

DMNC/CAT Green Streets Planning Meeting

June 7, 2017 – Chateau Relaxo

Notes by jmr

Agenda

- Introductions
- Recap the grant and work to date
- Review neighbor meeting notes
- Our aspirations
- Potential catalyst projects
- Opportunities & Constraints
- Next steps

Intros/Attending

- Robin K– Excited about creating green streets!
- Zarah – Excited about the green infrastructure and moving that forward
- Karina – Excited to see traffic slowed down and more trees. Loves the green gutters!
- Christina – Excited about greenery and slowing traffic and people trying to skip stop signs
- Robin F – Excited about how the mural, meetings, green streets bring people out to the St.
- Emily – Excited about all of the above
- Kevin Perry – Looking forward to taking the next step to realize the vision of
- Fred – Interested in the cumulative effect of all the things we've done as an older 'hood
- jmr - Excited about blending the green, art, social, civic into next project
- Joan (joined after intros)
- David (joined after intros)
- Nik (joined after intros)

Grant Recap & Work to Date

Through the Dare to Imagine event in 2015, the neighborhood indicated a strong desire for more trees, greenery, public space, and art. Emily had a connection to Green Streets pioneer Kevin Perry and invited him to consider working with our neighborhood on designing a stormwater/green streets project for an upcoming Urban Rivers grant. The idea they discussed is that he would collaborate with our n'hood to envision and if we secure the grant we would hire him to design and implement the project.

The Urban Rivers grant opportunity has no maximum or minimum in terms of \$\$\$ and no required match, but the City has to sponsor the project. It is key to get the city on board because it's a grant requirement that the project is written in as priority project in stormwater plan.

Fred and Robin K. had a meeting with Rhys Roland (Environmental Program Specialist) and Dawn Calciano (Conservation Coordinator). If we have a neighborhood master plan of what we want to do then it would help them be able to support our vision. Fred felt that they would not hesitate to be supportive if we took the time to make a plan that conveys our vision. Such a plan would back them up if they want to go forward and do a project. They emphasized that we need to as specific as possible in our plan. Robin's impression was that the staff feels like they meet the State requirements so they would need some incentive to take this on.

Rhys and Dawn's concerns: who pays, who does long term maintenance, the permits, the encroachments...they had a bunch of things they were concerned about. But they gave us a lot of tips on what to consider in putting together the grant. They suggested that we have a lot of back and forth conversation with engineering.

A small group of DMNC neighbors did a walk about with Kevin earlier this spring to identify issues and opportunities.

Aspirations

To seed our thinking, we reviewed the "likes and suggestions" that neighbors shared after Kevin Perry's presentation on May 17th. Some ideas we added included:

- Have a green street master plan that distributes resources equitably throughout the n'hood
- Apply for the Urban Rivers grant
- Make our sidewalks more accessible and appealing (can't walk as a couple!)
- Add crosswalks
- Make curbs compliant with ADA
- Calm traffic
- New and better lighting – for safety and for dark sky
- Solar sidewalks
- More trees, plants and gardens; more green - less grey!
- Our master plan seeks to shade all paved surfaces
- Get design input from all parts of the neighborhood on this project
- How can we leverage green spaces in as many ways as possible (add benches, parklet, art)
- Fold in social and public space into the plan and cultural and aesthetic identity (could include distinctive entry features at various entries to neighborhood)
- Connect stormwater management on streets w/ people's private property and shopping ctr
- Use new landscape effort as a means to bring people together
- Put together a master plan or package of info/ideas that are not just about this grant opportunity that are applicable to other opportunities, something scalable
- Have pedestrian and biking areas separated from cars

Questions

- Would our plan include the interior streets of DMNC and exterior? Kevin's suggestion is to look at interior because exterior streets might have plans for corridor improvements.

Focusing on the interior streets also makes the public outreach component of the project simpler, since the focus can be on local residents.

- Do we want to get Da Vinci students involved? A project where they can get to help?
- Do we want to have an active green infrastructure team with members from each street
- Would street sweeper, garbage trucks, etc have a hard time with elements of our plan?

Catalyst project

- Wise to write the catalyst project into the master plan; city will see more value in it.
- A catalyst project could make the grant more competitive, especially if the city can provide matching funds
- Urban Rivers grant project may take approx 2 yrs from application to construction. Catalyst project could be built faster and would help sustain momentum.
- Pick something that might be a common element that goes in the master plan, something that would be in different parts of the n'hood so that doing one as a demonstration gives people an idea of what the repeated element would look like and build comfort and excitement.
- Way for the city and the neighborhood can experiment with doing a pilot project; Kevin did this in PDX and it felt successful from everyone's perspective. A good mutual starting place.
- Good to show the city that are ways to do small projects that lead to larger ones.
- This might be first green street retrofit in neighborhood in Davis! The project could serve as a model for other sites in the neighborhood plus sites across the city.

Note: with master plan we should get aspirational and with pilot project we should do something that would be low hanging fruit and a slam dunk success. Kevin can think of 8 – 10 possible locations for low hanging fruit and can whittle it down to a few locations by vetting it through the n'hood.

We might want to use the process similar to what we used for locating the mural

- Applied for the grant without naming location
- Held neighborhood meeting to:
 - discuss location selection criteria
 - walk and visit all proposed locations
 - discuss pros and cons of each
 - vote on preferred location

Notes: We want to choose a project that takes advantage of opportunities and steers clear of constraints. Also we can start thinking about and working on how to keep water on our properties? This work wouldn't be dependent on getting funds for project or grant.

Criteria for Catalyst Project

- Water needs to flow to it

- Something small and replicable
- Located near people who are excited about it who would help take care of it
- Highly visible and highly traffic'ed
- Location where parking isn't constrained
- Location that addresses more than just the storm water (pedestrian needs, traffic calming) and provides multiple benefits
- Consider how we can use "borrowed success and borrowed scenery"

Opportunities & Constraints

Not all the streets are the same width; some are wider. M street is about 42 feet and Lessley narrower. That lends itself to constraints and opportunities. Narrow street means less space for green space; wider streets more space! M St is pretty-heavily parked on both sides. Opportunity to change parking on M streets, have parking on one side and green, bikes, pedestrian on one side of the street.

With the tree infrastructure in decline it is a good moment to revitalize tree canopy. We can't necessarily count on property owners to take care of street trees. So opportunity is to create "tree infrastructure" of street trees with rain garden attached to them in former street space.

Opportunities for N St park, creating stormwater/raingarden space and entry to the Park.

Also idea of creating a "green heart" in the neighborhood. One spot to consider is Colgate between M and N. This street doesn't have driveways. Maybe incorporate woonerf concept. (more on woonerf: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/automobiles/where-share-the-road-is-taken-literally.html>)

Constraints

- Parking
- Maintenance
- Public utilities under the street

Next Steps

- Send notes with catalyst project criteria to Kevin (Emily)
- Send notes to the neighborhood (Emily)
- Send thank you note to Rhys and Dawn (Fred)
- Consider n'hood & technical criteria to identify possibilities to share back with n'hood (Kevin)
- Detail out some of the tools mentioned-storm water curb extension, tree garden-and share with n'hood as we consider the master plan (Kevin)
- Identify friendly neighborhood locations (next meeting as a group)
- Get examples of maintenance plans to calm city fears (Kevin)

- Develop shared messages/script to use in one-on-ones (group does at next meeting?)
- Start having one-on-ones with city council members and city staff (group ID's who at next meeting)
- Identify and talk to other allies (e.g., Cool Davis, Da Vinci, Bike Davis, Tree Davis, Imagining America, Arboretum, WaterWise Davis) (group brainstorm this list and who reaches out next meeting)
- Meet with Bob Clarke and see if there is an appetite from the city (Emily and team)
- Monitor and find out guidelines for Urban Rivers grant (Zarah)

Next meeting: June 27, 7 – 9 at the Common House

Note Kevin is here July 13 – 16thish. He will be giving a tour to the city and students of demonstration projects on the UC Davis campus, and we neighbors are welcome to join.