



City of Santa Barbara

DE LA GUERRA PLAZA REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES NOVEMBER 20, 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
Steve Hausz

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 8:36 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Sam Edelman

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Casey, City Administrator
Rebecca Bjork, Public Works Director
Jill Zachary, Parks & Recreation Director
Rob Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager
Brad Hess, Principal Project Manager
Sara Iza, Senior Planner
Kathleen Kennedy, Project Planner
Nicole Hernandez, Project Planner and Urban Historian
Phil Davis, Engineering Technician
Rachel Becerra, Administrative Assistant

INVITED SPEAKERS

Lief Mckay, RRM Design Group
Debbie Lagomarcino Rudd, RRM Design Group
Ann Kale, Ann Kale Associates (AKA) Architectural Lighting

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Announcements

Mr. Hess announced that Steve Hausz has replaced Julio Juan Veyna on the Advisory Committee and that the Agenda will be updated accordingly.

B. Agenda review/Changes

None

III. AGENDA ITEMS

TIME: 8:40 A.M.

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

Mr. Hess gave a brief recap of the Purpose Statement and gave status updates on a few existing design matters. Mr. McKay, Ms. Lagomarcino Rudd and Ms. Kale presented the latest updates of the concept drawing.

The Committee had the following comments regarding each topic

Art

Art Nodes

Committee in favor of implementing the art nodes as an artistic means of telling the history of Santa Barbara. Prefer to have local artists design the nodes. Suggests possibly adding lighting element to nodes to spur more interest with children. Consider randomizing the location of the nodes so that visitors can find and learn about the nodes with a visitor's map of the Plaza. History and Art can come together to tell different stories, celebrate heritage, and the Santa Barbara history

Splash Pad

Some of the Committee prefer to swap the location of the splash pad from the focal point in front of the stage and arcade to the focal point closer to De La Guerra St for simultaneous activation of the stage and splash pad. Moving closer to De La Guerra St may draw more attention from visitors on De La Guerra St. and State St.; however, there is a slight concern about splash pad use interrupting City Hall and Chambers business.

Sculptures

Committee did not prefer the pair of flamenco dancers as an art sculpture option, because Flamenco dancing is not truly representative with the origins of the Plaza. Committee was more in favor of the cylindrical sculpture due to its lighting element at night; however, there were some concerns on the design of the cylindrical sculpture. One suggestion is to simplify the design of the sculpture and another suggestion was to reconsider the placement and orientation of the text. The sculpture would orient the text backwards so that the lighting at night would project legibly, however, during the day the text on the

sculpture would read backwards. Some expressed concern over a sculpture in that location.

Footprints

The Committee members that commented on the footprints appreciate the unique design of the footprints as a way to lead visitors from State Street to the Plaza and its contrast to the rest of the symmetrical design of the Plaza. Staff to explore other ideas that will serve the same effect.

Materials

Surface Materials

Most of Committee did not prefer the use of the red bricks, despite its benefit of being easily removable for underground utility maintenance. Committee prefers the use of more natural stone materials, such as continuing the sandstone/flagstone material from El Paseo to the Plaza. Committee members also expressed content for the mosaic pavers as a pavement option and one member did not prefer the colored salted concrete as a pavement option.

Raised Planters

All committee members are in favor of using the colorful mosaic tiles on the outside of the tree wells.

Storm Water Grates

Committee members are in favor of using the artistic ironwork or another similar artistic design for the storm water drain grates as opposed to standard storm water drain grates.

Lighting – Committee will discuss at December 18, 2020 meeting

Trees – Committee will discuss at December 18, 2020 meeting

Kiosk – Committee will discuss at December 18, 2020 meeting

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 10:09 a.m., and the following individuals spoke:

1. Ms. Mary Louise Days acknowledged that the concept has elements from other communities, but prefers if the concept would highlight Santa Barbara elements. Concerned about potentially relocating historic palm tree currently in the Plaza and concerned that new trees planned for the Plaza may block the view of the surrounding buildings. Also raised concerned that the Fiesta tents/booths may block the view of the Casa de la Guerra. Does not like using the flamenco statue, as an art piece in the focal point, and suggests that an art focal piece may not be necessary. Would prefer to see more greenery in the plaza center, and a more detail design of the arcade. Appreciates maintaining historical accuracy with selection of paved materials.
2. Mr. Barry Remis expressed excitement about the lighting elements highlighting the splash pad and other features. Supports swapping the locations of the splash pad and art sculpture focal points. Favors the mosaic material for its “Mediterranean vibe” and “old world look” and does not prefer the brick paver material. For storm water management, Remis concurs that the metal/iron work has a “stylish” and “classy” appearance, but cautioned staff to be mindful of liability impacts with material selection. Supports the “fantastic” landscaping, likes the connection to State Street and feels that the connection would bring people into the Plaza from State Street. Recommends incorporating bike lanes and bike parking. Hopes Plaza will have ADA compliance to accommodate all visitors.

Public comment closed at 10:14 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

December 18, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Meeting will be held electronically