



CITY OF DALLAS

CITY PLAN COMMISSION
URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 6, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Dallas City Hall, 1FN	8:30 a.m.
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Members Present:

Jaynie Schultz (Chair), Tipton Housewright (Vice Chair), Evan Beattie, Noel Aveton, Carlyn Ray

Others Present:

Lily Cabatu Weiss (Dallas Arts District), Suzan Kedron (Jackson Walker), Jake Teichman (Assistant to Jaynie Schultz), Peer Chacko (Planning and Urban Design), Sharon Hurd (Sustainable Development and Construction), Don Raines (Planning and Urban Design), Carnell Brame (Planning and Urban Design), Deme Jackson (Planning and Urban Design), Amy Albright (Planning and Urban Design)

The meeting was called to order by Jaynie Schultz (Chair) at 8:30 a.m. Chair Schultz introduced speakers Lily Cabatu Weiss (Dallas Arts District) and Suzan Kedron (Jackson Walker).

Lily Cabatu Weiss provided a brief background on the 1982 Sasaki Plan, which envisioned a mix of uses in the Arts District. A primary concern is access and connectivity – a desire to “tear down the walls” and make the neighborhood an Arts District for the whole City.

Five key strategies will comprise the Plan:

1. Transform Pearl Street into an Avenue to the Arts
 - Public art should act as a series of visual cues, leading the way from Pearl/Arts District DART Station to the institutions of the Arts District (and beyond to McKinney Ave)
2. Reinvigorate Flora Street as the Cultural core of the Arts District
3. Embrace Ross Avenue as a mixed-use Commercial corridor
 - Restaurants and retail open to the street can enhance the District’s vibrancy
 - Require only 1 row of street trees on Ross
4. Expand and update wayfinding, public art, and gateway experiences

5. Enhance Pedestrian Connections in all directions, with a focus to the west (Perot Museum, West End, Victory)

Other improvements being considered include free public Wi-Fi in the District, enhanced lighting oriented for pedestrians rather than cars, wider medians for public art installations, and curb bumpouts at the intersections of Flora and Pearl, and Woodall Rogers and Pearl. Additionally, affordable housing for artists could bring a new level of vibrancy to the District as a live/work/play neighborhood.

Committee members felt that consideration should be given to attitudes on driving. Traveling to and within the Arts District by means other than a car can be encouraged by enhancing the public realm experience with, for example, benches that make it pleasant to walk. Other comments included the opportunity to make an exciting public relations event out of “testing” wayfinding strategies on kids and/or non-Dallasites, in order to ensure effective, easy-to-follow wayfinding. Other public realm interventions could be tested as well before becoming permanent features for the whole District.

Committee members have provided Staff with contacts to review the Guide to Neighborhood Planning, and any additional contacts will also be useful. Shawn Tate was identified as a potential Residential Neighborhoods Representative on the Committee.

Regarding future meetings, members desired to hear from BetterBlock, and will be briefed again on the Arts District on May 4. The Arts District plan is scheduled to go to City Council late this year, and Committee will be briefed and act on the Plan accordingly. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by member Beattie and second by member Aveton. The meeting was closed to order at 9:30 a.m.