OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

Subcommittee Meeting #1
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
4:30 – 6:00 PM
OTN SAP Update Objectives
OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
KEY OBJECTIVES FROM CHARRETTE

- Identify New Open Space and Enhance Existing Space
- Variety of Design
- Montgomery Park as Heart
- Create Linear Park, Greenways and Vistas
- Green Space in the North
- Connectivity of Spaces and Amenities
- Connect to Daingerfield Island
- Explore Interior and exterior Activity/Community Facility Space
- Identify New Public Art Opportunities – Cultural District
- Preserve existing Cultural Uses
- Explore Use of Tracks
Open Space
NEIGHBORHOOD & CONTEXTUAL RESOURCES

OTN Plan Area: 140 acres

Parks:
~31 acres (22%)

Daingerfield Island:
~106 acres

Urban Parks (non NPS / Waterfront):
3.5 acres (2%)

Tree Canopy:
~26 acres (18%)

Open space per 1,000 people:

City-wide: 7.3 acres

OTN Plan Area: 10.4 acres
CHARRETTE DRAFT OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

LEGEND

- OPEN SPACE AS A PRIORITY ON THE NRG SITE
- MAXIMIZE OPEN SPACE CORRIDOR ON THE WATERFRONT
OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES

STREETSCAPE - BLANK STREET WALLS

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

New Open Space - NRG
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

New/Improved Open Space – Other Sites
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Trails/Park Enhancements
**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan for 17 neighborhood-serving parks throughout the City including Montgomery Park.

- Size ranges 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles.

- In addition to Park Planning workshops, surveys and comment boards, a Community Meeting was held, at the request of the Park & Recreation Commission, on November 17 to discuss the Montgomery Park Improvement Plan.

- On November 19, 2015 the Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan.

- City Council will receive the plan at its Legislative Session on January 26, 2016.
IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Renovate, expand, and reconfigure the playground

2. Improve plantings along Royal Street

3. Remove parking meters in the parking lot and replace them with 2-hour parking limit

4. Renovate the parking lot and include green infrastructure

5. Fix drainage issues along Fairfax St.

6. Develop and implement a detailed landscape plan for the passive use area in the center of the park

7. Add a backboard for solo play to the tennis court fence

Proposed Layout
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Street Enhancements
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Environmental Design

Cultural/Historic

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation
Group Discussion - Direction
POTENTIAL TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACES

OBJECTIVES

Input from the sub-committee

Topics for further study

1. Development Sites: On-site (smaller) vs. Consolidated (larger)?

2. Other New Open Space Sites: Aside from NRG and the rail corridor, which (if any) other private sites should staff explore improved open space?

3. Streetscape Improvements: Which streets / sidewalks should staff explore enhancements to – e.g. widening / environmental design
Art/Entertainment District
(Cultural District)
CHARRETTE DRAFT ARTS/ENTERNTAINMENT DISTRICT

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation
669 Arts-Related Businesses Employ 3,588 People
§ 15.2-1129.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, RELATING TO ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

Any locality may by ordinance establish within its boundaries an arts and cultural district for the purpose of increasing awareness and support for the arts and culture in the locality. Each locality may provide incentives for the support and creation of arts and cultural venues in the district. Each locality may also grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility in an arts and cultural district.

B. The tax incentives may be provided for up to 10 years and may include, but not be limited to: (i) reduction of permit fees; (ii) reduction of user fees; and (iii) reduction of any type of gross receipts tax. The extent and duration of such incentive proposals shall conform to the requirements of the Constitutions of Virginia and of the United States.

C. Each locality may also provide for regulatory flexibility in such zone which may include, but not be limited to: (i) special zoning for the district; (ii) permit process reform; (iii) exemption from ordinances; and (iv) any other incentive adopted by ordinance, which shall be binding upon the locality for a period of up to 10 years.
CULTURAL DISTRICT – PROS AND CONS

• Provides Tax Incentives for Cultural Development
• Identifies a specific area of the City for Arts and Culture
• May not provide protection for Existing Arts Organizations
CULTURAL DISTRICT – CONSIDERATIONS

• Is it in the right area in the City?

• Can incentives be provided without the legal designation?

CULTURAL DISTRICT – STRATEGIES

• Citywide Arts & Culture Plan

• Temporary Public Art

• Cultural Programming
Group Discussion - Direction
Input on Strategies for Arts/Entertainment District (Cultural District) Formation and Operation for Staff to Study and Test
Historic Preservation
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KEY OBJECTIVES FROM CHARRETTE

• Enhance and Reinforce special character of Washington Street
• Preserve, Integrate and Celebrate historic and archaeological Resources
• Incorporate Historic Interpretation
• Make History Part of the Plan
• Utilize appropriate and varied Architecture
• Allow modern along with historically preserved Architecture
CHARRETTE KNOWN AND POTENTIAL HISTORIC RESOURCES MAP

Known and Potential Historic Resources

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CHARRETTE DRAFT HISTORIC THEME AREAS

HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY: THEME AREAS
Ideas for Future Study

LEGEND
- CANAL
- RAILROAD
- AGRARIAN ECONOMY
- INDUSTRIES
- CROSS CANAL (AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD)
- SUNKEN VESSELS

AGRARIAN ECONOMY
18TH CENTURY - EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

* CIVIL WAR THEME NOT ILLUSTRATED

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation
HISTORIC PRESERVATION – NEXT STEPS

1. Complete a historical narrative of the Old Town North Planning Area

2. Update the Known and Potential Historic Resources Map

3. Create an OTN History/Interpretive Plan
   a. Include refinement of the Charrette Thematic Map
   b. Include possible Design Elements to complement Historic Interpretation
   c. Include possible enhancements for existing Historical Interpretation
Group Discussion - Direction
POTENTIAL HISTORY PLAN

Subcommittee Discussion on Potential OTN History Plan to meet Historic Preservation Objectives
Next Steps
NEXT STEPS

• January 25, 2016 – Subcommittee Report to the full Advisory Group

• February – Study and Testing Phases

• Next Meeting – March 9, 2016: Time and Location To be Decided
OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE

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