

Minutes Sabin Community Association **General Meeting**, Monday 17 October 2011, Sabin Elementary School. Plant exchange outdoors with Friends of Trees table.

President Austin Peterson greeted members, described the SCA and called for volunteers.

Barbara Conable described the welcome bags that go out quarterly from SCA to new home owners in Sabin. Twenty-six are being delivered this week.

Elizabeth Erickson spoke about Resolutions Northwest. Sabin residents are encouraged to send applications for training due in mid-November. Thirty-eight hours of training in January are free in exchange for a year of volunteer facilitation, otherwise there is a fee. The group resolves neighbor to neighbor conflicts. The mediation itself is free in the city of Portland. For a business, there is a small fee. RN accepts many referrals from neighborhood associations and the police.

Austin Peterson introduced the program for the evening about the renovation of the Sabin Triangle.

Hector reported that there had been an earlier attempt to improve the area and gave a brief history of the current project, including the original design charrette a year ago, the active involvement of Architects without Borders (AwB), members of which brought rough drawing to the May general 2011 meeting, from which came many good ideas for refinement. They returned with more detailed drawing at the Neighborhood Night Out gathering in the Sabin Triangle on 2 August 2011. The drawings displayed at this meeting by Derek Xava reflect the further changes to the design made based on feedback that night and discussion at the last Sabin Board Meeting.

David Sweet added that he took another look at the Sabin Plan and saw that it called for creating parks or public spaces in many places, including this one. "It's a good idea that keeps coming up."

Derek spoke to the design process with the rest of his team, Tim Richard, Jessica Gracie, Naomi Morgan, April Chen, and Andi Nix, Derek in cooperation with the SCA team of Hector Roche, Gwenn Baldwin and Austin Peterson.

Derek first showed a view of the Triangle from Prescott looking south. The design keeps maintenance at a minimum. Open space “terraces down” with amphitheater type seating. Water features are designed to dampen the traffic noise with cascading fountains from two water elements, one to the east and one to the west. A mural near the large east wall is envisioned along with other texturing to avoid tagging. Derek says they were designing for community participation.

We were shown a second view looking from the bus stop on 15th. A third view looking north from 15th featured the identifying sign, including a graphic showing the old street car line. “1913 Streetcar Terminus for the Irvington Line,” it read. The hope is that the renovation will provide occasion for the century anniversary of the streetcar.

A view comparing to Director Park PDX, between 8th and 9th downtown across from the Fox Tower showed that ours is really quite a small project.

Derek explained that the trees will be selected from those appropriate for bioswales, which the design incorporates in an attempt to retain the water that otherwise creates a torrent down 15th to the intersection of Beech and 15th, which is subject to flooding.

Texture and bright color are incorporated into the design. A possible fundraiser would be the first ever selling of permeable pavers with names on them.

No survey of the site has yet been made. A “menu approach” has been taken in the design so that installers can make changes as discoveries on the site or budget considerations or donations of materials require changes. For instance, there is a chance that the old streetcar tracks will be found under the concrete and can be incorporated in the design.

A member asked about preventing skateboarding. Derek said he is so far ambivalent because it might actually be open enough to be skateboard friendly. He wouldn't rule out the use of wheels. The member asks if skateboarding deteriorates seating. Derek says we will have to decide whether to discourage or encourage by reinforcing the edges or not.

Austin spoke to maintenance, the chief concern. Friends of Sabin Triangle could be formed to help. "We'll find the best way to cooperate with the businesses to maintain the site." The budget, depending on how much material is donated, is \$400,000-\$650,000, depending on how much is donated.

Derek will help to start a website. SCA will seek hard collateral. The team will prepare grants and seek approval from the Portland Bureau of Transportation. A meeting to seek that is set for next week. Further down the road permitting will be required, a more complicated process, possibly project manager driven. Application will be made for a NECN neighborhood small grant to be started, for Metro Nature in the Neighborhood Grants, and for other community improvement grants from corporations, non-profits, and government grants.

Austin spoke to the breadth of talent and expertise right here in Sabin and noted that volunteer help will be needed. Volunteers should contact:

sabinpresident@gmail.com

sabinpdx@gmail.com

Hector reported that he will begin a more formal outreach with the business owners and residents.

Derek suggested that the civil engineering drawings of the plan may come from the city, since the city owns the site and will continue to own it.

The owner of the new Beacon Record store across the street wanted to know if the crosswalk will be improved since street crossing will increase. Derek answered that it very likely would. David Sweet noted that curb extensions for the crosswalk that already exists would make the crossing safer.

Another resident asked if there options beside a mural? She thinks trellised plants are more serene. Derek agreed that a plant wall would further dampen sound. Gwenn noted that the fundamental consideration is that it won't be blank. "We know it's going to be covered with something."

Derek noted in closing that there is “room for you guys to set precedent here” for more initiative from the neighborhoods for large projects like this one with help from organizations like AwB.

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Conable