

Safe, Vibrant, and Walkable Streets Committee Meeting  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, 7pm to 9pm  
Neighborhood Design Center  
1401 Hollins Street, Baltimore MD

IN ATTENDANCE

Biff Browning  
Scott Kashnow  
JR Lee  
Robert Meyer  
Bill Pickens (Parks and People)  
Catherine Pugh (State Senator)  
Chris Redwood (Chair)  
Elizabeth Weber  
Tony White (Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods Liaison)

I. Committee Report to SWP Board/Status Updates on Projects

3G Grant: declined, as there was too much in the grant proposal, needed to be divided into two sections (design and implementation). Have an opportunity to apply for an upcoming grant in July that would address one of those areas. More information will be shared when it is received. The grant application proposed \$30,000 to flesh out the green infrastructure portion of the Vision Plan

Surveys and assessments: Assessments of street trees, trash, streets, avenues, alleyways, street lighting, and police blue lights. The goal is to assess the condition the neighborhoods and then figure out a game plan to see what could be addressed moving forward.

Outreach brochure: To let absentee landlords know about the community and their responsibilities, especially those related to code enforcement. Different from a promotional brochure as it focuses on the trash related responsibilities of landlords rather than promoting the neighborhoods. A draft has been created but still may need to be edited.

Carey St. Underpass: There has been some progress—emails were sent to city agencies and within nine hours the lights were back on. The combination of all the communities speaking up on an issue has resulted in more speed in addressing issues. Lights on the right side were off during the day, but could have been due to the lighting cycle.

Bill Pickens from Parks and People: Parks and People is working with the B&O and with Southwest Baltimore Charter School on a project to stabilize the B&O's land that abuts Carroll Park and the school. The B&O is committed to looking at conditions related to the street and the sidewalk. DNR (Department of Natural Resources) has a bond to improve the Carey St. underpass. Currently negotiating with a design firm to address the hill side from the SW Baltimore Charter School fence up the hill. In the preliminary design phase, will be at least a year due to the industrial history of the site. The area that will be worked on is from the Carey St. Bridge to SW Baltimore Charter/the B&O.

Amount of work being done will depend on money, but will involve clearing the trees that are in danger of falling on SW Charter. Bond funding has already been guaranteed for the project and the next round of DNR Funding will be announced in July which has the possibility of increasing the amount of work that can be done. At minimum the hill will be cleared and graded to make it a safer environment. Does want to address the safety/security of the area, but are only working with funding for environmental improvements—there is no money to pay for a security fence. Some challenges include seepage under the hill (adds cost), looking at alternatives for a safer retaining wall slope, or a 3:1 cut. Also looking at what else is possible. LDC money could potentially be used for security improvements, and the EPA may provide funding as well, especially for contaminant clean-up.

Bill will send Chris photos of the area to provide a visual guide to what it looks like. Any design plans are too preliminary to share currently. The area begins with a trail that goes up the hill from the Carroll Park skate park. It goes to the B&O's property which isn't cleared and is a site for a lot of crime.

The bridge abutments are deteriorating—the B&O does have a separate bond to fix the bridge, but the funding may not be available until fiscal year 2016. Parks and People is working with the same engineering firm that will work on the bridge to ensure that there is continuity between the two projects.

Parks and People has also been working with the Mount Clare community. Access from Mount Clare across the B&O property to Carroll Park is bigger than any one player and is going to require a planning study. In order to get safe pedestrian across the B&O's right of way it takes a lot of groups—only one active train (the B&O's) runs through it, could be addressed with a coalition. From SWP's perspective, access from Mount Clare to Carroll Park is very big in terms of tying the area together, bringing the park to Mount Clare etc. Chris would like to set up a meeting to get all of the players involved to see what is going on and see what resources are needed. Bif that there is a Federal Historic Railroad Restoration grant that is awarded through the state DOT and has to be requested by the municipality. Can be used for rebuilding infrastructure of the bridge, programming the land around it, used for connecting other notable points. Would be very, very relevant. Bif will provide information about it to Senator Pugh and Tony White.

Baltimore City Bike Plan: Bif and Scott followed up with the bike planner; they were told that bike blvds in the area are in design at this point, once they are drawn enough to share they will be brought back out to the community. Scott mentioned that its important to note that they are bike blvds not bike lanes and so parking will not be affected. Bike racks will also be needed along business corridors. These could potentially be an art/design/branding project.

Eugene Balbiez did a video tour of the issues along the MLK side path footage of that has not been released yet. However, it may only be safe to ride bikes on the path alongside pedestrians because of the poor condition of the path. If the path was improved and bicyclists could ride faster it might not be safe for pedestrians.

Trash: DPW has agreed to provide roll-off dumpsters for clean-ups if they are requested far enough in advance. May make sense to test it. Tony White suggested that the easiest way to get the roll off is to call 311 and get him the SR Number—make sure that the roll-off will be available. In Scott's

experience they (the roll-off dumpsters) show up at 9am and are gone by 1pm. Calling 311 and making sure Tony knows about it will also provide rovers—trash trucks that go to specific areas to pick up trash during clean-ups. Rovers work primarily on the weekends except for special sites with chronic dumping that are part of other projects and initiatives. There should be one designated area for the roll-off dumpster during clean-ups. Rovers should be requested at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance, and roll-offs as soon as possible.

Chris will reach out to the neighborhoods to see if they have chronic sites they would like to have clean-ups with to test the program and then will follow up with Tony and Brandi.

JR has five young people who are going to do clean ups on W. Baltimore Street during the summer as part of YouthWorks, and they are in need of street cans. The young people will be supported through the YouthWorks program and will work 9am to 5pm five days a week for five weeks. They will begin work after school gets out, and will start at the 1000 block and work their way up Baltimore St. Tony White explained that they can request trash trucks at the end of the day, every day, over the course of the program as it is for a YouthWorks project.

Tony will be vising the neighborhood associations and asking for a hot list—trash, vacant houses with grass that needs to be cut, etc. If there is a way that could be coordinated through the Southwest Partnership that would make things easier.

Chris proposed that might also make sense to test out requesting trash cans for some areas. JR: Carrollton and W. Baltimore St would be ideal as it is by a bus stops for three bus lines and is a high visibility intersection. The committee will request a compact trash can for that corner, and Chris, JR, and Tony will walk the area to look at other trash hot spots.

There is a bag over a traffic light on Baltimore St that is causing issues—Tony will have someone come to remove it. Other requests were a Mad Vac to come down South Carrollton to West Lombard because of the trash caked up on the west side of Carrollton Avenue (Chris), and angled parking on Carrollton St. north of the market (already angled on the southern side down to Carrollton Avenue (JR). This will provide more parking and visibility according to JR. Sherry Scible is the parking coordinator for Pigtown and it was suggested to contact her as she may have some ideas.

Carroll Park Rec Center and Pool: The SWP Board and the SVWS Committee previously voted to approve a letter supporting DOCs in the Park in their efforts to get a Regional Rec Center and Pool in Carroll Park. Later learned that DOCs in the Park was not the agency to support (as the letter was written) as they won't actually be implementing the project, only leading the campaign, so the letter was amended. Letter presented to the Committee as a draft and the committee was asked for any suggestions for edits, if any. It will be followed up with a letter writing campaign from individual neighborhood associations and individuals.

## II. Announcements:

Community Organizing students from the UMB School of Social Work will have about three hours a week (could be more) for eight weeks. They could be of use of assessments, consistent reporting across the neighborhoods is an issue. CO students could work with the neighborhood associations to develop standardized data collection methods for the neighborhoods, which could then be used to support

programs such as having middle school students and other volunteers involved.

Michael Seipp, the SWP Executive Director starting on June 9<sup>th</sup>, would like each committee to select one main project to be their priority. This will focus efforts and build accountability into the committee structure of the SWP.

### III. Committee Priority

The priority table at the end of the Vision Plan was developed out of action items in the Vision Plan. Michael and Elizabeth sorted it by committee—the three “must have” action items that the SVWS committee would be primarily responsible for would be establishing neighborhood policing and foot patrols, accessing Carroll Park from the north, and improving the pedestrian safety of the Carey St. underpass and the Monroe St. overpass. These do not have to be the priority goal of the committee, and may not be achievable currently or the most important thing.

Although it is important to be aware of opportunities for projects and not get too rigid, it is also important for the SWP as an organization moving forward to set goals and stick to them.

Sen. Pugh asked if we had about drug treatment facilities in the community and why combating them was not in the overall action items from the Vision Plan. There is nothing about them in the priority table (although there is in the plan) and in her view reform needs to be a major aspect of neighborhood revitalization. Baltimore City is disproportionately affected by the over concentration of these treatment facilities. She is in favor of people receiving treatment but over concentration is harmful to communities and to the people being treated. Other options might include communal settings away from neighborhoods. The Committee discussed the role of the over concentration of treatment facilities in the neighborhood, its role in starting the SWP, as well as the negative effect they have on the area, and the desire for the declustering of clinics in the vicinity of and along West Pratt St. It was stressed to the committee that the University of Maryland BioPark and the University of Maryland Baltimore are not connected to the clinics at all—only the University of Maryland Medical System is.

Scott suggested other projects such as Vincent Street Park which has a Rec Center that is being renovated, renovation of Union Square and Franklin Square comfort stations, and Franklin Square painting boards on vacant buildings.

JR suggested a heritage trail like the ones in Mount Vernon and Upton. This is a competitive grant program through Maryland Historic Trust and would fall under the Preservation and Promotion Committee. Scott is interested in working on it.