

Philosophers Grove Public Meeting (16.MAR.15)

Summary of Comments from the Audience:

No real change- just rearranging furniture

Need to get rid of drug dealers before changing the design- may not need to change anything. (2 comments)

Additional lighting should be part of the plan (2 comments)

Are the trees healthy?

Ambassador's booth needs to be redone with the highest quality materials and design

Center lane may increase legitimate pedestrian and bicycle use but it still looks too much like it does now

Don't want bike corral to become a storage space- consider a B-Cycle station

What is the status of the redevelopment of the Historical Museum site?

2/3 of space is not observable at night by cameras due to the tree canopy.

Summary of Comment Cards:

Abandoned buildings do not help increased legit traffic. Why are they allowed to be left vacant???

Congestion is a stark contradiction to open Capitol Sq enabling illegal activity. Lighting, openness, police activity.

Close off Mifflin Cul-de-sac to cars. Create an entry way to the space from Fairchild.

The whole block needs to be activated: Food carts, retail in empty buildings, pedestrian mall, music and lighting.

Bike corral is a concern because of already limited parking for pick-up /drop-off. But I do like the idea of trying to have better place for bikes.

Concerned about the current population overtaking the intended use with bikes and stuff.

Perhaps "B-cycle" corral would increase legit traffic

Consider allowing sidewalk permits for additional outdoor space for business on Mifflin. Any way to make rules for the area? i.e. No Smoking, etc.

Design should

1. Remove all trees
2. Open area in center is not enough
3. Remove another 20-30 stones (@\$2000 each)
4. Replant removed trees on State Street

Too many trees. Consideration should be given to removal of all trees.

Additional light is needed.

There was a noticeable difference during the week with increased police presence. More eyes and enforcement towards behaviors can help.

Light area at night.

Artist made a good point about “walls”. The less in the way the better.

Still doesn't encourage space for programming.

Need to consider there are trash containers that line the cul-de-sac on trash pick-up eves/mornings. Would DCC preferred plan be compatible with this weekly use?

Empty storefronts create wrong image.

It is a start... suggest

1. Widen the proposed path
2. Remove some trees
3. Add lighting
4. Make the entrances clear and unencumbered.

Increased police presence is a MUST! Without ridding the area of the folks breaking the law, we are only decorating this area & new concept creates a gauntlet for pedestrians to feel a greater level of intimidation if we allow this area to be used as it currently is.

This is not an issue affecting only the square: this corner is a gateway to State Street for workers, residents, visitors & businesses. It affects the whole downtown.

Concerned about the comment disparaging the info booth. The booth provides a valuable service to locals & visitors and was designed to be a tough, durable to resist graffiti, etc.

It is NOT the problem; it is a positive thing for the area.

Like the idea of having more egress through the space & more activities that are positive in hopes of reducing negative behaviors & activities.

Open visibility helps create link between Capitol and Overture/Library. It also helps to see into back area.

The center path concept has potential but the footprint isn't big enough. More stones need to be removed to increase legit foot/bike traffic.

Pedestrian access lane in middle is very good.

Ambassador Booth stays - this is the ideal location for visitor services: 14,000 people helped in 2014.

A high quality and staffed information booth would greatly improve the tone of the space. The current booth is way too low in design.

Comment:

1. Need to address lighting
2. Additional alternatives for bike parking
3. Agree with Jill S - do not make walls in the space
4. Need for additional transition between new walkway and street turnaround i.e. widen sidewalk at turnaround
5. Study info booth

Need to have more storefront lighting – recognize this is a difficult with present situation

Positive involvement of stakeholders in discussing current issues.

Design 3 or 4. Do not change space in a way that will alter current use. Plan to do minimal changes and wait for others to change the street will prolong quality of life issues. Needs more lighting!

Comment:

1. More lighting
2. More bike parking nearby, if not right there
3. Maybe a street food cart (That won't compete with other businesses or craft/art vendors
4. Remove parking traffic on Mifflin so drug dealers can't drive up.

Like the path through the middle to help activities in the place. Like keeping the trees.

Visitor booth adds eyes to the street.

The tree canopy and lack of lighting does not allow for visibility.

Except for lighting, removal /repositioning of bike rack doesn't change artist design.