

**2016 City of Summit- Master Plan Re-Examination
Parks, Open Space, Conservation, Community Facilities Committee- Workshop # 1
May 10, 2016- MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Parks, Open Space, Conservation, Community Facilities Committee was held on May 10, 2016 at Summit City Hall, Whitman Room, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey, 07901 at 2000 hours.

Attendance:

Jay Brinkerhoff, Jamie Colucci, Roz Kendellen, Alison Chieffo, Annie Schiffer, Sunil Garg, Robert Rubino, Adam Zucker, Mayor Nora Radest, Amy Cairns, Judith Josephs, Jeff Wagenbach, Richard Sun, Nikki Griffiths

Krzysztof and Collin from Topology

Absent:

Marian Glenn, Dennis White, John Staunton, Dwight Hiscano, Angie Gannon

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Questions to consider
3. Re: vision process
4. Review master plan objectives
5. Identify focus areas
6. Missing objectives

Think about the land use as a broader range. How does that space connect communities? How things have changed since last reexam in 2006?

Activity #1:

Questions on Notecards (Quiet Time): The initial discussion items tend to dominate the conversation; this will capture the thoughts and ideas thrown out there.

1. Describe Summit in one word... Summit is---
2. Describe the Summit of tomorrow in one word... Summit will be---
3. How do visitors see Summit? Visitors think Summit is---
4. What is the benefit of parks and open space in Summit? (Does not necessarily need to be more than one word, think about it broadly. We all like parks, but what are the many benefits to an open city?)
5. Who needs to be heard during the Master Plan process? We have to get a point of view from...

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Question # 1 Describe Summit in One Word	Question # 2 Describe the Summit of Tomorrow...	Question # 3 How do visitors see Summit?	Question # 4 What is the benefit of parks & open space in Summit?	Question# 5 Who needs to be heard during the Master Plan process?	
Aspirational	Urban Paradise	Metro Perfect	Creates a sense of possibility	Artists	Churches
Eclectic	More Vibrant	Suburbia	Reminders of the City's past	Visitors	Religious Leaders
Amazing	Iconic	Snooty	Return to nature	City Boards	Bicyclists
Paradise	Elite	Happening	Air quality	Communities	Kids
Energetic	Prettier	Unbelievable	Preserve the wellbeing & value of the community	Sports Clubs	Residents
Community	Sustainable	Affluent	Community interaction	Realtors	Diverse races
Pretty	Home	Old Fashioned	Keeps crime down	Non-English Speakers	Economical Parties
Home		Parking Nightmare	Encourages walking	Peer Communities	
			Provides a meeting place	People of all ages	
				Political Parties	

Master Plan Reexamination... we are not starting from scratch. Master plan was started in 2000, reexamined in 2006, we are conducting another reexam at this point. This is done to see how the problems have changed and been mitigated. Also an opportunity to revision the master plan. An opportunity for us to look at the guiding principles to be viewed and hope they work for the next ten years.

Planning board owns this document, recommendation at the end of August will be put forth to the planning committee. The work done by these committees will move up the chain. In addition to this work with the committees there will be several public outreach meetings. Overall, there will be a lot of gathering data and information that will need to be distilled in the coming months. There is also a citizen advisory committee in conjunction with our committees which will allow us to reach out and address the broader objectives.

First phase is the discovery phase, not saying no or coming up with solutions. Keep in the back of your mind- we don't know what the answers are, yet. We don't know how they need to be changed to connect to the community.

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Workshop Goals:

Workshop # 1: May 10, 2016- Define goals and prioritize.

Workshop # 2: June 27, 2016- Review feedback/brainstorm solutions.

Workshop # 3: August 15- Vet recommendations/reach consensus.

Today's Goal: We're here today to organize a meeting, ask questions, prioritize objectives, identify outreaches, and generate ideas. Ideally, there is a need to retrieve feedback in the most efficient fashion.

We are not...

1. Saying no... not yet
2. Provide solutions/answers

Objectives:

The City of Summit has had many plans over the years:

- 2000 master plan
- 2003 master plan reexamination
- 2005 CRBD master plan
- 2006 master plan reexamination
- 2007 village green master plan
- 2008 action plan for a sustainable summit'
- 2015 downtown improvement plan
- 2015 broad street corridor plan

Activity #2:

Break into groups--- determine the priority levels of the items that will be presented to you. Place each sheet into the respective folder. Determine if something is long-term priority (maybe things to consider for down the road), mid-term priority (already started, making progress) or an immediate priority - urgent (add stakeholders, if something is important, who is it important to?).

Remember, you are not worrying about the finances at this time. We are just in the beginning phase of this process- you are visioning. There is no such thing as an anti-parks committee—you want to prioritize and focus on what needs to be done now. Do not phrase it as what is important versus not important. Recall, none of the items are not important— they are all important to someone. (Parks and spaces have a lot of objectives.)

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RED= IMMEDIATE PRIORITY, ORANGE= MID-TERM PRIORITY, GREEN= LONG-TERM PRIORITY

Debrief and hold a group discussion:

Ask yourself, are the objectives redundant, or can they be useful? Many are broad themed, a lot pertain to immediate priority but some could be deemed as more specific. The broader themes could be placed into long-term; they could be used as guidance for the entire process. The sustainability items were deemed as more broad. Sustainability was once the advocacy for a “pat on the back” and now it is a part of the economy, there is a real need for it. The world has changed in many ways, and we want to continue that progression.

When talking about how we approach the activation of space, preservation, community facilities- conductivity is a huge part of that.

Dr. Robert Rubino: The Park Line- or more commonly known as the “High Line” has been a project Dr. Rubino has been working on it for about 2 years. You can view full information at www.summitparkline.org or by looking up the Summit Park Line Foundation. The idea is to take old Steven Millers Railroad, abandoned for over 50 years, and convert it into a useable park space. Broken down into three sections: Section One would include an amphitheater/play ground by Overlook Hospital. Section Two would be a stretch between Morris Avenue to Celgene to include a pedestrian/bicycle walk way. The third and final section, flows from Celgene into Briant Park. The City of Summit has access and rights to the land temporarily for planning purposes from the State of New Jersey, in negotiations for a long term lease. There will most likely be an agreement with the next two months about when the land will be received. This project is funded by many large investors/sponsors and individual donors- private money. In addition to funding from the federal level is currently being explored. This would assist with the economic development of the project. The cost of this is a board range from approximately 1 million to 13-14 million dollars. It’s believed because the space has been abandoned for so long, it would be very easy to make a basic parkland. Union County has been on board as is the Department of Transportation for supporting this initiative. Union County would be responsible for the maintenance of that land once the park is complete. The Park Line could bring more pedestrian traffic to the downtown area. This is prime park space that needs to be capitalized on. It should be noted, this was in the 2000 initial plan, and revisited in the reexamination in 2006.

This committee isn’t for just one specific project- you want to be able to focus on all long term goals. The ideas of this meeting are to gather them into workable plans. Once ideas are generated, they will be presented to the planning board. It should be noted that the Master Plan is not a law, it is a guiding idea.

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Activity #3:

Break into groups utilizing the maps provided. Determine (using color sticker dots) where the City of Summit could benefit from these types of locations:

1. Connectivity (RED)
 - a. Between parks and neighborhoods.
 - b. Between city parks and county parks.
 - c. Park Line.
2. Conservation (GREEN)
 - a. Community forest.
 - b. Reduce rainwater run-off and waste water.
 - c. Protect natural resources.
3. Park & Recreation Facilities (BLUE)
 - a. Meet needs of current and future residents.
 - b. Artificial turf.
 - c. Arts/culture.

Group #1

Jay Brinkerhoff
Roz Kendellen
Annie Schiffer
Adam Zucker

Group #2

Jamie Colucci
Alison Chieffo
Sunil Garg
Robert Rubino

Break groups down, collect maps. Reminder to all attendees, the first public meeting is June 1- an email notification will be sent to everyone, included with a lot of engagement between social media.

Adjournment:

Krzysztof adjourned the meeting at 2130 hours.