

Garden Street Public Workshop

September 10, 2014

Comment Summary

Group #1

STREET WIDTH

- Is 60' enough width?
- Garden Street does not need to do everything along its entire length
- Garden Street at Healthy Living is narrow and works well for peds. Cars must be careful and drive slowly – there are lots of peds.

PEDESTRIANS

- There should be frequent bumpouts for pedestrians along Garden Street.
- The Atwater Market in Montreal is a good example of a nice mixed-use area. Amenities there like benches, public art, pockets of green, gardens, should be incorporated into Garden Street.
- Traffic calming on the street is needed.

MIDAS DRIVE CONNECTION

- The connection of Garden Street to Midas Drive should be an attractive curved connection.

CHARACTER OF THE STREET

- Public art
- Rain Gardens
- Gardens, Trees, Sense of Nature
- Use water in the area creatively: stormwater canals?
- Center Median?
 - Problem with the median is that it is green space for the cars – not usable for people.
- Alleys and Mews connecting to Garden Street.

BIKES

- Perhaps parking on one side of the street to accommodate bike lanes.
- Bike lanes should be separated from cars by a median, like in Montreal.
- Provide a separate path along the edge of the wetlands for users not comfortable in traffic, and a shared lane in Garden Street.
- The problem with bikes on a path is that they can't access uses along the street, like shops.

MIDAS AND WHITE INTERSECTION

- Midas and White must be aligned.
 - Regular four-way intersection
 - Roundabout?

Group #2

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Two-acre central green adjacent to municipal building
- Sidewalk cafes – large sidewalks
- Events, gardens, hide parking
- Linked green spaces

STREETS

- Solve problems of multiple users
- Netherlands model
- Take traffic off Route 2
- Many curb cuts – curves

IDEAS

- Concert venue
- Arboretum
- Wetland Boardwalk
- Like Lurie Park in Chicago; Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia
- The Place needs to be a destination

GROUP #3

CHARACTER OF THE STREET

- Streetlamps should be something that looks like it's been there
- Benches
- Wonderful space to hand out in
- Planting is important; greenway
- Accommodating buses
- Residential housing
- Bike racks
- Trash cans
- Center green belt
- Beautify the wetland area
- Provide a bike path

GROUP #4

What's the 60 ROW width able to accommodate? Seems like the street section is 60' – and closer to 70' if the street design is to include bicycles for more than a sharrow.

- The key look - feel is largely determined by what's alongside the street – the buildings! Four stories are anticipated in the T4 zone. Eastwood – Farrell was described as close to that scale and relationship - although there are a lot of that project's characteristics that are not desirable at the ground level.
- With the above in mind - Block size is critical to Garden Street so that the housing development is dense but very attractive. Strong advocacy for planning those residential blocks – explained that's not part of the project's scope, but that it can/should be developed in coordination with private development parties.
- General discussion about the need to do higher quality development of housing and mixed uses that are better than Taft's Corners and other regional examples of planned "Downtowns".
- Garden Street could have a different but complementary character to Market St. and part of that is adding Residential character:
 - ✓ Less driveways
 - ✓ More landscaped areas
- Make really nice "edge" spaces that are where the housing density can look really good and be appealing to buyers/renters, so pay attention to the edges and the center where buildings and the streetscape come together.
- There should be connections to public open spaces with walking and bikepaths.
- For the streetscape and bldg. designs – the look and feel of the commercial uses from Market Street should wrap around the corner onto both ends of Garden Street.
- The Character of Garden Street – to Williston Road can be one thing, and Market to Dorset Street - another.