

3/13/2017 Public Meeting - Meeting Minutes

Old School Square Campus and Park Master Plan

Project No. - 160802

Public comments based on Presentation of Old School Square Concept Master Plan by Currie Sowards Aguila Architect, Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design, and TBG Partners.

Bob Currie and Choli Aronson of Currie Sowards Aguila Architects and Simi Veit of Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design presented a Power point presentation to the Public at the Old School Square Field House at 6:00 PM. At the conclusion of the presentation the following comments and questions were heard.

- Madeline Hincken – Who will be paying for these improvements? How will we address the homeless population and stop them from coming to OSS to clean and feed themselves.
- Bob Currie of CSA responded that activation of the space and good lighting will discourage homeless activity in the park.
- Jeff Costello of the CRA stated that the CRA will pay for many of the items as OSS is in their redevelopment area. This is a multi-year plan and items will need to be prioritized. Joint funding and grant opportunities will also be explored.
- Bill Bathurst – He came in with 6 questions that he wanted answered and all were answered by the presentation. He gives credit to the team for listening to the community, not like the 1st time. He is very pleased with the plan.
- Bill Branning, chair of OSS – The ability to activate and monetize the amphitheater is crucial for OSS. Last year the site had 580,000 visitors and 3,000 events and classes.
- Cindy Freeburn – She agrees with Bill and stated that the team listened to the Public. What is the solution to fencing off events? It needs to be an aesthetic solution for the rest of the park goes.
- Patrick Holiday – Can the park be closed at night to prevent homeless from gathering. Maybe it closes at midnight. (The park is currently closed from 9 pm to 6 am).
- Madeline Fitzgerald – Will the roads be narrowed?
- Choli Aronson from CSA – No road narrowing is proposed.
- If we are encouraging entering the OSS site from the corner, the intersection of Swinton and Atlantic is very dangerous. This needs to be addressed. Additionally, can the homeless be taken to a shelter?
- Choli Aronson from CSA – The intersection of Swinton and Atlantic is being handled by the City, but there is a plan in place for it. The homeless problem needs a multipronged approach, the community should contact the City Commission to talk further about this issue.
- There is no homeless shelter in Delray Beach.

- Al Hincken – The homeless are aggressive at Old School Square.
- Kevin Warner – What marketing efforts are being done to compliment this plan?
- Rob Steele (President/CEO of OSS) - the Tourist Development Council of Palm Beach County berated him for not bringing in enough tourists to OSS. Activation of the Pavilion and getting more use is very important. OSS needs to very carefully balance users. Still provide services for locals like free Friday movies and other concerts and events, but also needs to monetize the pavilion for OSS continued success. The Cornell Museum is currently undergoing a \$500,000 interior renovation from private donations. The upgraded pavilion would be able to seat 2,400 people and could attract events such as Jerry Seinfeld or Manheim Steamroller. The design of the space will allow it to be activated. Generally, OSS has not had many issues because of the homeless population because the Police have done a great job with the situation.
- Scott Porten – Take out the existing flagstone path it does not belong.
- Ryan Boyston – Do it!
- Alice Finst – Please do not take out the old growth trees.
- The general consensus was that everyone likes the plan and wanted to see it happen.
- Thuy Shutt – The presentation will be posted on the CRA webpage.

