

Bridging Neighborhoods Design Project

Barbara Fox, Convener / 14 Birch Crescent, Rochester, NY 14607
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In Attendance: Barbara Fox, Hank Herrera, Kevin Kelley, Walter Dutcher, Henry McCartney, Amy Priestley, Cindy Mark, Spring Worth, Caroline Elliott, Eddie Prunoske, Bill Schwappacher, Alan Oberst, Fred Rosenstein, Madeline Cutrone, Colette Carmouche

Barbara opened the meeting at 6:00pm and welcomed new people.

Hank briefly described the project and the process to date. We have to decide on a single design and produce renderings to present to potential funders.

Kevin Kelley and Amy Priestley have done some preliminary work on the physical dimensions of the space by taking measurements and surveying. Kevin stated we need to find which of our designs will actually fit. He explained the need for a bridge to have specific slope (8.3°) and elevation (275 feet on one side and 415 on the other) to be able to go over a double-decker train. He measured various elevation points and widths of the roads. The current crosswalk on Goodman is 109 feet. We will advocate for 11 foot lanes and 14 – 15 feet in the roundabout. They are now 16 – 18 feet wide, which was standard in the 1970's. Kevin presented a map with the possible roundabout. Building the roundabout would require no private land. The roundabout fits but the question still exists about whether it will handle the traffic flow. There is enough room to have the pedestrian bridge and the vehicular tunnel. Conversation ensued regarding traffic circles, roundabouts and traditional intersections. Hank will explore a possible grant from Surdna Foundation to do a simulation. Amy stated that she is willing to do a preliminary simulation to be included in the grant application. A major consideration is whether there is time for pedestrians to cross. One possibility is to have a pedestrian triggered traffic signal. Hank suggested a spiral monumental addition to the pedestrian bridge, linking the neighborhoods and creating a unique, artistic statement. Kevin stated that there is 50-50 chance that pedestrians may be intimidated by the roundabout. Alan recommended taking this design to the DOT roundabout expert. Amy suggested doing a car count at the intersection during peak times (7 – 9am; 4 – 6pm and Saturday 11:30am – 1:30pm), in September when school is in session. It was suggested that preliminary numbers be gathered prior to the next meeting. Kevin will provide another map with a traditional, improved intersection and another with a single-lane roundabout. Discussion ensued regarding the pedestrian bridge and whether the slope could be built up with dirt; designing the bridge to resemble a railroad depot; and reconfiguring Circle Street. The area needs to be made safe with good lighting.

Hank stated that he is meeting with architect Emilio de Leon on Friday, July 7 at noon at Pomodoro's. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome. Emilio was recommended by Peter Buckley to do the renderings for the project.

Next meeting: August 3, 2006 at 6:00pm, location TBA.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cindy Mark