

Southside Vision Development Committee Meeting Notes
March 22, 2019

Present: Diane Labelle (Charter Arts), Ron Unger (ArtsQuest), Mike DeCrosta (Southside Arts District)

Staff: Anna Smith (CADCB)

Submitted by: Anna Smith

Southside Vision 2019-2020 Project Proposals

The committee reviewed drafts of project proposals for implementation of the lighting plan and regular maintenance of Lopes International Park and other physical improvements. Diane said she would reach out to Tony Hanna for guidance on how much to ask for in order to implement the first phase of the lighting plan.

The committee also discussed the importance of including the lighting firm selected in a discussion of upcoming Southside development projects.

Lighting Study

The committee discussed potential dates for a tour of the lighting study area with consultants planning to submit proposals for the Southside Lighting Plan. Diane will confirm either April 2 or April 9 at 5 pm. Anna mentioned that six firms indicated their intent to submit a proposal, and she will reach out to them to confirm the date and time of the tour.

Tranquility Park

Diane mentioned that she will be in touch with Bruce Fritzinger about developing a plan for Tranquility Park. Ideally, Lowes Bethlehem would like to complete work during the month of May. Anna mentioned that the original design included all native plants. Anna will work with the City to ensure that the remaining funds from the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center are used to landscape the back area of the park or support the design in whatever way Lowes cannot.

Commercial Façade Program

Anna explained that staff are receiving applications for commercial façade improvements and will present the first round to the committee for review next month. Committee members mentioned engaging Hot Plate Soul Kitchen, and Anna explained that they had not indicated interest in the program thus far.

Open Floor

Ron asked about the future of parklets on the Southside, and Anna provided background on the Lehigh University Mountaintop Project that focused on the construction of parklets last year. They built a parklet to be placed outside of Golazo House this summer and will be working on additional parklets this summer.

Next Meeting

The next Development Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 26 at 10 am in the first floor conference room of the Forte building (1337 E. 5th Street).