

8/2/2012 11th Street Bridge Concept Ward 7 Informational Meeting Summary

Meeting Held: Thursday, August 2nd 2012 6:30-8:30

Location: The Dorothy I Height/Benning Road Library 3935 Benning Road NE

Special Thank You to the D.C. Public Library.

Overall Summary: This meeting served in part as a showcase of contributions to the 11th Street Bridge Concept by the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) students who worked at the D.C. Office of Planning this summer. Students from all over Washington D.C. constructed a model of the 11th Street Bridge concept working together develop different ideas for bridge attractions, revenue generators and physical activity facilities. The models were presented at the Ward 7 Meeting. And it was revealed by Director, Harriet Tregoning that the models will be displayed at the Wilson Building for the public.

DCOP Staff in Attendance

Harriet Tregoning, Director, Office of Planning

Patricia Zingsheim, Associate Director of Revitalization and Design

Deborah Crane Kemp, Ward 5 Planner

Stephan Rice, East of the River Planner

Ed Estes, Urban Planner

Dan Kost, Planner

Scott Kratz, Volunteer, Summer Youth Employment Program

Shoshana Haberman, Adriana Mendoza, Courtney Bell, William Omorogieva, SYEP

Presenting:

Patricia Zingsheim, Welcome and Introductions; described goal for meeting and process to date.

Harriet Tregoning, Director of Planning presented the 11th Street concepts and benefits. Harriet introduced Dr. Autumn Saxon Ross, PhD, Physical Activity Specialist, and DOH.

Dr. Autumn Saxon Ross, discussed public health and what it means to the City of Washington in relation to green space and parks across all segments of society. Dr. Ross introduced the concept of “six degrees” of wellness and importance of healthy food options such as mobile carts or corner stores near rec centers. Another concept discussed by Dr. Saxon Ross was “play streets” which are streets closed to vehicular traffic dedicated to play and physical activity when parks or green-space is not accessible. Dr. Ross pointed out that people of lower income can have a positive impact from having access to green space.

Scott Kratz, Volunteer, explained how the teams of students were mentored and came together to produce two 11th Street Bridge models.

Shoshana Haberman and **Adriana Mendoza**, team leaders for design teams 1 and 2 walked through each design highlighting individual student created bridge attractions.

Courtney Bell, Team 1 Member highlighted mini golf course, playground, art wall, solar paneling, shopping options, and farmers market.

William Omorogieva , Team 2 member presented bridge attractions included bike paths, running paths, paddle boats, shade trees, food trucks, local art displays, safety lighting, green walls and green roofs, Anacostia River water filtration system, stage area, outdoor class room for music or exercise and urban agriculture.

Jordan Barton, a District resident and incoming Howard University freshman, presented his own pole vault design specifically for the 11th Street Bridge as a source of revenue and a public facility for area athletes.

Total Attendance

11 signed in and 4-6 additional drop-ins.

Agenda:

6:30-6:40 Welcome and Introductions, everyone introduced themselves and indicated where they lived. Majority were from Ward 7.

6:40-7:10 11th Street Bridge Presentation

7:10-7:20 Health by Design presentation with Dr. Autumn Saxon-Ross, PhD.

7:20-7:30 Summer Youth Employment Program Presentation.

7:30-7:55 Ideas, Comments, and Q &A Wrap up.

Concepts Explained in Power Point Presentation

- Location and relationship to new bridge construction
- What's Proposed
- Concepts of Reuse
- History
- Benefits:
 - Ties together both sides of the river and moves closer to the Mayors Once City Goal
 - Provides a unique attraction and icon in the NE part of Washington highly benefitting the communities along both sides of the river and the entire city.
 - Celebrates the Anacostia River and the culture of the communities along it.
 - Provides health and active living benefits.

Questions

- This is great but where do we go from here?
- Can you get more input from schools and work with school employment programs?
- How will you address special needs areas on the bridge?
- what kind of attention will be paid to our aging citizens
- will the upcoming design competition be open?

OP Responses

- The next phase is the design competition phase where OP will select a partner and produce a final 11th Street Bridge design concept.
- OP is actively pursuing the launch of a Youth Design Forum where schools submit their designs.
- By law any new design must follow ADA compliance.
- This is a great question; the focus of this bridge is physical activity and the needs of our elderly citizens have a place in the design phase. It is encouraged that elderly citizens send their comments, questions and concerns.
- Yes, the design competition is open to the ideas of residents. Anyone can contact OP with questions or ideas through our website.

Comments from the meeting attendees stated verbally or in response to the cards asking: What would you like to see on the Bridge?

- Reestablish the habit of river recreation why not introduce a “barge” or “floating” pool recreation facility in some way accessible from the bridge.
- This sport facility might be modeling on the floating pool on the banks of Seine River in Paris, The floating “barge” pools that are seasonal facilities in NYC or the Ocean pools on the Barcelona Waterfront
- The architectural corporation should be a two stage open invitation and not a closed by invitation to only firms.
- Somehow tap Michael Phelps to draw from Baltimore to help legitimize and highlight the pool facility.

-Add binoculars to the bridge like in State Parks.

-Ring Toss into LED lit buoys; the rings could be edible for fish.

-include fish feeding stations like the Arboretum.

-hold a mini Olympics up and down the River using the Bridge as a venue.