

Oakland County – City of Pontiac Livability Assessment

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #3

**The Crofoot
1 South Saginaw
Pontiac, MI 48342**

**March 8, 2012
7:30AM – 9:30AM**

Meeting Notes

1. **Introductions and Background:** Bret Rasegan (Oakland County Planning) started the meeting with an overview of activities and covered the agenda topics.
2. **Engaging Public and Moving Forward:** Elnora Austell (E Austell Associates) covered the meetings and outreach since the last meeting. She reviewed the public involvement plan with the group. She gave an update on community outreach, media and social media efforts that had been carried out to-date to attract participation in the March 17th workshop. She asked the group to give any ideas on distribution and encouraged them to help spread the word about the March 17th workshop.
3. **Community Workshop #1**

Alternatives Overview – Barbara Arens

Barbara Arens (Parsons Brinckerhoff) continued the presentation and gave an overview of the six Woodward Alternatives. There was much discussion about Saginaw and the various alternatives.

Tactical Urbanism Overview – Tad Krear

Tad Krear (Land Design Studio) continued the presentation and gave an overview on examples of 'Tactical Urbanism'. There was good discussion about the opportunities for organized groups to work together and make a difference. There needs to be an organized approach and ensure that the appropriate approvals are received prior to activities being done. It was noted that the DBA needs to coordinate these efforts to ensure that there is a consistent look. Among the possible initiatives discussed were creating a signed Pontiac history trail; a Garden Club effort to plant irises and murals created by local artist Ron Carter.

“Complete Streets” 101 Overview – Tom Coleman

Tom Coleman (Parsons Brinckerhoff) continued the presentation and gave an overview of "Complete Streets". He stated that the goal is for individuals to think about the various transportation modes and the existing street network and where there might be appropriate applications for a "Complete Streets" assessment.

4. Group Discussion –

- There was much discussion on the Clinton River trail. Interim connectivity options and long-term options could be developed to support alternative options. SEMCOG also offered to direct the group toward resources.
- There was some discussion about the historic plaques being placed throughout the downtown, with some also possibly integrated with the Clinton River trail. The project team was asked to coordinate with the Downtown Business Association to explore this idea.
- There was more discussion about the Amtrak transportation center and the possibility of leveraging it as an asset.
- Discussion about needing a philanthropic “Davos hero/” to rain down money on Pontiac. The Kresge Foundation was mentioned as a potential resource.
- There was support about the single and double approach for the tactical urbanism concept.
- The need to demo the Phoenix plaza was the center of discussion for a while. It was asked whether we might be able to conduct traffic study to determine what would happen if the Phoenix Center was demolished. The challenges that the Center presents were discussed including the fact that it blocks direct access to the downtown for 600 new state employees. There was also discussion about the condition of the plaza; a recent assessment found critical structural problems with the foundation.
- There was discussion that the DBA will be stepping up to fill the place of the previous DDA and will continue to embrace the 4 Point Main Street Approach.

5. Q&A – There were no additional questions and answers.

6. Next Steps – Bret indicated that the next CAG meeting will be May 24, 2012 and that the community workshop will be on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Crofoot Auditorium from 10am to 12pm.

Please SAVE THESE DATES for upcoming CAG meetings:

Thursday, May 24, 2012
Thursday, September 6, 2012
Thursday, January 10, 2013

Please SAVE THESE DATES for upcoming PUBLIC meetings:

March 17, 2012	COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1
TBA	VISIONING CHARRETTE
July 19, 2012	ALTERNATIVES MEETING
November 15, 2012	PLAN DEPLOYMENT