- Loosely based on the master plan.
 - Centralized park shelter next to playground
 - Half court and Full large court - Question do people want to keep a full reg court or half court
- Stormwater management next to half court
- Arching path crossing through park removing current stairs on south side (4th ave)
- Community garden
- New trees will be added
- Some picnic table seating with shelter
- **Phase 1 development** for this concept add in stormwater management and full large court - this takes up a lot of funding do to ground leveling needed
 - Alter phasing - create smaller court and stormwater - cheaper option and would serve as a temp futsal court
- Concept 2 :
 - Found blocking/grid of park space more efficient i using space to add more in the space
 - Larger green space
 - Large court not big enough for bike pollo
 - Playground
 - Central plaza center: sheltered picnic area and park shelter
 - Small court
 - Keeping stairs - no ramps
 - Storm water drain bigger
 - No leveling of ground
 - **Phase 1 dev** for this concept requires the removal of the existing courts to place the stormwater basin and large court
- Working on getting a survey out
- Comments: Cornered that this master plan did not look like or include things from the first round of engagement and approval of the project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Dec 19th, 6:30-8:00 pm - Hybrid in-person/zoom meeting

Meeting minutes submitted by Meggie