

Lakeview SSA 27

Placemaking Committee Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2016, 8:00 AM

Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, 1409 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60613

Present: Darian Campise, Jill Heise, Matt Lederer, Luis Monje, Melissa Salvatore, Erin Schwartz, Nabil Zahrah

Absent: None

Staff: Lee Crandell, Dillon Goodson, Vince Ziols

Guests: Katherine Darnstadt (via videoconference)

Jill Heise called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

There were no prior minutes to approve.

Committee Overview

Jill Heise shared an overview of the Placemaking Committee, noting that it would focus on many of the ongoing improvements proposed in the 2011 Lakeview Area Master Plan.

Low-Line Projects

- **Southport Plaza Art Partitions:** Katherine Darnstadt of Latent Design shared five preliminary design concepts for the proposed art partitions at the Southport Plaza, noting that two more design rounds were expected. Luis Monje and Darian Campise asked about the materials being proposed and how they would deter graffiti and withstand the elements. Katherine Darnstadt explained that composite plastics and powder coated metals were being considered in the initial design phase, and that promptly installing the artwork on the panels will discourage graffiti. Melissa Salvatore commented that it was difficult to imagine art on some of the later concepts, which had less surface area, but that she liked the first and last concepts the most. Katherine Darnstadt left the meeting. Nabil Zahrah suggested that Latent Design should provide breaks for people to pass through the partitions at multiple points while increasing surface area for murals. Matt Lederer commented that the partitions need to be aesthetically pleasing and functional. Dillon Goodson said that he would share feedback with Latent Design so they can prepare a second round of designs narrowed down to two concepts.
- **Paulina and Ashland Public Spaces:** Dillon Goodson shared two vision statements for new public spaces beneath the CTA 'L' tracks at Paulina and Ashland, created based on Commissioner feedback provided at the August SSA Commission meeting. He asked committee members to consider draft RFPs presented for both spaces that also included a proposed project timeline and budget ranges. Jill Heise commented that the projects are inspired by the portions of the Lakeview Area Master Plan aimed at attracting different age groups to the neighborhood. She recommended keeping the vision statements broad for now to allow designers to suggest uses for both spaces. Luis Monje asked about efforts to mitigate sound issues. Darian Campise suggested that the designers should consider creating spaces for adults to work out. Luis Monje motioned to approve both RFPs with minor changes, seconded by Nabil Zahrah; motion carries.

People Spots and Sidewalk Seating

Jill Heise asked committee members to consider whether to focus on reinforcing neighborhood focal points where there is existing pedestrian and business activity, or on generating activity in the less trafficked stretches of the SSA that connect these focal points. Vince Ziols shared potential People Spot and sidewalk seating area locations based on layers of data:

- The focal points and gaps from the SSA's Three Year Plan
- Places that meet the City's physical requirements and other basic physical standards
- Adjacent uses likely to support success based on research from other cities

The Committee generally agreed that the 2016 People Spot locations were not as successful as hoped.

The Committee discussed whether People Spots should be used more to reinforce focal points or to generate activity where it's currently lacking. The general consensus was that the success of the People Spots would be measured more by how well-used they are, but that perhaps the approach on location should be somewhere between focal points and gaps. Rather than investing in places that are already fairly successful or expecting them to generate activity on their own, they could be used to extend the edges of focal points and expand areas of activity.

The Committee generally agreed that Sheil Park's sidewalks were a great location for seating as an alternative to a People Spot, and that we should explore ways to develop sidewalk seating designs for there and on Ashland sidewalks.

The Committee ended discussing whether People Spots should be moved regularly, or whether once a successful location is identified they should be kept in place or replaced with some other long-term investment. This topic was not resolved.

Public Art

The committee did not discuss this agenda item.

2017 Placemaking Committee Meeting Schedule

Dillon Goodson proposed holding regular Placemaking Committee meetings on the third Tuesdays of every month at 8:00 AM. Jill Heise shared that the next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017 at 8:00 AM.

Luis Monje motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nabil Zahrah; meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.