

MEETING MINUTES
MAIN STREET – 500 Block Rehabilitation
PIN 5760.39
Stakeholders Design Meeting

DATE: December 20, 2012
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Buffalo Place Conference Room
ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheet
ATTACHMENTS: Sign In Sheet

A meeting was held with the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Place, and the Stakeholders to present the updated streetscape design for the 500 Block of Main Street Rehabilitation project. Introductions were made by John Bidell and an agenda was distributed to all. A summary of the meeting and the decisions made are as follows:

1. John Bidell informed the stakeholders group that he had just received this morning a 13 page document containing NFTA's comments on the station design concepts. Due to the lack of time to properly dissect the comments, it is not realistic to get into discussions about the impact to the stations or project at this time. John expressed concern over the potential for the comments to severely impact the project schedule relative to the Tiger Grant funding deadlines. One consideration, if the comments cannot be resolved in a timely manner, would be to leave the stations in-tact and build the project around them but the City is not prepared at this point to make that decision. The group conveyed support for the station designs and offered assistance where possible.
2. John Bidell gave the stakeholders an update on the 600 Block project. The contractor, Mark Cerrone, Inc., informed the City and NFTA representatives during the December 17th job meeting, that the Theatre Stations will be taken out of service on February 18th, and removed during the first and second weeks of March, 2013. The existing steel arches will also be removed at that time. The NFTA will salvage station components during the last two weeks of February.

Updated Streetscape Concepts:

Greg Leonard presented the updated streetscape concepts to the stakeholders. The updates include the tree selection, the options for raised planters, and the selected Option A for Roosevelt Plaza.

Trees:

- a) Greg stated that he met with Andy Raab, the City's Parks Commissioner and briefed him about the tree selection discussed with the stakeholders group. Greg stated that Andy suggested including some flowering trees be incorporated into the streetscape design. Andy conveyed that the Japanese Scholar tree require more protection than the Main Street corridor could provide and will not be well suited for the project so they have been eliminated from the plan. Andy also suggested that summer flowering trees should be considered for the project. The following tree species have been incorporated into the landscape plan:

- London Planetree, which is yellow in color but not flowering, was selected for the section between Mohawk and Huron Streets, and in a section of Roosevelt Plaza.
- Swamp White Oaks, which adapt well to urban conditions, were selected for the section between Chippewa and Huron Streets.
- Ginkgos were selected to replace the honey locusts for Mohawk Street, which have smaller planting pits.
- Sargent Cherry's, which are a smaller but flowering tree, will be planted at the Mohawk Street entrance along Washington Street and adjacent to the station zones.

A request was made if possible to add Cherry's along the diagonal section of Roosevelt Plaza. MNLA will evaluate to determine feasibility.

Raised Planters:

Two types of planters were presented for areas with vaults. The first type is a narrow 2' x 4' stainless steel planter for Mohawk Street. The other was a wider 4' x 4' stainless steel planter surrounded by limestone walls contained within the 6' wide amenity zone along Main Street. The planters along Main Street will have irrigation, while the planters along Mohawk Street will not. The following were suggestions made by the stakeholders for the raised planters:

- Avoid any seating options with the raised planters, and provide stainless steel skateboarding deterrents.
- Refine the width of the planters to suite Mohawk and Main Street sections.
- The finish of the stone walls around the planters shall be such that it discourages seating.

Roosevelt Plaza:

The revisions to the selected Option A for Roosevelt Plaza include:

- Eliminating the planters along Genesee Street to open up views to buildings along Main Street and the Electric Tower.
- Seating along the planters bordering Genesee Street to create a more distinct urban street.

Bollard Cap Design:

- The stakeholders selected the bollard cap style that was used in Kitchener. The branding design for the logo for the logo at on the top of the bollard will be developed by the stakeholder group and presented to the City.
- Solar options for the lighted bollards were discussed but the concern was over maintaining consistency in the lighting so power will be supplied at this point.

Other Issues Discussed:

- John Bidell inquired if any of the stakeholders were opposed to the design option of a one-way Genesee Street segment. The consensus was that the group is in favor of the current design that includes the one-way Genesee Street segment, citing benefits such as parking, activity, accessibility and the flexibility of the current design to accommodate events.

- It was requested that a steel bollard be installed at both ends of the 3.5' wide strip on the north side of Mohawk Street to discourage its use as a sidewalk.

John Bidell stated that the design group will now proceed with the design as discussed and that the stakeholders should provide any additional comments within 30 days in order to meet the project deadlines.

These Meeting Minutes represent our understanding of the items discussed and/or agreed upon during this meeting. Any additions, corrections, or revisions by those present shall be directed (in writing) to the undersigned or they will be considered accurate and complete.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pradeep Simlote, M.S.
DiDonato Associates

cc: Attendees
att.: Sign in Sheet
Terrie Brightman – MNLA
Kelly Thompson – Bergmann
John Hubert – PB
Keith Kerr - PB



CITY OF BUFFALO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MAIN STREET – 500 BLOCK REHABILITATION
STAKEHOLDERS DESIGN MEETING
SIGN-IN-SHEET



December 20, 2012, 2:00 PM

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