MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville City Council
From: PLACE Design Task Force (PDTF)
Date: 6/14/15
RE: PDTF Monthly meeting 5/14/15

Members of Council:

In May PLACE considered the following items:

1. Public Comments:
   a. No public comments

2. Update on City Initiatives (presented by Carrie Rainey):
   a. Smart Growth America Grant
      • Overview of zoning impacts
      • All day workshop with city staff reviewing:
        • Outdoor lighting
        • Green infrastructure
        • Community health
      • Findings will be incorporated in code audit
      • Review process used by Smart Growth consultants was informative in itself
   b. Watershed Initiative
      • Walkable Watersheds – community walk and discussion 6/8/15
      • Overlaps with Storm Drain Art initiative
   c. National Trails Day
      • Pollocks Branch “Clean the Bay Day” 6/6/15
   d. Streets That Work
      • Staff Streetscape report going to council next session
   e. Pilot Project for West Main (PLACE proposal)
      • To be presented to council next month
   f. Mall Street Crossings
      • Ongoing - consultants not selected yet
   g. NDS Director selection
      • Applicant pool closed – interview process starting in early June
   h. Photometric analysis of street lighting Downtown & Corner pending – no work to date

3. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects:
   a. HUD sponsored – priority is neighborhood projects on a 3 year cycle w/budget of $450k
   b. Reconstruction of sidewalks in 10th & Paige Neighborhood is focus of current grant
      • Dominion Power is not working with City staff to expedite reconstruction
of sidewalks (poles need to be removed and replaced in order to rebuild/build sidewalks)

- In order to proceed with project (so as not to lose funding) City staff is working on alternate sidewalk design that goes around pole locations (poles set at roughly 100’ apart)

- PLACE committee members expressed frustration with Dominion Powers intransigence and felt that this needs to be brought before Council in a separate memo asap. It was pointed out that the Battle building project got immediate response and cooperation from Dominion so clearly political clout plays a role in Dominion’s willingness to participate with the community as a whole.
  - It was noted that LF Payne was instrumental in getting Dominion Power to bury the lines at the Battle building

- MW suggested field engineers are likely to be more responsive than Dominions front office and he will initiate contact on the project’s behalf.

- PLACE committee members also expressed concern that the proposed work-around (literally bumping the sidewalk out at pole locations) was in need of further design development and really needed to be dealt with in a comprehensive fashion that reflected the objectives of the Streets That Work initiatives. How this design gets evaluated per these objectives is vague and needs further explication.

4. General infrastructure discussion/observations (not on agenda)

- Citywide maps of SIA district plans is still not complete (KG)

- Parking meter districts should be integrated with TIFF districts so that infrastructure is properly funded (assuming some sort of managed parking system is developed per Nygard study)

- Phasing needs to be re-visited for West Main Street project

- TJ PDC is contemplating pilot project for Water Street – specifics tbd

5. Preliminary Value Analysis Presentation (Part A):

  a. Objective - present potential decision making processes that will codify and streamline how the City identifies priorities, develops & implements future projects

    - Park Service process – “Choosing by Advantage”
      - This has been a successful methodology and well worth evaluating in the context of public projects and objectives in Charlottesville
      - Value isn’t simply a question of cost it is both quantitative and qualitative.
      - Designers/planners are not part of the rating process - process is user oriented
(Value Analysis continued)

• West Main project would be an ideal platform for exploring the logic of the Park Service methodology as there are a lot of moving parts, many users with diverse interests/requirements and the information is developed by the consultants is current.

b. Additional value analysis – decision making protocols will be researched and presented in a later PLACE meeting (Part B)

6. Planning & Coordination for Place-Making “Summit”

• 2 ½ day format – multi-disciplinary
• Funding needs to be pursued – foundations/companies
• Emphasize change as part of the urban experience and empower those fearful of change so that they are part of the change (ie it’s not “happening” to them) – Heritage Center might be a key partner in this discussion/objective

7. Additional Public Comments:

a. No comments

For the Place Design Task Force:

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