



## Elizabeth Area Plan Citizen Advisory Group

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### January 6, 2010 Meeting Follow-Up

This is a follow-up to some questions and issues discussed at the Elizabeth Area Plan Citizen Advisory Group meeting of January 6, 2010.

- 1. CAG Member Kris Solow asked if the maps from Rusty Rozzelle's presentation on water quality are available on the website.**

The entire presentation, including all maps, is on the Elizabeth Area Plan web page as a pdf file:

[http://www.charmeck.org/Planning/Land%20Use%20Planning/ElizabethAreaPlan/2010\\_01\\_Jan\\_06\\_Presentation\(Parks\\_Envir\).pdf](http://www.charmeck.org/Planning/Land%20Use%20Planning/ElizabethAreaPlan/2010_01_Jan_06_Presentation(Parks_Envir).pdf)

- 2. Planning Commissioner Nina Lipton inquired about innovative ways that infill development can use to meet the City's Post-Construction Controls Ordinance (PCCO), which requires that stormwater be treated before it is released into creeks.**

Charlotte Stormwater Services maintains a web site devoted to the PCCO, which contains extensive information on the ordinance:

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/StormWater/Contractors/PCCO+-+City.htm>

Sites located in certain areas, such as transit station areas and distressed business districts, may have special provisions for meeting the PCCO requirements. These provisions would not be applicable to most of the Elizabeth Plan Area (there are maps on the web site that show these areas). Lots of one acre or less can "buy out" of the ordinance requirements, and most residential lots platted prior to July 2008 are exempt from PCCO. All other new development must comply.

- 3. CAG Members Matt Nurkin and Monte Richey asked about the Table Tennis Association lease on the Hawthorne Center.**

Park Planner Brian Conroy responds that the Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department wants to look at both short term solutions to make the facility more accessible to the public and long term of how the facility can better architecturally and functionally integrate with the park to become a neighborhood asset. They are trying to allocate funds to hire a consultant to undertake a facility master plan. Of course, all work is predicated on future funding. Park & Rec will invite the neighborhood to participate when they kick off the plan process.

- 4. CAG members Monte Richey, Ken Lambla, and Peter Tart had a variety of questions regarding the cross-section of the proposed "greenway connector" that will run**

**through CPCC and near Memorial Stadium. Rich Rosenthal and Park and Rec staff were to organize a separate meeting to discuss these questions in detail.**

Greenway Planner Gwen Cook reports that a meeting was held on January 14, 2010 at CPCC to discuss plans for this greenway connector. Several Elizabeth residents, as well as staff of CPCC, Park & Rec, and Planning, were in attendance. The residents expressed concern about the public process that was used in developing the plans for the site. They wish to be involved in the master planning of the Memorial Stadium block and the updating of the Independence Park Master Plan. Park & Rec staff assured them that there would be a Park and Recreation public process.

There was concern expressed that more options for the greenway connector routes (7th Street corridor and adjacent to the stadium) were not shown. It was mentioned that Sam Ryburn Way was slated to be gone when CATS extends bus rapid transit or light rail as an extension of 5th Street. Although the process was a very public one, the constructed greenway corridor can be reconsidered when the master planning of the entire block is undertaken. It will serve Memorial Stadium and Little Sugar Creek Greenway well in the meantime. Another meeting with the Elizabeth citizens and elected leaders is being organized for early February.

- 5. The breakout exercise on parks and greenways included a map of the plan area that participants were invited to mark up with comments and suggestions. This map was scanned and will be made available as a pdf file on the Elizabeth Area Plan web page under the January 6, 2010 CAG Meeting #4 heading.**

**The Park & Recreation Department has provided the following summary of the mark-ups and comments made during the breakout exercise.**

## **Parks**

### Independence Park

- Recessed parallel parking along park edge seen as favorable option for further study to eliminate existing parking lot.
- Playground monopolized by Elizabeth Traditional School and not accessible by neighborhood users
- Hawthorne Lane: Provide safer pedestrian crossing(s) along park to cross.
- Hawthorne Recreation Center needs to be accessible for public use.
- Hawthorne Recreation Center: allow restrooms to be accessible for public use.
- Zoning changes: enact for renovated and new buildings along entire perimeter of park to face and better interact with Park.
- Armory Building needs to better interact with Park
- Apply best practice methods to determine highest and best use for any future park improvements
- Better pedestrian linkages near rose garden (i.e. steps that lead nowhere)
- Rose garden area should remain passive in nature, but some small interactive art elements that children can play on might be favorable.
- Shaded structure: provide near rose garden for weddings and place to sit – similar to other gazebo in park
- Hospital cooling towers create excessive unpleasant noise in and around park.

## Greenways

- Involve public in greenway connection discussion for section thru memorial Stadium/ Grady Cole Area.

## Pedestrian Connections

- Laurel Ave: Incorporate into greenway a connector between Little Sugar Creek and Briar Creek Greenways
- Sunnyside Neighborhood: Provide connection to Rose Garden; use Hawthorne Lane to Sunnyside Ave.
- Pecan Ave and Independence: Make more pedestrian friendly and better utilize existing green space
- Trolley Path: Reestablish former pedestrian connection between 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. Current Right-of-Way may be in jeopardy of being abandoned for private development.
- Deacon Avenue: Provide pedestrian connection to Briar Creek Greenway via Deacon Av and parallel stream. Stream bank are eroding.
- Colonial Park: provide connection from park to Briar Creek Greenway. Incorporate hospital green space at Vail Ave and North Chase as part of connector.
- 8th to 7th Street block crossings: Reestablish block crossing with existing Right-of-Way.
- 7<sup>th</sup> to Park Drive block crossings: Reestablish block crossing with existing Right-of-Way.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Ranier Avenue: Consider unpaved right-of-way for pedestrian linkages

## Next Steps:

Independence Park: Park & Rec hopes to get back on track with the vision plan for the park soon. The project had been derailed while they worked on the overall uptown master plan. Although Elizabeth is not in the Uptown study area, the consultant is developing Urban Park guiding principles that they want to have in hand while they work on the park plan. Goals of the plan will be to look at long term resolution of the parking lot issue – study recessed parking idea, leave rose garden area passive but look at improved pedestrian linkages, seating, lighting etc. When the process starts back up they will involve the neighborhood.

## Pedestrian Connections:

Park & Rec supports the suggested connections. They may be further evaluated in the area plan process and may be presented as plan recommendations.

## 6. The results of the online poll of CAG members concerning the length of future group meetings:

Two hour meetings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	11
Two hour meetings from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	8
Keep meeting length and time as is	4

Hence, all future Elizabeth Area Plan Citizen Advisory Group meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**7. It was mentioned that a different format will be used for the February 3, 2010 meeting on Land Use.**

In keeping with this format, we will not send/post a meeting agenda in advance. A notice will be e-mailed to all Advisory Group members prior to the meeting date.

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