

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee
Thursday, January 29, 5:30pm, 7th Son Brewery, 1101 N. Fourth Street

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Jeff Baur, Stephanie Harris, Kyle Katz, Ben Shoemaker, Larry Totzke, Christopher Vidoni

Andy called the committee to order at 5:35 pm at a table in the main bar area over drinks generously paid for by Jeff Baur, and distributed copies of the emailed agenda:

Application for Noise Mitigation Study through ODOT

Kyle Katz, a property owner at Kerr and Russell, and on behalf of his neighboring property owner Glenn Skinner, suffers from noise pollution that reduces their ability to sell or enjoy their property adjoining I-670 Westbound. He researched the subject and believes ODOT should study the noise from I-670. He distributed an application requesting review by the Noise Unit of the Ohio Dept of Transportation's Office of Environmental Services, a process expected to take two years. The application requires some legwork to collect petition signatures and count affected houses and has a signature line for "Community Leader" so Kyle was coming to IVS to see if we would consider making the application. Andy noted this was a longtime concern of Friends of Goodale Park, and that the beginning and ending points of any noise study should include the park. He also noted likely other partners, and a history of working on this issue through the now inactive Spring Sandusky Interchange (SSI) Task Force, which included state, city, historic preservation and neighborhood representatives. Kyle said he spoke with neighboring property owner Connie Klema and while she supported the study, she would likely oppose a sound wall. The group agreed that a traditional sound wall would be inappropriate for IV, but might consider a "see through" solution similar to walls constructed by ODOT along I-71 near Polaris. We all agreed that conducting a noise level study was a reasonable first step without committing to any ultimate solution. Larry agreed to present the idea to the Short North Foundation and Alliance for their input, Andy said he would ask Friends of Goodale Park to discuss it, and Kyle would get his contact at ODOT information on the SSI Task Force to see if we can reconstitute that entity.

Proposed UIRF 5-Year Plan

Andy distributed (by email and handout) the city's proposed plan for Urban Infrastructure Recovery Funds spending in IV over the next 5 years. Total recommended was just over a million dollars, an amount very similar to that allocated to Harrison West and Victorian Village according to SNCA and HWS. The city agreed with our recommendations for new sidewalks and alley intersections at Prescott, Hull and Brickel. Andy questioned whether the city's proposal to spend approximately \$30,000 to lay asphalt on Pearl St. b/w Warren and First when we were requesting re-bricking was an oversight or deliberate. Andy noted the city had added \$47,000 in street trees, but omitted lighting along 1st Avenue, and complete streets treatment to Summit and Fourth at Warren and 1st.

Jeff re-stated The Borrer Companies willingness to pay for street and sidewalk improvements surrounding their developments at Prescott and Pearl, and suggested the city's UIRF allocation could be better spent elsewhere. He also believes Prescott b/w High and Pearl should be a pedestrian only street with park-like elements to highlight the proposed artwork to grace the

northwest corner of the crematory replacement building. His primary concern is the safety of pedestrians using Prescott as intense use from the Hub parking garage and as new Borror projects in that area come online.

Andy agreed to draft a letter for Larry to send to the city to clarify how our requests were transformed into their draft recommendations.

Proposal to Vacate Hull Alley b/w High and Pearl

Andy reported that Rajesh Lahoti has requested IVS consider his request to vacate Hull Alley between LaFogata and Union Café to construct a building. Andy circulated Jason Sudy's comments regarding the request when it was before the IV Commission (which opposes the request). Andy noted that the city had agreed to sidewalk improvements for Hull Alley as well as the other alley intersection improvements requested through UIRF. Andy asked if the neighbors were consulted, Larry indicated La Fogata was agreeable, but that Mark Wood had not been asked for input from Rajesh. The group was in general agreement with Jason's objections.

Parking Study Updates

Larry reported Nelson/Nygaard is preparing an implementation plan at the city's request and they won't do anything with the parking study recommendations until they get the consultants's final document.

Italian Village Welcomes You Sign

Our wooden sign formerly located where The Joseph is now open, remains in limbo since last fall after the city rejected our request to relocate the sign in front of Second Avenue School. Since it's a pedestrian scale sign, we considered pedestrian friendly locations, such as the grounds of 2nd Avenue School, and the site of the former Northside Child Development Center, which has a sign mounted in full visibility of the CBus stop.

Snow Removal Proposal

Andy circulated a letter from a Weinland Park resident addressing our common problem of street plows covering sidewalks along Summit with mounds of snow and suggesting a pro-active community approach. Andy suggested this is the essence of Complete Streets philosophy, and suggested using the Blockwatch group as a model.

Future Meeting Schedule

While we continue to meet the last Thursday of each month, The next meeting is **Thursday, February 26, 2015 at Seventh Son, SE corner of N. Fourth Street & E. 4th Ave.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Klein, (02/02/15)

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