

Minutes
Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee
Thurs, April 27, 2017, 5:30pm, Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Sherrill Massey.

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:46 pm in the back room at the brewery.

Short North Parking Study Update Andy distributed the IVS survey results letter sent to Parking Services Coordinator Amanda Ford, with copies to Council President Zach Klein and Development Department head Steve Schoeny. IVS board members gave the survey at the Junior Achievement Open House to 36 attendees summarizing different aspects of the pilot program. Andy expressed his appreciation for the board follow through on this important subject. Sherrill noted she'd had a flyer placed on her windshield announcing organized opposition to the pilot parking plan. Andy reported he'd attended a meeting of the disaffected at Thompson Rec Center last Saturday, with about 50 residents (an estimate, since no attendance sheet or minutes were taken) expressing their support for exclusive parking rights for residents only with a \$50 permit and free visitor passes. Realtor Ken Wightman summarized the overriding sentiment by noting that "Short North residents don't have a parking problem, Short North businesses have a parking problem." Andy expressed his concern that the parking study group was characterized as having "only one resident, and she has a garage" when in fact multiple neighborhood associations (including Weinland Park, Harrison West, Italian Village, and Victorian Village) had representatives at the table, although none was mentioned by name nor was present at the meeting. The four open houses sponsored by the city having concluded, a new plan will be proposed incorporating concerns expressed by the Thompson Rec Center opponents, open house attendees, and those who responded online.

Columbus Landmarks' Council of Historic Neighborhoods Andy noted he'd attended a CNHC organizing meeting last week. Operating with the support of Columbus Landmarks Foundation, the group plans a formal re-launch on May 31. The annual meeting of CLF will be at Cristo Rey High School (former Deaf School) on May 15 at 5:30. Andy noted that CNHC currently includes neighborhoods within the pre-1950 city boundaries, but is considering extending membership eligibility to neighborhoods 50 years or older. Andy expressed his belief that changing the criteria would dilute our message and be like inviting the wolf to guard the hen house.

Sandstone Curbs Update Andy distributed copies of the proposed Sandstone Curb Replacement Standards prepared by Frank Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator for the city. The draft proposes offering at no cost sandstone curbs from city inventory to replace sufficiently deteriorated sandstone in "city historic districts", to be permitted and installed by contractors hired by the property owner. Sherrill noted the need to locate existing curb cuts for storm drains, noting a hole she'd drilled had been concreted over during a water or gas repair. She also noted a recommended contractor's list would be useful. She thought it important to replace concrete patches, and believes sandstone curbs should be replaced with like regardless of location in the city.

Richard Florida Lecture at OSU Andy briefly discussed Richard Florida's lecture on "the New Urban Crisis" described as a "winner take all" urbanism with loser cities and winner and loser neighborhoods within cities resulting in economic and geographic isolation and, as prices rise (in his Toronto neighborhood the average median price of a single family detached home is \$1.7 million) the annihilation of the middle class neighborhood. His solution involved empowering the lower class with an emphasis on the urban political agenda and empowering small units of government rather than federal or state authorities.

Undesignating US 23 Andy noted that IVS has invited N. Fourth Street property owners and developers to the May 9 general meeting for a roundtable discussion of what's been dubbed the "Short Fourth". Andy asked what items the committee wanted to ask the developers. Sherrill noted the importance of re-routing US 23 as a step towards improving safety, and agreed to research the history of US 23's route through Columbus through her connection with Ben McCown, county cartographer.

N. Fourth Street Roundtable The following items should be raised at the round table. (1) the need for an interstate intersection solution that addresses landscaping, speed, and pedestrian and bicycle safety. Sherrill noted that the entrance onto I-670 westbound can remain intact but closure of the exit onto N. Fourth is the best solution without inconveniencing motorists who can exit under the convention center instead. (2) how to address noise from traffic and businesses. Such intrusions could be measured by decibel counting apps for smart phones, and mitigated by landscaping such as tree planting. (3) the committee agreed that the bike lanes have reduced the perception that restoring two way traffic to Summit and Fourth would be helpful. (4) water drainage issues from over paving the neighborhood. Sherrill noted the "de-paving" movement based in Portland Oregon. She suggested the old Second Avenue School and other schools with asphalted perimeters throughout the city would be good candidates; Andy noted the industrial parking lots around Clark Grave Vault at the terminus of E. Fourth Avenue as good candidates for de-paving. Sherrill noted the good example of the Jeffrey de-paving and distributed a handout on Landscapes of Change by Roxi Thoren describing creative ways to incorporate landscaping into new developments. Examples to avoid include the dumping of debris along Summit at I-670. Although it got cleaned up in short order, she noted the continued homeless debris at the rear of 108 E Lincoln over the right of way fence as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

High Street Streetscape Improvements Meeting Andy distributed a flyer noting the upcoming meeting on May 2 at the convention center's Eisenman and Trott Rooms from 4:30 to 7 with presentation from 5:15 to 6pm. The four segments of construction will be discussed, with Phases 1 and 4 already in final design (at the extreme southern and northern edge of the project) and Phases 2 and 3 still in the conceptual stage. Complete replacement of curbs and sidewalks from street to building will widen sidewalks and reduce traffic to one lane each direction with a shared center turn lane. Andy noted that out of a concern for cost and supply considerations, sandstone curbs are probably not applicable here.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:33 pm. Next meeting is May 25, 2017, in the backroom at the brewery at 1101 N. 4th Street.

Respectfully submitted,