



Callander Associates
Landscape Architecture, Inc.



Via email only

May 13, 2008

Workshop Summary
23rd Streetscape Improvement Project

RE: Community Workshop #2

May 10, 2008, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

(6 pages)

Attendees: See sign-in sheets

City:

Michael Williams, Richmond Community and Redevelopment Agency

Alan Wolken, Richmond Community and Redevelopment Agency

Hector Rojas, Richmond Planning Department

Daniel Ponce, Richmond Community and Redevelopment Agency

Consultants:

Brian Fletcher, Callander Associates, (650)375-1313, bfletcher@callanderassociates.com

Peter Callander, Callander Associates, (650)375-1313, pcallander@callanderassociates.com

Tracey Adams, Callander Associates, (650)375-1313, tadams@callanderassociates.com

Marsha Pendergrass, Pendergrass Smith Consulting, (415)468-9168, marsha@pendergrasssmith.com

Manti Henriquez, Pendergrass Smith Consulting

The following information was discussed and/or decided upon in our meeting.

Item

1. Welcome and project background

- Macdonald Ave. redevelopment plan and implementation has been a learning experience that has helped to provide direction for the redevelopment process for 23rd Street

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Landscape Architecture
Urban Design
Land Planning
Park and Recreation Planning
Environmental Planning

Peter E. Callander, ASLA, Principal
A. Mark Slichter, ASLA, Principal
Brian G. Fletcher, ASLA, Principal
Erik Smith, ASLA, Principal
Benjamin W. Woodside, ASLA, Principal

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- The process is intended to be taken from planning through to construction

2. Introductions and Roles

- City staff introduction – key staff Alan, Michael, Hector, Daniel
- Callander team introduction – project team Brian, Peter, Tracey, Marsha

3. Project overview

What is the project?

- Continuation of previous planning efforts
- Opportunity to focus attention on 23rd Street
- Working with community to develop a plan for street improvements
- Intended to go as quickly as possible from plan to construction of improvements

What is the goal?

- Make 23rd Street a vibrant shopping district
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Calm traffic
- Celebrate community character
- Others? – What are the goals of the community?

4. Community Outreach process overview

Five Community Workshops

Workshop 1 (May 8, 2008)

Workshop 2 (May 10, 2008)

Workshop 3 (August 14, 2008)

Workshop 4 (September 25, 2008)

Workshop 5 (December 11, 2008)

Planning Commission Review

Redevelopment Agency/City Council Review

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Website

www.ci.richmond.ca.us/23rdstreet

5. General Discussion (Comments and Concerns)

- Remove visual pollution (e.g. signage, graffiti)
- Need to promote safety (improve lighting)
- Provide opportunities for residents to express artistically and beautify the community
- Improvements should extend all the way to Broadway (Bissell Ave. to Broadway is a “no man’s land”)
- Screen car lots
- Provide medians
- Provide more trees
- Need to have a signage program and enforce signage regulations
- Provide benches
- Need more traffic signals
- Preference for palms
- Provide more street lights
- Need wider sidewalks
- Prostitution is a problem at Dunn Ave. - need more lighting
- Use speed bumps to slow traffic coming off of 23rd St onto cross streets
- There is a great taco truck at Brooks Ave. – need to provide more seating, shade (good area to provide an outdoor market place)
- Chavez Park needs more park improvements
- Need more small businesses
- Angled parking preferred
- Parking is difficult to find north of Rheem Ave
- Need to provide more visible crosswalks throughout (flashing lights)
- Medians will speed up traffic

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- Place angled parking on wider side streets to allow for bike lane on 23rd Street
- Provide planters or hanging baskets with flowers, not just trees, the street needs more color
- Current street lights do not provide enough light
- Too much graffiti, provide murals on walls
- Area from Brooks Ave to Garvin Ave does not feel safe
- Use materials like brick for sidewalks
- Provide a gateway entry sign at Bissell Ave
- Lower the speed limit – too much speeding
- Provide two-way traffic throughout
- Crosswalk flashers are not effective enough – make crosswalks more visible
- Children crossing at Grant Ave. from elementary school need to improve intersection
- Provide small park between Roosevelt Ave and Grant Ave
- Need bike lanes and racks
- Restaurants feel too spread out
- Businesses need façade improvements
- Need more police
- Too hot, provide large shade trees
- Change to two way traffic all the way to Broadway
- Do not obstruct vision at intersections with medians
- Break medians at mid-block intersections
- Preserve historic buildings and structures
- Refurbish historic signs
- Give people a reason to get out of their cars and get out on the street
- Open restaurants in the evenings – get people out on the street later in the day
- Provide parking near businesses
- More street furniture – trash cans, seating, bus shelters, way finding signage
- Provide striping not dots
- Solano Ave. in Albany, 4th Street in Berkeley, Valencia in San Francisco are good examples of successful streets (slow traffic, visible businesses, wide sidewalks, pedestrian friendly)

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6. Wish List –

Prioritization exercise where each attendee chooses five amenities they most desire

Results: List of amenities in order of preference

1. Street trees
2. Street lights (signature lighting for 23rd Street)
3. Bulb outs
4. Wider sidewalks
5. Medians
6. Angled parking
7. Plaza
8. Art
9. Raised crosswalks
10. Seating
11. Market place
12. Bike lanes
13. Bike racks
14. Kiosks
15. Bus shelters
16. Trash cans
17. Public restrooms

7. Wrap up

- Future Community Workshops will be held
 - Workshop 3 (August 14, 2008)
 - Workshop 4 (September 25, 2008)
 - Workshop 5 (December 11, 2008)
 - Veteran's Hall, 968 23rd Street, 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Please contact Tracey Adams (650)375-1313 tadams@callanderassociates.com



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with any additional information that you feel is missing from this discussion or any additional comments and concerns you would like to contribute.

-END-

The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed and decisions reached at the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. If you have any questions, additions, or corrections to this memo, please contact this office in writing within three days.

Submitted by:

Tracey Adams

Callander Associates

cc: All attendees