

Fruitvale Alive Meeting with Dimond Community Members
November 18, 2010
Location: Dimond Branch Library

In attendance:

David Ralston, Fruitvale Alive, City of Oakland
 Leslie Golden, Golden Landscape Architects
Community Members: (primary interest)
 Ashley Rogers (Dimond Public Art)
 Debbie Koppman (Public Art)
 Gregory Ross (Dimond Public Art)
 Jill Sunahara (Friends of Sausal Creek)
 Karen Colaric (Dimond: litter, gardens, public art)
 Karen Marie Schroeder (Dimond)
 Kathleen Russell (Dimond: litter)
 Lisa Lemus and Phil Wong (Wood Park)
 Marcia Leath (Dimond: litter)
 Marion Mills (Dimond)
 Tim Little (Dimond, Gardens, Public Art)
 Tom Rose (Wood Park; litter)
 Victoria Wake (Dimond)

Introductions

David Ralston, City of Oakland, introduced Leslie Golden who is the architect of the Fruitvale Alive Project. David explained that the Woodbine Corner Community Project is part of Fruitvale Alive but not part of Ray's Electric contract. Leslie reviewed the meeting agenda:

1) Current plan for the 580 underpass walkways 2) Woodbine Corner community project. Community members introduced themselves.

Walkways/walls 580 Underpass

Leslie Golden then presented a power point report displaying the current plan for the columns under the freeway, which are on the east side of Fruitvale Avenue.

- There is a mural with a Sausal Creek theme on 3 sides of each column
- There are 3-1/2' panels with the environmental themes between alternating columns
- Currently the existing mural on the west side of Fruitvale Avenue will remain: "INFORM(N)ATION". It was suggested the history of this mural be researched, as it might have been part of a student project. (*Who is researching?*)

Lighting Discussion: this is a critical issue for community members

- Community members raised the issue of lighting along the sidewalks of the underpass
- The current plans do not include a lighting component
- Community members are concerned about lack of lighting and even suggested the lighting is more important than the mural. The walkways are too dark and are not safe.
- The lighting was always a request by the community at early Fruitvale Alive community meetings
- Next step regarding lighting: David and Leslie will review this issue and will update community members. At this time, the lighting element is not funded.

Timeframe: Fruitvale Alive 580 Underpass Segment

- The written document must be submitted to the following City and State departments for review and approval: City of Oakland Public Art Commission (new mural art on columns); landscape approval from CalTrans; City Council approval; CalTrans encroachment approval and permits.
- The entire permitting process could take 1-2 years
- Walls and sidewalks along the underpass are filthy. Karen Colaric will contact CalTrans to request power washing and a regular maintenance schedule.

Woodbine Corner Community Project

There is Fruitvale Alive funding to assist the community in the beautification of the Fruitvale Avenue and Woodbine Street corner. A budget of approximately \$30K in funds has been set aside for this project.

- Tim Little, Keep Oakland Beautiful, will complete the Adopt-A-Spot application for this corner.
- Tim Little reviewed the daffodils that have been planted and will be planted on 11/27 and 12/4. There was discussion about adding poppies to this area.
- Friends of Sausal Creek offered native plants. (David Ralston to meet with Sausal Creek Nursery.)
- Tim Little has been in contact with CalTrans about removing the chain link fences and will continue this effort to remove all chain link fences along the Fruitvale on-ramp and off-ramp areas.
- There was discussion regarding mulching the daffodil areas. Status: to be discussed further as this is a project that would require advance application to Waste Management for the mulch and a large number of volunteers to spread. Discuss suggestions with Tim Little.

Main elements that will be considered :

- Garden/plantings
- Signage (Friends of Sausal Creek has signage suggestions; perhaps similar to Dimond Park signage?)
- Ground cover (suggestion to tie in with "wave pattern" in crosswalks)
- Lighting: David Ralston will check on availability of extra lights currently being installed along Fruitvale Avenue; community members requested two lights at this corner.
- Decorative bench (concrete bench with decorative covering). Leslie showed examples.

Next meeting: Saturday, November 27, at Noon, on-site at Fruitvale Avenue and Woodbine Street. This meeting is open to the public.

Leslie Golden requests community members bring a variety of suggested materials for the concrete seat wall covering and paving materials.

Daffodil Planting: Tim Little and volunteers will be planting daffodils in this area on 11/27 and 12/4 from 9AM – Noon.

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Meeting notes by Kathleen Russell