

## Grant Road Coalition, Central Segments \* November 26, 2019

Guest: Joe O'Neil, Parks and Recreation project manager Present: Ward III, Durham, Mahon, Kopek;

SAMOS- B. Miller

Jefferson Park-D. Frank, J. Osuna, R. Bolza, J. Daniels, Y. Lorch, C. Prey, S. Trappman, B. Schlanger, C. Nichols, D. Richmond

Sugar Hill – A. Vargas

### TOPIC: Linear Park – Health and Heritage Trail – Jefferson Park

BUDGET: Greg Jackson will be in charge of grant budget. About \$225,000 + \$20,000 left in budget. Approximately \$25,000 already spent on planning, designing, preliminary expenses.

### SEATING/AMENITIES

- Per our earlier discussion at our meeting with Joe, we asked that rather than exercise equipment, some research could be done about providing items that children could use for play or climbing. He included some possible choices of concrete animal and climbing structures. We liked them – he will do some more research to see what he can find.
- We had expressed desire to not have metal seating. Examples of reinforced concrete seating were shown, About 60" long, divided with a concrete divider so they are too short for sleeping! Joe will continue to do more research on what would be suitable.

### SPECIFICATIONS:

- Berms will be 3-4 feet high.
- Path will be decomposed granite. Bob was concerned that there would be no steel edging, but Joe said it was quite expensive, and if the DG begins to shift or deteriorate with time, they will apply some new sealant. Remainder surfaces in park will be larger rocks, presumably to keep DG from dispersing.
- All vegetation will be preserved or moved if viable., as noted on the plans.
- The crosswalk at Fremont will have a colored asphalt overlay applied
- Any work or grading in the alley is not included, as the park goes only up to the property line

### SIGNAGE:

#### Interpretative Signs (5)

- Joe is going to see if their in-house sign people can duplicate what Fossil did on the La Pilita signs, and how costs would compare. If they can't do it, it will be given to Fossil. Still some discussion about the location of sign/signs.
- Joan had concerns about the accuracy of historical signage, requesting a review of the draft versions. Joe says they can be sent to the Historical office to check for absolute accuracy.
- Bids on the metal bases for the signs have ranged from \$750-\$1500. Jason Butler, who did the metal work for the Banner parklet, is interested in bidding. Joe will be sending it to 5 contractors for bids.

Naming Sign (1) Joe is fine with our tiled park sign, and as long as it isn't more than 6 feet high it won't be a problem. It will be mounted on brick or stone, and those costs will be put out for bid. Joe will also drop by the park and give some thought about where the sign should be located.

#### NORTH SIDE OF FREMONT TO SANTA RITA DESIGN:

Regarding the area of the linear park which will be lost with Phase 5-6 of Grant road widening, it was distressing to see how much of the park would be lost. Bob was concerned about basically wasting money on design and construction if it would be lost in the future. Joe says that TDOT cannot leave the area as empty dirt, but any improvements would be on "TDOT's dime". The issue of losing part of the park has not really ever been under discussion it appears. The current design would cause a loss both berms and one section of the path. This hasn't really been brought up with Joe previously, and he said that he will talk with TDOT about it. (See maps and comments at end of these minutes)

#### SCHEDULING:

**November 2019** - Plans sent out for review and comments. Wheat designs will respond, and plans will be resubmitted for permitting next week.

**December 2019** - Plans will go out to bid in late December. Once bids are in, we will be able to select colors for the seating. Nothing bright or neon! Anticipate a contractor on board the end of January. Contractor selected will be able to do everything, including grading and water.

**February 2020**— Contractor on site

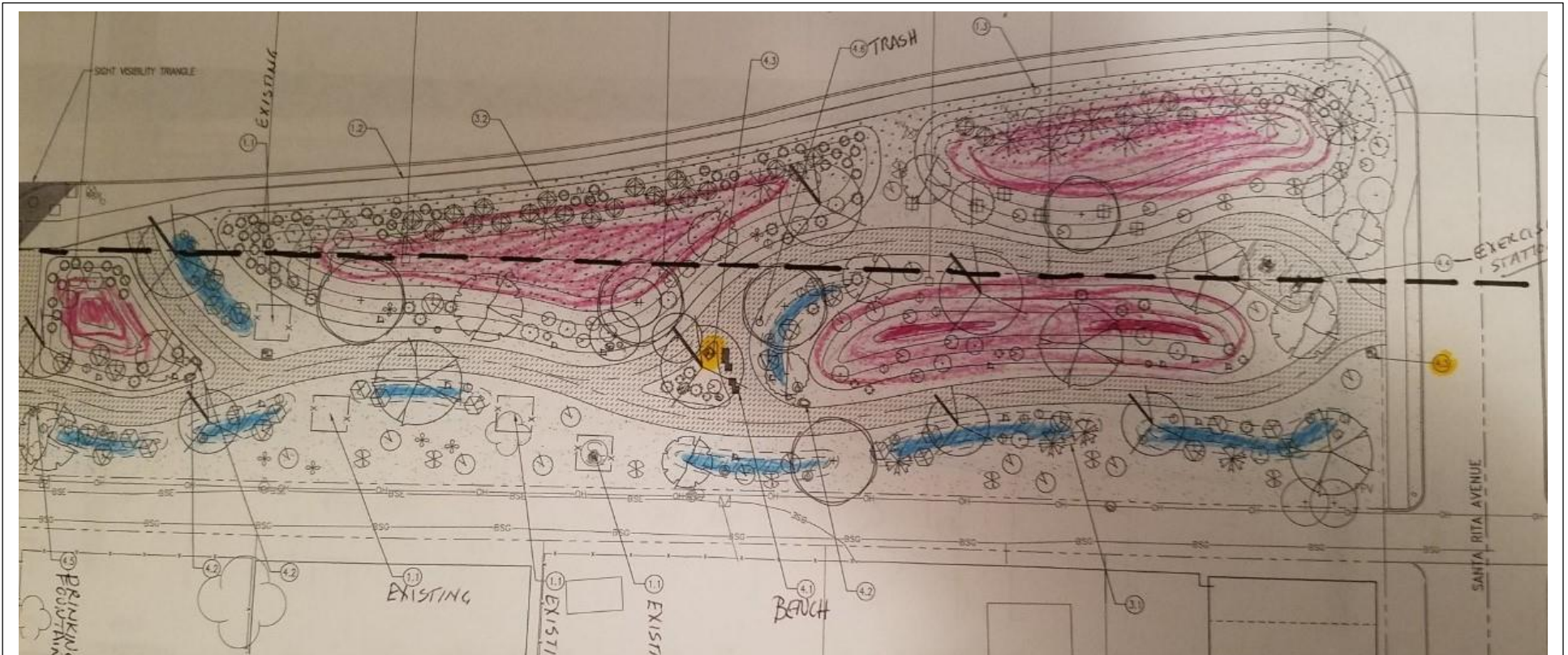
**June 2020** - Project will take 3-4 months. Have to tap into water source, set up drip irrigation. Irrigation will be all "hard line" and on controllers. Parks and Rec will be in charge of watering and schedule.

#### Follow-up business Meeting

- Nick Mahon asked to investigate the possibility of erecting a city sign indicating park bonds at work
- Grant Rd Coalition to consider funding a banner thanking the entities
- Neighborhood Reports
  - SAMOS planted 27 trees
  - SAMOS reports that Mtn/First had successful Porch Fest

Next Coalition meeting in February. December and January cancelled

Attached: Detail of comments on design of north side of Fremont to Santa Rita



Mr O'Neil and Grant Road Coalition:

First, We would like to thank Mr O'Neil for his informative presentation and the neighborhoods and Ward III staff who attended the meeting on Nov 11, 2019. We would like to detail the concerns about the Wheat Design for the block Fremont to Santa Rita. We ask that the design consider the area above the dotted line which is scheduled for demolition in 10 years. We ask that reality be considered and that we be fiscally responsible about the future costs of remodeling the trail.

**BERMS:** The berm areas (red) and the basin areas (blue) - If this coloring is correct the following should be considered

- 1) In 10 years the park will lose 50% of the berms which are designed to mitigate the noise and visual distress of the encroaching road. If the design took that into consideration, the central berm, shown adjacent to the road, should be moved south. There is no guarantee that future TDOT construction would ameliorate the loss of that berm.
- 2) One of the water basins will extend into the cut area

**EXPENSIVE DG PATHWAY**

- 1) A second diverging DG pathway extends up into the projected "take area", unnecessarily. Note that the UA designs did not extend a pathway beyond the demarcation lines. Those plans were viewed and tentatively approved as concepts by the neighborhoods (see one UA proposal below)
- 2) About 30% of the expensive DG pathway will be demolished
- 3) Redesigning and eliminating the cost of the extra 30% of the pathway would help with the budget



**EXERCISE STATIONS WHICH WE HAVE NOW AGREED TO TRANSFORM INTO CLIMBING/SEATING SITES:**

- 1) The pictured exercise station are in the “take” area and are next to Santa Rita Avenue
- 2) Since we are considering them to be changed to seating/climbing possibly for youth, it is advisable that that entity be moved south and away from the streets

**VEGETATION:**

- 1) Several of the trees in the “take area” are of the larger 25 gallon varieties.
- 2) Moving the larger tree plantings south of the “take area” would be a better use of \$. The triangle “take area” could be landscaped with the less expensive but attractive plants—especially of the drought tolerant kind.
- 3) Irrigation system locations might take into consideration the eventual cut off of the watering system north of the line.

At the Nov 7 meeting, I want to apologize for not making these comments at the Nov 7 meeting with Wheat Design present. We did not notice then, the demarcation line. I think the UA “picture” overshadowed our ability to evaluate the current design.

At the Nov 26 meeting, We should not have assumed that TDOT would redesign the park in ten years at their expense. With all the concern about future \$ and with no assurance that TDOT would have the funding, or the will, to “fix” the park we should design carefully now. It feels fiscally irresponsible not to plan for longer than 10 years. If we now can, with simple design changes, accommodate the inevitable, create a permanent park with tree and berm placements that will last, it is incumbent upon us to do so.

Thank you for considering these comments

