



City of Santa Barbara

DE LA GUERRA PLAZA REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 19, 2020

8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

This meeting was conducted electronically

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

City Council

Kristen Sneddon *Chair*
Meagan Harmon

Planning Commission

Lesley Wiscomb *Vice Chair*
Barrett Reed

Historic Landmarks Commission

Michael Drury
Julio Juan Veyna

Parks and Recreation Commission

Beebe Longstreet
Roger Perry

Santa Barbara Certified Farmers' Market

Sam Edelman

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Anne Petersen, Ph.D.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

None

STAFF:

Brad Hess, Principal Project Manager
Sara Iza, Senior Planner
Phil Davis, Engineering Technician

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sneddon opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Kristen Sneddon, Lesley Wiscomb, Meagan Harmon, Jay Higgins, Michael Drury, Beebe Longstreet, and Anne Petersen, Ph.D.

Absent: Julio Juan Veyna, Roger Perry, and Sam Edelman

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Casey, City Administrator
Jill Zachary, Parks & Recreation Director
Brad Hess, Principal Project Manager
Sara Iza, Senior Planner
Rob Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager
Kathleen Kennedy, Project Planner
Nicole Hernandez, Associate Planner/ Urban Historian
Phil Davis, Engineering Technician

INVITED SPEAKERS

Lief McKay, RRM Design Group
Debbie Lagomarcino Rudd, RRM Design Group

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Announcements

No announcements.

B. Agenda review/Changes

No changes to the agenda

III. AGENDA ITEMS

TIME: 8:39 A.M.

A. Draft Concept Drawing ([Click here for Staff Report link](#))

Mr. Hess and Mr. Dayton briefly reflected on the importance of the Purpose Statement which explains “why” the City should redesign the plaza. Ms. Lagomarcino Rudd and Mr. McKay then presented the draft concept drawing of the re-imagined plaza which shows “how” the City may potentially redesign the plaza. Staff, presenters, and Committee Members reached the following conclusions regarding the following topics:

Topics from Draft Concept Drawing

Parking and Traffic

- Prioritize pedestrian use instead of public vehicle through traffic, although plaza should still allow access for service vehicles (i.e. trash pick-up, business deliveries, utility maintenance, etc.) and emergency vehicles.
- Number of parking spots on De La Guerra St is pending the results of the parking and traffic study which should estimate amount of parking generally needed by the public to do business at City Hall.
- Closure of De La Guerra St will be heavily influenced on whether the City proceeds with closing State St within the downtown corridor.

Stage and Arcade

- Stage for entertainment is proposed to move to the east side of the plaza so that it is positioned next to City Hall and will include an arcade structure as a backdrop. The arcade structure is a simple arch structure which cohesively connects with the architecture of City Hall. Having City Hall in the background of the stage and arcade could function as an important symbol.
- Considered moving the stage to the north side of the plaza so that it is positioned in front of the Trust for Historic Preservation. Although this orientation was thought to strengthen the connection between the Plaza and the Trust, this orientation was not chosen, because the staged events could overwhelm the presence of the Trust and block the Casa from being seen.
- Include electrical outlets in the stage and arcade to provide power for staged events.

Landscaping

- Preserving the lawn is not preferred
- Emphasize activating the sides/edges of the plaza
- Planting of trees needed to provide balance to hardscape features.

Restrooms

- Inclusion of restroom is essential.
- Prefer not to position the restroom within the central space of the plaza, rather locate the restroom in the City Hall parking lot or Storke Placita.
- Make design discrete.

Connectivity to surrounding area

- Extend the Plaza design instead of limiting design to the u-shaped area.
- On De La Guerra St, extend the Plaza design eastward to Anacapa St, including the north side of City Hall and the south side of the El Paseo, and extend the design westward to State St.
- Extend the design in the Storke Placita corridor all the way to State St.
- Strengthen the connection between the Plaza and the Casa de la Guerra.
- Strengthen connection of west side of the Plaza with the back of the stores while preserving the scalloped wall as identified in the Historic Structures/Sites Report.

Focal Points

- Considered including water splash features or another attention drawing feature within the circular focal points

Family Area

- The water splash feature in the focal point could potentially draw families and children to function as a family area.

Food Kiosk

- Mixed sentiments on including a food kiosk in the Plaza. Considered allowing kiosk if placed in Storke Placita or outside the central area of the Plaza and if made portable.

Shading

- Plant large trees that provide shade; trees most likely will not be able to provide immense shade until trees mature in about 10 -15 years.
- Considered using umbrellas to provide shade.

Seating

- Being considered in concept but exact layout not determined yet.

Pavement

- Implement art in pavement to compliment the space of the Plaza. Considered inviting the public to an art competition to choose an art style for the pavement.

Fiesta

- Coordinate design with Old Spanish Days so that design can accommodate vendors and their booths that participate in Mercado de la Guerra.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments from members of the public pertaining to items on the agenda or on any subject within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee. Due to time constraints, each person is limited to two minutes.

Public comment opened at 10:05 a.m., and the following individuals spoke:

1. Dennis Thompson, local architect, appreciates public process and direction of design. Prefers closing De La Guerra St from State St to Anacapa St for vehicle traffic use. Prefers a simple flat arcade feature rather than a three-dimensional arcade structure. Considers northern portion of Storke Placita as preferred location for kiosk or restroom.
2. Jaime Slone, winery owner, proposed maintaining the Plaza for passive use on Saturdays to encourage weekend foot traffic to support businesses within the Plaza. Commented that parking spaces on De La Guerra St are convenient for shoppers buying heavy items.
3. Katie Grassini, winery owner, emphasized enhancing connection to State St to draw crowds, especially if De La Guerra St becomes closed to vehicle traffic. Supports attention drawing features in the Plaza like a statue or guiding bronze tracks in the pavement that can educate visitors of the history of the City and the history of the surrounding neighborhood. Inclined towards including restrooms, adding the arcade feature and removing the lawn. Supports keeping Casa de la Guerra visible during Fiesta.
4. Marilyn Loperfido recommends preserving lawn or at a minimum, plan to have grass along the proposed water features. Argues that soft and natural features as opposed to hard scape features are more enjoyable by visitors.

Public comment closed at 10:13 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

July 31, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Meeting to be held remotely.