



City of Santa Barbara

DE LA GUERRA PLAZA REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 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

Ms. Sneddon opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Kristen Sneddon, Lesley Wiscomb, Meagan Harmon, Barret Reed, Beebe Longstreet, Roger Perry, and Anne Petersen, Ph.D.

Absent: Julio Juan Veyna, Michael Drury* and Sam Edelman

*Arrived late

STAFF PRESENT

Brian D'Amour, Acting Public Works 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: 8:36 A.M.

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

Mr. Hess introduced the agenda item and then Mr. McKay gave the consultant presentation. The Committee had the following comments regarding the topics listed below:

Underground Dumpsters – Trash, Recycling & Compost

- Overall, the Committee supports the concept of installing underground dumpsters, and feels the concept embraces the City's potential toward becoming a smart city.
- Staff will research the installation and maintenance cost estimates
- Staff will research the trash system's capabilities to reduce or contain odor; staff currently assumes that the concrete sublayer underneath the height adjustable ground surface and increasing the pick-up frequency can reduce or contain odor.
- Staff will research whether trash systems are manufactured with a precautionary overflow notification.
- Staff confirmed that the height adjustable ground surface, which conceals the underground dumpsters, can be aesthetically modified to match the City's desired design style. The weight of the chosen ground surface material could be a limiting factor.
- Staff confirmed that the underground dumpsters would be paired with above ground waste receptacles that channels the trash into the underground dumpsters. These particular above ground waste receptacles would be limited to authorized users, primarily the Plaza tenants and businesses; whereas, there would be standard above ground waste receptacles for the general public to freely use.

Restrooms in Storke Placita

- Committee still prioritizes a self-cleaning restroom
- Committee prefers an all gender restroom.
- Staff confirmed that the restroom stay within 15 feet from the north Storke Placita wall, staying clear of the 35 feet pedestrian easement that extends from the southern Storke Placita property line.

- The Storke Placita will have the same amount of walking space with the inclusion of the restroom, because the restroom will be built over what is currently the landscaped area.
- Restroom is planned to match the City's desired design style.
- Committee considered whether placing restroom and trash receptacles for underground dumpsters would crowd the space in Storke Placita too much and not contribute to creating an inviting connection to State St. This will be studied.

Café Kiosk

- Committee supportive of locating kiosk in the southwestern corner of the Plaza which is near the northeastern corner of Stork Placita. Locating the kiosk in this location will assist with screening the restrooms from the view of the Plaza.
- Committee emphasized that choosing a visible location for the kiosk will increase its usage.
- Committee prefers to know the selection of foods and beverages planned to be sold at the kiosk so that it does not compete with surrounding food and beverage businesses.
- Committee suggested that the kiosk be flexible for multiple uses, such as flowers, fresh produce, etc.
- Committee requested that the kiosk be reconsidered for temporary usage and to be designed to be mobile, if feasible.

Lighting

- Committee recommend that staff evaluate if the existing light poles provide enough security lighting and achieve ambient lighting. Staff will also determine the historical significance of the existing light poles. Committee prefers to preserve the look of the existing light poles, so staff will research amount of feasible modifications to the light poles like raising the height.
- Committee recommended that staff research the lighting guidelines as defined in the El Pueblo Viejo Design Guidelines which include content for up-lighting.
- Use of up-lighting considered as an option to provide supplemental ambient lighting to the Plaza, showcasing the historic buildings, landscaping, and highlight the planned splash pad.
- Committee very supportive of providing lighting that highlights the frame and architecture of the planned arcade and to highlight the architecture of the surrounding buildings. Staff will need to research the public process for implementing ambient lighting onto private property to match planned lighting in the Plaza.
- Committee commented that the use of projection lighting may be an innovative way to introduce public art as well as historic imagery into the Plaza.
- (I never heard this said...)
- Committee agreed that the string and pendant lighting may not be most suited as a permanent option for lighting, since string and pendant lighting is seen as a lighting option for special events and could negatively affect views during the day.
- The use of furniture accented lighting was not heavily considered by the Committee, since the concept for the including furniture in the Plaza has not been determined yet.

Shading

- Committee does not prefer the concept of the permanent shading canopies.
- Committee preferred to have more mature trees installed in the Plaza to provide shade and consider installing more shading in the center of the Plaza.
- Staff will reference the historic photos of shading canopies that once draped over the paseos and consider reintroducing the historic shading canopies as an alternative option for permanent shading structures.

Landscaping

- Committee recommended that staff implement a variety of trees in the Plaza to reflect the City's reputation for diverse plant species.
- Committee recommended to supplement the base of the trees with plant foliage.

Splash Pad

- Committee supportive of incorporating splash pad feature, especially for use during days with high temperatures.
- Committee supportive of current location of the splash pad in the focal point in front of the planned arcade, however, Committee also asked staff to consider the other focal point in front of City Hall.
- Committee emphasized that staff should consider the operations and timing of the splash pad.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Public comment opened at 9:46 a.m., and the following individuals spoke:

1. Mr. Donald Perkins asked whether the proposed waste containers are capable of compacting the waste and if there is a risk of a mechanical jam. Staff responded that the answers are unknown at this time, but staff will further research those features.
2. Ms. Nancy Caponi asked if there has been consultation with the City's Access Advisory Committee. Staff responded no, and will plan to seek consultation in the future. Staff later added that the current design concept has been addressing (American Disabilities Act) ADA needs, but the Access Advisory Committee has not formally reviewed the concept yet.
3. Ms. Katie Grassini applauded the concept, particularly the proposed lighting and the underground dumpsters.
4. Ms. Betsy Cramer asked if there has been a public poll to gauge public approval. Staff responded yes, and mentioned the initial public outreach conducted in March 2019. Ms. Cramer expanded that the public poll conducted by The American Institute of Architects (AIA) can serve as an example.

5. Ms. Edith Caldwell, business owner at 8 E. De La Guerra St, recommended that the Committee consider including the play structures that she previously provided to the Committee into the concept for the Plaza. Ms. Caldwell also remarked that she did not wish to have large trees block her view of the Plaza and commented that the proposed shade structures looked too contemporary.
6. Ms. Jill Agonias, business owner at 25 E. De La Guerra St, voiced concern of construction noise and access impacts to her yoga studio. Staff responded that the construction will occur in phases to accommodate access to businesses, will keep business owners informed of the schedule, and the construction will comply with allowed City working days and hours and noise levels.
7. Ms. Mary Louise Days also commented that the proposed shade structures looked too modern and inquired to see more details on the arcade concept. Ms. Days asked if the Caesar's Alley will also be included in the design concept. Staff responded no, because the Caesar's Alley is not part of the Storke Placita proper.

Public comment closed at 9:59 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Friday, November 20, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Meeting to be held remotely