



Committee Members Present: Belcher, Du Bois, Flores, Kadera-Redmong, Marshall, Miller Peterson, Rosenbloom, Selna, Wu

Staff Present: Diane Boyd, Audree Jones-Taylor, Dana Riley, Zermaine Thomas, Laura Kaminski and Keira Williams

Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) December 4, 2013

Broadway Valdez District Specific Plan, comments from the public and Committee

Laura Kaminski presented a PowerPoint slide show indicating the Park and Recreation aspects of the plan from Chapter 5 of the Specific Plan and aspects of the Design Guidelines that relate to Parks and Recreation

There were a number of questions from the Committee that staff helped to clarify.

Comments from the public:

Speaker 1 – The City does not need more housing, already have enough. Can shop in Oakland at small stores for clothing and furniture. Waverly and 24th Street is a Laotian neighborhood, the plan is not for the people in the neighborhood. Open space is more desired by the people.

Speaker 2 – Automobiles should be on high traffic streets, don't want traffic coming into the Triangle because it is quiet now. If zoning allowed for taller than 5 stories will be different than existing character. There are a lot of rental units that are affordable in the plan area, need to address that people will get pushed out of the area and will need more affordable housing that is away from the freeway. Want Parklets in interior area, don't like plazas on Broadway, too busy with traffic. Some good books to read are: Public Private Space, City Rediscovering the Center – wide sidewalks kill retail, Towns Building and Construction, Trees and Urban Design.

Comments from PRAC:

Faith Du Bois – Current plans for retail do not extend to the Rockridge area and that there are no plans for structural garages in the core triangle where current potential parking will be utilized.

Marsha Peterson – Would like to see plans to repurpose current living spaces in project area. Affordable housing plans must capture the needs of Oakland residents and not more condos to accommodate the overflow from San Francisco. Many developments have been built and stand vacant or are leased condos. New retail tenants should service the needs of Oakland.

Mandolin Kadera-Redmond – Support Glen Echo Creek extension. Concerned that the project is more focused on attracting developers and not on the needs of local area residents.

Paul Rosenbloom – there is a small pocket park on Kempton, please include on map, it is out of plan area but should be put on the map. Encouraged staffs efforts to connect to other existing OPR parks, including Mosswood and Lake Merritt.

Mio Flores – concerned about low income housing. Should make sure the improvements proposed are made.

Ellen Wu – Seconded prior issues asserted by other members. Connection of moving people under freeway is important, how likely will people go into the area crossing under the freeway. Connections to existing parks are important. There should be freeway underpass improvements. Expressed concern regarding increase of motor traffic on Broadway and questioned whether pedestrians would use the expanded sidewalks/plazas as projected.

Robert Selna – There should be a fee for building new parks for development.

Barry Miller – Noticed there was no new neighborhood park proposed. Want to encourage roof top open space, not only for residential but also for public parking garages – similar to on top of Kaiser garage. There should be an impact fee for parks that is citywide and should ask for in the plan. There should be links to Mosswood Park and the Lake with signage as well of how to get there.

Comments from Parks and Recreation City Staff:

Director Jones-Taylor – encouraged the Commission to seek improvements to existing parks and plazas when projects such as housing and development are being considered.