

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of June 17, 2008

Members Present

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry McEwen, LUPZC alt | <input type="checkbox"/> Fran O'Donnell, Business Assoc |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Woodring, Co-Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Learned, TT&P |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harriet Brumberg, LUPZC alt | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick McGranaghan, LUPZC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Dhody, Aesthetics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Washburn, Historical Society | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ned Mitinger, VP Physical |

Others Attending

Bob Anderson, Morris Arboretum
Mark Cooper, U Penn representative
Alan Metcalfe, architect
Meredith Sonderskov
Phil LaCalsey, CHCA Manager
Melissa Nash, recorder

Greg Woodring, co-chair, opened the meeting at 7:37pm. It was suggested that the approval of the May minutes be postponed.

Tree Canopy Walk Morris Arboretum

•Presentation: G Woodring explained that the Arboretum has not yet received a refusal but will, as it is an institution in an R-1 zone. Bob Anderson described the proposed interpretive exhibit that is meant for both children and adults. The tree canopy walk will get people up into the treetops. The Arboretum was explored to find a place where this would be most appropriate. Alan Metcalfe described the design. Its nearest neighbor is Chestnut Hill College and is about 1200' from Germantown Avenue and residential neighbors and about 900' from the closest college building. Although it will not be seen when the trees are in leaf, it may be slightly visible in the winter. The Arboretum canvassed the near neighbors and invited 8 to attend a meeting. Two neighbors attended and supported the project. The college also has sent a letter of support. The section shows the slope and how the walk is entered at grade. It is accessible to handicapped visitors and children and has only a gentle incline. CVM Engineers has been consulted for the structure that is being build entirely to code; CVM will also construct the canopy walk. The walkway features a pavilion and interpretive displays. The project includes a noted old tree. There is a bird's nest feature accessed by a suspension bridge. This is 14'-20' above the ground. There is also a netting area, which is 45' off the ground. The walkway will be built of wood, metal grating and netting. There will be a redundant structure for safety. L&I has no exiting requirement as this is not classified as a building. The overall length of the walkway is about 200'. The walkways are 6' wide and the bridge is 4' wide. There will be no environmental impact. The Wissahickon Watershed has OKed the project. G Woodring asked about the foundations. Two types will be utilized - caissons and pin foundations. The choice will be made based on the root structures in each area. The type of lighting was asked about. There will be foot lighting only. There will be no nighttime events. The walkway could be used as an ancillary part of a wedding but would not be used after dark. There is no lighting in the Arboretum in general. Neighbors will not see the lighting. Those who use the Arboretum for events rent the area around Widener and can also rent parts of the garden but these are not used after dark. The pavilion is used for viewing. The purpose is bringing people closer to the trees. L McEwen asked if the pavilion would be used for tours. The pavilion would be one station on a tour. G

Woodring asked if it would be used as a classroom. Groups generally tour from station to station with a guide. Ned Mitinger asked why a variance was needed. The refusal has not yet been received but as an institution in a R-1 zone, refusals are given for all work. L McEwen asked about the impact of groups and asked if pictures could be taken from neighbors' homes to show the walkway location. B Anderson noted that before the structure placement was finalized the trees would need to be surveyed. G Woodring asked about the appearance of the legs. They would have point foundation and would be steel towers. There would be no drainage change and the structure would not be very visible.

- Committee Action: It was moved that the project be seen by the LUPZC with the refusal and then the Aesthetics and Historical Development Advisory Committees. The motion was seconded. In discussion it was decided that the Aesthetics Committee did not need to see the project. The motion was unanimously approved. The Arboretum should come to the LUZPC on July 3 at 8pm. They should bring their refusal and a programming statement. Some discussion followed about the lighting that was generally deemed to be a non-issue. An opening date is scheduled for June 2009.

Committee Business

- It was noted that music from ¡Cuba! is spilling out onto the sidewalk. It was also noted that a large deck has been constructed on the parking lot side of the restaurant.

- The May minutes were approved as submitted.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.