

Fishkill Avenue Corridor Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

6:00 -7:30 PM

1 Municipal Plaza, Suite 2 (Beacon City Courts)

Present: Natalie Quinn (City Planner), J.C. Calderon (Chair), Jason Healy, Brent Spodek, Brent Stapleton, Atticus Lanigan, Olga Tirado, Yvonne Caruthers, Nick Guertin, Garrett Duquesne (attended by phone)

Absent: Stephen Clair, Jan Worthy

1. Introductions

- Committee members provide a brief introduction to themselves and their interest in serving on the committee.
- Mayor Lee Kyriacou provided background on the intent and creation of the committee, including plans for the rail trail and connector to Camp Beacon.
- Committee member Brent Spodek asked whether the committee would be a decision-making body. The response was “no,” as the committee is not an elected body, they will not have decision making powers. The committee is an advisory body that will provide recommendations to elected officials and city staff. Recommendations may be short, medium, and long term, and may include recommendations on project scope and boundary, key public viewsheds, road design, zoning etc.

2. Background Materials

- Beacon City Planner, Natalie Quinn, provided a brief overview of language within the comprehensive plan that references Fishkill Avenue.
- Committee Chair, J.C. Calderon, shared a video on “How an Architect Redesigns NYC Streets” with Claire Weisz of WXY on her firm's work in NYC:
<https://www.wired.com/video/watch/wired-news-and-science-street-design>

3. Mapping Exercise

- The committee reviewed fly-through video of the Fishkill corridor and identified issues:
 - No sidewalk on east side of Fishkill Avenue
 - Narrow sidewalk on west side of Fishkill Avenue
 - Need to define public right-of-way – where public and private property ownership exists.
 - Definition of streetscape
 - Issue with cars backing out onto Route 52
 - Signage at gateway is potentially in wrong location.
 - Wideness of the road
 - Utility poles
 - Lack of vegetation
 - Lack of crosswalks makes it difficult to cross Fishkill Ave

- Along the sidewalk on the west side of road there are large berms or walls – nowhere to get out of the rain.
- Access to correctional facility (Prospect) is boundary.
- Overgrowth of vegetation
- Garbage
- Sidewalk from Ron’s to 9D/Teller
- A lot of industrial uses – big lawns
- Lack of stormwater retention
- Lack of identity
- Car and pedestrian crashes are an issue.
- Safety for children
- The committee then used markers and post-its to geographically locate the issues noted above on a corridor map of Fishkill Avenue from Main Street to the City boundary. See Meeting Minutes Addendum A.

4. Stakeholder & Public Engagement

- The committee identified potential stakeholder to engage:
 - Walking / biking advocates, i.e., Beacon Endurance
 - Parent group for Wee Play at Memorial Park
 - Ron’s
 - Little league teams at Memorial Park
 - Conservation Advisory Committee – would like to make a presentation.
 - Greenway committee
 - Rail Trail Committee – Emily Dozier
 - DPW / Highway / Parks Division
 - Business owners
 - Residents within a certain distance, especially housing in front of the Lofts Grovesville, and Hedgewood
 - School for Hearing Impaired
 - Dog park users
 - City population at large
 - Previous Ad Hoc Committees – what worked, what didn’t.

5. Committee Meeting Schedule

- Natalie Quinn offered to send out a doodle poll to schedule the next committee meeting.
- Once a month meeting is preferable
- The committee expects to meet for 6 to 9 months, roughly until the end of the year.

The committee also discussed the potential creation of a project landing page on the city’s website where residents could go to find out information and review materials. The committee may want to create a project email address where questions and comments can be submitted.

- Any comments received by committee members thus far should be forwarded to Natalie Quinn for filing.

END OF MEETING: 7:32 PM