

Logan Square/Parkway Neighborhood Plan Update

Community Meeting October 23, 2018; Draft Recommendations

Community Comments resulting from Small Group Discussions after Presentation of Draft Recommendations at Public Meeting of October 23, 2018

1. Quality of Life- Open Space

1.1 Multiple comments about the need to address the continuing adverse effects of large-scale Parkway events on the neighborhood in the plan recommendations (thus far not addressed in update recommendations)

- Underutilized open space is not necessarily a negative. Open space on the Parkway is sometimes overutilized by events that negatively impact the neighborhood by severely disrupting public and private transportation for successive days at a time. Amplified sound, accumulated trash, alcohol and drug induced behavior are also common negative results of some Parkway events
- Neighborhood should benefit more from Parkway events. Concern expressed over trash and lack of effective cleanup after events
- The Parkway needs to be restored to a better condition after large events

1.5 Comment on need for a detailed physical planning design study for the derelict open space under the Vine Expressway at 24th Street

1.7 Several comments about the need to address deteriorated sidewalks and leaking SEPTA tracks at 21st, 22nd and 23rd Street underpasses as a priority.

1.8 Several comments about need to make improvement of the 2200 block of Cuthbert Street a high priority

- concern over the lack of response from SEPTA to complaints about the leaking and deteriorated track superstructure above
- 311 calls made to City but no response
- Use of 2200 block of Cuthbert Street will increase significantly with completion of construction of the 23rd and Cherry Street development as it will be the primary access to the 22nd Street Schuylkill Expressway access ramp. PMC should be involved in approaching the city and SEPTA re improvements. SEPTA should be held accountable

1.9 Comment on need for feasibility study for capping of Vine Expressway depressed sections

1.10 Several comments regarding support for continuation of the recently completed elevated section of Rail Park within the cut section of the former City Branch Right of Way in Logan Square, and making this a high priority.

- The section providing a link from the completed first phase to Community College should be a high priority
- The cut section park can take advantage of the recent and ongoing adjacent development

- Higher density zoning bonus for parcels adjacent the cut may be appropriate to support investment in the park

2. Transportation

2.1 Comments on need to make simple bike and pedestrian improvements at Eakins Oval a high priority. Short term technical fixes such as additional crosswalks to Eakins Oval should be a priority. A suggestion was made to restrict traffic on the Parkway at weekends, like West River Drive

2.2 A widened sidewalk is needed west of 24th Street and the Parkway at River Field

2.5 Development of a plan to address parking, congestion and pedestrian safety at the WaWa at 21st and Hamilton should be a high priority

2.9 Several comments about the need to make Bike Coalition enhancements a high priority including the following additional bike transportation improvement recommendations

- Continue green painted bicycle lanes on the Parkway east to 16th Street
- Close an additional traffic lane in each direction on the Parkway
- Extend bike lanes on JFK Boulevard and Market Street to 20th Street and 30th Street

Additional Comments:

Several comments about the need to repair the deteriorated sidewalks around Logan Square fountain as a priority

3. Development

3.1 Multiple comments about the need to protect older and smaller scale residential areas in Logan Square Village as a high priority, including expressions of support for potential historic designations and a neighborhood conservation district

3.4 Comment about need to maintain existing 125-foot height limit for Liberty Trust block development to avoid adverse impacts on views from Kennedy House

3.9 Several comments regarding support for development of housing for a wide range of incomes including middle income and affordable housing units in new developments

3.10 Comment that the role of a Community Development Corporation could be significantly broader than just assistance in implementation and management of open space

3.11. Multiple comments about the need to improve the Civic Design Review process and give it more teeth. Several comments in support of a 2-stage review process to provide initial design guidance to the developer

Additional Comments:

Comment that potential future redevelopment of the Target store block was not discussed in the draft recommendations

Several comments on need to review the adverse nuisance noise impacts on neighboring residences from use of outdoor space, including roof terraces, decks and balconies etc., and need for consideration of curfew hours

General

Additional community comments

- Recommendations presented focus on the west side of the neighborhood. The entire neighborhood including the east side of the neighborhood around Community College should also be addressed
- Need to develop recommendations to address the adverse neighborhood impacts of construction activity, including demolition and construction hazards and compliance with safety regulations. Light and noise impacts and trash disposal from new construction is an issue
- LSNA web site should be improved
- Neighborhood cleanliness is an issue in some areas and is inconsistent. Additional trash cans on Winter Street were suggested
- Need to focus on timeframe of recommendations and development of priorities
- Recommendations could be classified as immediate shovel ready projects and longer-range projects. Procedural issues need to be addressed and timeline established
- One discussion group listed the following priority recommendations projects, in the following order of priority:
 1. Improve deteriorated 2200 block of Cuthbert Street to accommodate increased traffic from 23rd and Cherry development (1.8)
 2. Repair deteriorated sidewalks under JFK Boulevard at 21st, 22nd and 23rd Streets (1.7)
 3. Continue Rail Park to Community College along the cut section of the former City Branch right of way (1.10)
 4. Support appropriate development of the two key Arch Street corridor parcels (3.4)
Support proposed Bike Coalition improvements (2.9)
 5. Address issue of idling trains at Race Street crossing (2.7)
 6. Establish Community Development Corporation, or put more 'teeth' into existing community organization (3.10)
 7. Work toward capping of Vine Expressway depressed sections (1.9)
 8. Redesign Eakins Oval to make it more pedestrian friendly (2.1)
- One discussion group suggested that addressing the congestion and public safety issues at 21st and Hamilton should be a high priority, as well as protection of older smaller scale residential areas of Logan Square Village

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