MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville City Council
From: PLACE Design Task Force (PDTF)
Date: 2/12/15

RE: PDTF Monthly meeting 2/12/15

Members of Council:

This month PLACE considered the following items:

1. Storm Drain Art Presentation -
   a. Presented by Dan Frisbee (Environmental Sustainability, Public Works) & Serena Gruia (The Bridge PAI)
      • A joint public/non-profit effort, the primary objective of Storm Drain Art is to increase public awareness of the role stormwater runoff plays in the quality of our rivers, lakes and streams and ultimately the water we drink.
      • Similar projects from other municipalities were presented and discussed with task force members. How exactly the examples will be translated to a Charlottesville idiom will remain to be seen. For this reason the first few iterations will take place in politically and/or aesthetically neutral areas (ie not in a residential neighborhood or an historic district)
      • Initial efforts are to be focused on workgroups with middle & high school children and artist members of the Bridge PAI
   b. The task force expressed enthusiasm & broad support for the project.
      • This is a good example of what we need to do to increase public participation and awareness...making the workings of the public infrastructure transparent parallels our desire to do so in other aspects of city government.
      • It was suggested that elementary school students might be better age group
      • The task force supports the project, desires to be kept informed of progress, will gladly participate on an as needed basis.

2. McIntire Trailhead -
   a. Presented by Doug Ehman (Parks and Recreation) and John Schmidt (LPDA)
      • Options for the entry into the west side of McIntire Park were presented and discussed with the task force.
   b. The task force did not vote on a specific scheme.
      • Opening up the end of the adjacent parking lot to the access road was a deemed good idea.
      • Parking immediate to the pedestrian bridge made sense.
• The final scheme will most likely be a hybrid of Options 1 & 2 – principal issue being how much encroachment (if any) will be allowed on the Rte 250 Bypass right of way.

• In general the task force felt the design was on the right track but will need further refinement. The presentation was thorough and very well done.

• It was suggested that there be a greater emphasis on canopy trees in proximity to the McIntire Park Bus stop for shade.

3. Planning and Coordination for Place-Making “Summit”

• This was a general discussion with Peter Thompson (Director of the Senior Center), Donna Baker (Director of JABA), Bitsy Waters (Tree Commission) and the task force about the desire to have a comprehensive look at how places are made in Charlottesville and how this coordinates with our comprehensive plan and vision for the future of the city.

• Much of the discussion centered on what form a “summit” on Place-Making should take (a symposium, a week of lectures, a specialized version of the TED talks, coordinating with TOM TOM Fest, etc.) and what groups should be represented and by whom.

• The breadth of this initial discussion was pretty far ranging. Nothing definitive was decided other than a general acknowledgement that developing a list of specific objectives will be necessary for further discussion.

4. PLACE welcomed two new members to the task force:
   a. Andrew Mondeschein (Multi-modal rep)
   b. Jim Self (CATS rep)

5. PLACE elected officers for the next year:
   a. Mark Watson Chair
   b. Fred Wolf Vice Chair
   c. Tim Mohr Secretary

6. Due to time constraints the task force was not able to address two items on the agenda, Green Infrastructure Update & the 2015 Analysis/Research Presentation Schedule.

For the Place Design Task Force:

Mark Watson, RLA          Fred Wolf, RA          Tim Mohr, AIA  
Chair                    Vice Chair             Secretary