

DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Oak Park Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee – 5  
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 8:30 AM  
Public Works Center

1. Call to Order

Staff Liaison Lauren Wojcik called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

Roll Call

Present: Anan Abu-Taleb, Mike Fox, Kim Henry,  
Monika Robinson, Frank Russo, Jim Solnes, Meg Svec

Absent: Laura Kitsos, Emily Lloyd, Sandra Medina, Darien Marion-Burton,  
Tracey Royal

Staff: Village Engineer Bill McKenna, Staff Liaison/Civil Engineer Lauren Wojcik, John Helfrich (Terra Engineering), Jamil Bou-Saab (Terra Engineering), Manisha Kaul (Design Workshop), Sara Egan (Design Workshop), John Harris (a5)

2. Agenda Approval

Member Fox made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Member Abu-Taleb. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Draft August 15, 2023 Oak Park Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Member Fox made a motion to approve the Draft August 15, 2023 Oak Park Avenue Streetscape Steering Committee Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Member Abu-Taleb. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

5. New Business

5a) SUMMARY OF FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

John Helfrich opened the meeting and explained that the fifth steering committee meeting would be the last for the schematic design phase.

- i. Manisha Kaul summarized the previous steering committee meeting. She reminded the steering committee members that they were presented with different material options for the “low”, “medium”, and “high” design concepts.
- ii. Manisha explained how the design team integrated the comments and decisions made at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The changes included: adding a fence around the Citrine dining area opposed to bar top seating, and the refining of the Pavegen area outside of the CTA station.

## 5B) METRICS

Manisha Kaul presented past and present parking metrics within the project limits. She explained how, through the steering committee process, the metrics have progressed. Existing currently in the project limits are three ADA parking spaces and 123 regular parking spaces. The refined proposed parking includes two EV parking spaces and one ADA EV parking space. Regular parking includes five ADA spaces, three drop off areas, and 107 regular parking spots (including two valet spots).

## 5C) VIADUCT TREATMENTS

- i. Manisha presented a refined concept of the viaduct to the group. The refinement shows internal lighting under the viaduct, top-lit signage, green walls on both sides, artwork along and under the viaduct, and new parking garage signage. Manisha highlighted the importance of extensive lighting under the viaduct to express its inviting, safe, and accessible atmosphere.
- ii. Sara Egan added that the wayfinding kiosk near the CTA station is proposed to be offset from the viaduct wall and serve as a Pavegen-generated interactive piece, as discussed at the previous steering committee meeting.
- iii. John Helfrich informed the steering committee that the engineering team is planning to lower the roadway under the viaduct in order to gain greater clearance. The proposed lowering is anticipated to be 12-18 inches. The proposed lowering of the roadway will not lower the sidewalk.
  - a. Member Abu-Taleb inquired about drainage under the viaduct if the roadway is lowered. John Helfrich explained that they would still have proper drainage.

## 5D) HUNTER COURT EAST AND WEST

- i. Manisha Kaul reiterated some of the design elements conceptualized for the Hunter Court East and West alleys, and crosswalk between them. Festoon lighting will be strung along the crosswalk connecting the two alleys. The alleys themselves will include light bollards, rotating sculptures, and rain gardens. The lighting option in Hunter Court West is proposed to match the lighting on Hunter Court East, which includes draped festoon lighting throughout.
  - a. Hunter Court East will include wall light projections that can be changed and dimmed. The light projections are not permanent, rather they can be turned off, customized, and programmed in various ways. Furthermore, Sara explained that the light projection feature is only planned in Hunter Court East.
    - i. Bill Mckenna added that the light projection in the east alley is a proposed strategy to invite people into the alley and thus, to use the parking garage behind the alley.
    - ii. Member Solnes asked if the projections planned for Hunter Court East could also be added to Hunter Court West. Sara Egan responded saying that at the August 15<sup>th</sup> steering committee meeting, the group decided to simplify the west alley and not include the light projection element. Instead, the east alley

is anticipated to focus on art and sculptures. However, this simplification can be refined.

- b. As per discussions from the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the proposed separation method between Il Vicolo and the walkway in the alley is a planter wall (with an optional screen). The planters would not be permanent, and they are designed to accommodate the existing Il Vicolo umbrellas as well as an alternate type of umbrella installation.

## 5E) FURNISHINGS

1. Manisha reiterated the plan for the streetscape is to use the same furnishings that Lake Street uses. The furnishings listed include globe and festoon lighting, flower pots, trash cans, benches, and bike racks.
  - a. Member Robinson noted that the planters used on Lake Street are very wide and reduce the walkable path on the sidewalk.
    - i. Village Engineer Mckenna agreed with member Robinson and explained that the project designers will use the width of the sidewalk on Oak Park Avenue to determine a proper size for the planters as to not encroach on the walking path of the sidewalk.
  - b. Member Robinson noted that the benches that are currently on Lake Street are challenging for people with mobility issues to easily get in and out of because of their negative slope towards the bench's back.
    - i. Village Engineer Mckenna explained that the Village will be exploring modifying the bench design for Oak Park Avenue

## 5F) MATERIAL SELECTIONS

### LOW OPTION

1. The low option includes a custom concrete application for the sidewalk, asphalt roadways, and brick pavers for the center of the intersections.
  - a. Sara Egan presented two different color tones of concrete to the steering committee to decide on for the sidewalk:
    - i. Custom concrete mix with a broom finish with a warm tone – Mesa Beige
    - ii. Custom concrete mix with an exposed aggregate finish with a cool tone – Cool Gray
      1. The steering committee preferred the cool tone concrete. Part of the decision was based on the concept that a cooler tone concrete on the sidewalk can emphasize the architecture and the red brick of the building facades.

### MEDIUM OPTION

1. The medium option includes clay pavers for the sidewalk and amenity zone, a mix of permeable pavers and asphalt for the roadways, concrete pavers for the crosswalks, and brick pavers for the center of the intersections.

- a. Sara Egan presented three different color tones/options of Iron Spot clay pavers for the sidewalk:
  - i. Manganese - Grey tones
  - ii. Belden Regimental - Red tones
  - iii. Mixture of all red tones
    1. The steering committee preferred the Manganese – grey tone clay pavers. Part of the committee’s decision was based on how the cool tone of the paver can create differentiation between the sidewalk and the red brick roadway, similar to the decision made for the low option.
    2. Member Robinson discussed the challenges that smaller clay pavers can pose to people with mobility devices. Manish Kaul explained that the clay pavers would be concrete set opposed to on top of a permeable base. A concrete set paver can reduce subbase failure, and subsequently reduce issues to the surface of the paver.

#### HIGH OPTION

1. The high option includes bluestone pavers for the sidewalk and amenity zones, brick paver roadways, concrete or clay pavers for the crosswalks, and brick pavers for the center of the intersections.

#### 6. Old Business

None

#### 7. Adjourn

With no further business, Member Russo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Member Abu-Taleb. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Submitted by:  
Lauren Wojcik  
Civil Engineer I