

East Ninth April 22 CAC Meeting Summary

MEETING ATTENDED BY: Chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee: Mike Amyx;
ELNA Representatives: Phil Collison, Dave Loewenstein, John Sebelius; **City-at-Large Representatives:** Burdett Loomis, Rev. Verdell Taylor, Margene Swarts;
Downtown Lawrence, Inc Representative: Emily Peterson; **Warehouse Arts District Area Representative:** Tom Larkin; **Lawrence Arts Center Representatives:** Tom Carmody, Ben Ahlvers; **Business Representatives:** Will Ogle, Marcia Hill; **Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission Representative:** Katherine Simmons; **LiveWell Lawrence Healthy Built Environment Workgroup Representative:** Tim Herndon; **el dorado inc:** Josh Shelton, David Dowell, Kara Schippers; **Lead Artist Sans Façon:** Charles Blanc, Tristan Surtees; **Team Historian:** Dennis Domer

Date: April 22, 2015

Time: 7:00PM-8:45PM

Agenda Topic #1: Project Status Update

- A. Work accomplished since last CAC meeting
- B. Upcoming milestones/work during May

Notes:

Josh from el dorado inc gave an overview of project progress thus far by showing the preliminary survey work Bartlett & West has completed and by highlighting the Public Workshops that took place throughout the month of April. He thanked workshop participants for a great turnout and willingness to share at each event and reiterated the how important the information gathered at each workshop will be for the design process. Josh also pointed out that the Work Plan for the project is due on May 5th and reminded attendees that the next CAC meeting takes place on May 27.

Agenda Topic #2: CAC Diagram

Notes:

Josh and Kara from el dorado inc explained the structure and makeup of the CAC by discussing a diagram that lists each CAC member, the stakeholder group they are representing, and their connection to the project and links them all to a specific place on a map of East Lawrence. This place is different for each member, some are linked to where they live, others to where they work or contribute their time. They explained that the photos and brief narratives were provided by each CAC member and that the diagram will be printed off in a large format for display at all upcoming CAC meetings and posted on the City's project website (<https://www.lawrenceks.org/9th-street-corridor-project/citizen-advisory-committee>) in a printable, 11"x17" format.

Agenda Topic #3: Project Identification

- A. "Freestate Boulevard"; "9th Street Corridor"
- B. *East Ninth*

Notes:

Josh addressed the change in project name by explaining the shift in how the project has been talked about over time. The project was referred to as "Freestate Boulevard" when the ArtPlace grant was written, and as the project moved forward it was known as the "9th Street Corridor Project". In an effort to simplify the project's working title, Josh suggested it simply be referred to as "East Ninth" from now on. He explained that this name is a placeholder, and that in the future the streetscape may take on a more specific name and logo as the project progresses.

Agenda Topic #4: *East Ninth*: Statement of Values

Notes:

Tristan from Sans Façon presented a list of value statements the Design Team drafted for the project. Here is the Statement of Values presented:

1. Project will be transparent
2. Project will be equitable and civic
3. Project will value a diversity of perspective
4. Project will be respectful of its place
5. Project will be responsive to its place

He explained that this is a working list and invited comments and suggestions for additions. Notes from this conversation are listed below and don't represent direct quotes but are rather summaries of the overall sentiments of each response.

Will Ogle: Which businesses are consulted? Just those around 9th Street or should we branch out a block or two? Rather than arranging a walkabout with business owners, it might be better to just stop in at area businesses and talk with them individually and arrange a group walkabout later.

Mike Amyx: Looking at #4, the project should be respectful of its people – the residents of East Lawrence.

Rev. Verdell Taylor: In regards to value #3, what do you mean by diversity?

Tristan Surtees: Diversity means that we come with an open mind and listen to all sides. We welcome all points of view even they are opposing.

Dave Loewenstein: I am happy we are using a Statement of Values because we can consult them to check-in in regards to project progress, but these are too general. Both good plans and bad plans could fit into these criteria. Going back to the term equitable in value #2, I think equity is an acknowledgement that different people have varying accessibility to power. We should give the Statement of Values more teeth and expand them to make them more specific.

Tristan Surtees: The CAC will help to expand the Statement of Values; We have presented them in their current state and are totally amendable.

Phil Collison: Going back to the term equitable, the CAC members represent different groups that have different values. I want to hear what every stakeholder group thinks about the project. How do we find out what their goals are? This process is give and take, and East Lawrence will give a lot.

Burdett Loomis: Sometimes it is better to step away from specific motivations. Many of us have multiple connections and points of view.

Katherine Simmons: What about adding a value statement about embracing engagement? We want to celebrate engagement from beginning to end, not just during the design process but also during construction, execution, and during future uses.

Tom Larkin: The infusion of arts and design in what is typically a purely civil engineering project should also be recognized in the Statement of Values somehow. This is what sets this project and Lawrence apart – it is different from other communities.

Dave Loewenstein: Whose values are these? Are we reviewing the Design Team's values?

Josh Shelton: We listened to each CAC member's definition of project success at our first meeting along with their fears and concerns about the project. We also picked up on things at neighborhood walkabouts and the Public Workshops. We used those insights to put together the Statement of Values. We were asked to assemble these values as a reflection of who we are and how we operate as a design team. The value statements are meant to be guiding principles for how the project should unfold and how the design team and the CAC should structure their interactions.

Marcia Hill: The Statement of Values shouldn't be more specific – they are just an umbrella.

Tim Herndon: All of these things are abstract; a Statement of Values is a tough thing to put together. This list guides us as we make our way to a built project.

Ben Ahlvers: The current list is a great foundation.

Burdett Loomis: Regarding value statement #1, could we just add “and encourage engagement” to the end? So it would read “1. Project will be transparent and encourage engagement.” This could be a bridge between the general and specific.

Josh Shelton: If #4 and #5 are followed, specificity is naturally encouraged. But let’s take this discussion to a group email.

Will Ogle: What about accessibility?

Josh Shelton: ADA Accessibility, and accessibility in general, will be a top priority in the design of the project.

Agenda Topic #5: Workshop Review/Discussion

Notes:

David from el dorado inc provided a recap of the Complete Street/Urban Design Public Workshop. He explained that the Design Team is excited about expanding the definition of a complete street and that one of our goals with the project is to embrace its complexity. David recalled some of the specific insights workshop participants shared with the Design Team: there is heavy truck traffic at the east and west ends of the street and lots of kids on foot in the middle blocks, all lighting strategies considered should be sensitive and responsive to the needs of each block, and the street should be able to accommodate diverse programming from parking to parklets to emergency vehicle traffic. He also mentioned hearing lots of thoughts about the number and types of trees in the area.

Charles from Sans Façon summed up the Public Art workshop and thanked all participants for their valuable contributions. Charles reiterated that the design has not yet been decided upon and that the Design Team will use the information collected on the boards during all of the workshops to move forward with the project.

Tristan added that because the workshops were such a success, there is a general feeling that we should move the workshops out onto the street itself. These outdoor workshops could activate the space and provide an opportunity to test out some of the Design Team’s initial strategies. He then invited comments on this idea.

John Sebelius: The workshops and the walkabouts have been really positive, the more time we can spend on the street, the better.

Tristan wrapped up the discussion by asking if the CAC members would be willing to help in the undertaking of the aforementioned outdoor workshops.

In reference to the upcoming May 5 Work Plan deadline, Phil Collison asked Josh to explain what the Work Plan is. Josh explained that it will serve as a sort of project playbook and will contain specific approaches for how the Design Team will complete each phase of the project.

The meeting concluded at 8:45. The next project meeting will be May 27th at 7PM at the Lawrence Public Library.