

MINUTES OF MEETING

Project: Capitol Hill Town Square

Project #: 28005

Date: May 6, 2008

Attending: 17 Community Members

Task Force

Ray Gooch

Tip Tipton

Weinstein Studio

Amy Weinstein

Subject: Neighbors Meeting

Distribution: Website

Tip Tipton opened the meeting by welcoming everybody to the meeting. He introduced himself as the head of the Task Force and Amy Weinstein as the head of the Design team, and briefly explained the project background.

Amy Weinstein addressed the rumor that a new metro station entrance (with escalator and canopy) was being proposed to be built in front of the D Street residents' houses. She showed the plan of the below ground station, pointed out that it would be impossible to tie into the station from D Street, and that the only Metro Station change being discussed was the possibility of adding a new stair/elevator entry to the station as part of the Hine site development and it would be at the corner of 7th & Pa Ave.

The following comments were made by the residents attending the meeting:

Suggestion that the planning effort see the project as two separate parks – a hardscaped plaza at the metro station and a landscaped park on the eastern side. One is tailored to the business interests, and the other is a community residential park (“quite and leafy”). They would like to see more green, less brick.

It is important to NOT draw a lot of noise, light pollution, and air pollution to the eastern park area.

There are a lot of new families in the community with little kids. These people would like a park where they can take the kids to play. Tot-lot equipment was not seen as necessary in this location – just place to fly kites, play on the grass, etc. Maybe grass mounds that are both beautiful landscape features and the kids can use to roll down. Turtle Park and Marion Park were seen as the closest tot lots.

Concern was expressed about the high speed traffic between C & D Streets and between Pa and Independence Avenues. Could there be speed bumps on 9th Street?

Hordes of people traversing the area to get to the Metro Station are not seen by these residents.

There was a discussion of the social service and other organizations that are nearby to the square (for example in the carriage house on the grounds of the Naval Hospital). The issue of homeless people sleeping in the park was discussed. Amy Weinstein described the usually peaceful co-existence between active park users and homeless people in Dupont Circle.

Other suggestions included:

- better lighting
- dog poop receptacles
- better signage to the Eastern Market
- keep park visually open for safety at night

The Scenic America forum (done a few years ago) was discussed along with several of the ideas that were generated from it (better connectivity with the library).

The idea of a Memorial located in the park was discussed (NCPC has designated the site for one). Green is more desirable than a monument. A memorial would be ok if it doesn't dwarf the neighborhood uses.

There was concern about the Fire and EMS department activities in the square. Fire trucks often drive the wrong way on D Street (north side) to get to S. Carolina Avenue.

Maintenance must be built into the new regime.