

Monroe Street Engagement Resource Team Meeting Notes

Date: March 8, 2017	Time: 5:00-6:30pm
Location: Barriques, Monroe Street	Recorder: Katie Fadelli
Attendees: Christy Bachmann, Robbie Webber, Hiam Garner, Peter Armstrong, Zia Brucaya, Mary Campbell, Ben Yahr, Aaron Williams, Alder Sara Eskrich, John Imes, Susan VanderSanden	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-up
<p>Green Infrastructure Focus Group Debrief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zia shared an update, with input from ERT members who also attended, on the green infrastructure focus group meeting led by Phil Gaebler on 2/16. Topics discussed during the focus group included designing Crazy Legs Triangle as a showcase for green infrastructure design and interpretation; the potential for tree trenches on the street to improve tree health; and ideas for green infrastructure enhancements at Wingra Park, which would involve a longer process separate from the Monroe Street reconstruction. - John noted that there was discussion around side street rain gardens constructed by the City, as well as moveable parklets for the business district that would be located in the parking lane during certain times of the day or year. Badger volunteers are currently looking into how they might work and what amount of parking would be lost. John thought this could be really dynamic for the businesses on the street. Hiam noted that these would be especially well suited for the many incoming food businesses. Engineering is open to discussing this to the idea and it will be brought up with businesses at the upcoming business roundtable. - The focus group also discussed the creation of a green infrastructure support policy that would incentivize property owners to install green infrastructure by paying them per pound of phosphorus that would be removed with their treatment structure. Phil is working on this policy, which ultimately will need to be approved by the Common Council. - The City is looking at scheduling another green infrastructure focus group in April to touch base on progress. Focus group attendees were also invited to attend the UW student design review on April 11th along with the ERT. 	
<p>Engineering Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City engineering is planning to incorporate a 4th raised intersection at Leonard, in addition to the three planned at Knickerbocker, Harrison, and Glenway. Robbie noted that emergency services have often complained about proposed street elevation changes; Alder Eskrich assured the group that the intersections have been okayed and the fire department is looking forward to the reconstruction as a whole. - The City is currently discussing how to proceed with the design of Crazy Legs Triangle. The City may hire a landscape architect or do the design in house if staff time is available. Rob Phillips has approved a budget for public art to be split between this location and the Wingra Park entrance. - John noted that the Joint West Campus Committee discussed proposed changes to the Field House entrance. There should be coordination between this and the plans for Crazy Legs. Nearby businesses are very interested in what will happen there. - The group liked the idea of a fountain or water feature at this location, possible something like the model of the Great Lakes at the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth, MN. - Peter noted that to make this a place of interaction, the street layout around the triangle needs to be considered to ensure slowed traffic and safety, because the barriers to Crazy Legs are the streets that surround it. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additionally, bicycle flow with the Southwest Commuter Path needs to be prioritized, maybe with the inclusion of bike parking or other amenities. - Christy noted that the reconstruction process will now include a new engineering survey of the whole corridor, to get the most current dimensions and infrastructure locations. The current survey is about 10 years old and is outdated. 	
Business Roundtable Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitations to business and property owners on Monroe for the upcoming business roundtable have been emailed and mailed out. Office of Business Resource staff are working with businesses on preparations, strategy, and hiring a coordinator to lead communication with contractors through the process. The roundtable will be a chance to discuss what improvements are planned for the business districts and what potential improvements are available that would be require private investments. The city wants to understand what the capacity and interest of the business community is for extra components such as planters, banners, green infrastructure, etc. - The plan is to have one inbound lane open on Monroe for the full duration of the construction period. Some intersections and cross streets will be closed intermittently. The city is coordinating with Edgewood about drop off during this time. Currently the idea is to open the gates that close the campus off from the local street. Susan noted this would divert cars from Monroe Street through campus, then out to Vilas via Jefferson, or back out to Monroe. - Utility work will likely start in January or February 2018. Full closure will begin as soon as the winter weather clears up and will likely go through November. 	
Placemaking Workshops Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group discussed the format and content of the two upcoming workshops and decided that the City should not organize the workshops around the proposed East Segment/West Segment format; instead, the group agreed that it would be best to focus one workshop on the Wingra Park entrance and the intersection of Commonwealth and Monroe, and the other on traffic calming and streetscaping along the corridor as a whole (crossing islands, intersections, etc.). ERT members felt that the community is more interested in what kinds of traffic calming improvements can be made between the business districts vs. what may happen at Crazy Legs Triangle, and that the triangle should have a separate process for those who are interested. - Christy noted that engineering will likely be able to bring detailed plans for the locations of the raised intersections, pedestrian islands etc. for the corridor design workshop in late May or June. She will find out when staff will be able to complete those plans, and schedule the workshop accordingly. - The group discussed the pros and cons of acquiring design ideas for Crazy Legs through either an RFP process or a design competition. Christy and Alder Eskrich will review options and discuss further. - The group agreed that separating the discussions about traffic calming in the corridor and placemaking at the key locations would be best for providing the community with information and collecting input from them. Urban Assets will work on changing the meeting dates, locations and topics as advertised. 	
Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A 	