

MEETING MINUTES

Time: 9am to 7pm**Topic: Public Open House****Meeting Date: 10/21/2015****Location: ASTORIA, OR****Project: HERITAGE SQUARE****Project #: P3232.01**

Attendees:

Kevin Cronin, City
of AstoriaChelsea McCann,
WMLaura Klinger,
Hacker

Will Dann, Hacker

Daren Doss, C+D

The open house room was broken down into categories that included Streetscape, Architecture, and Open Space. The following is a log of the comments that were captured during the open house on the flip charts and boards.

Streetscape

- I enjoy the concept of the “Curbless / Festival Street Scape” on Duane Street from 11th ↔ 12th for additional open space, ability for optimal mixed use and freedom of flow for ADA, bicycle, and events. A beautiful street scape with traffic soothing visual control features will enhance our community’s quality of life
- Love the comment above! Love the mix of urban community space and planters / baskets trees!
 - Like the idea of green garden space
 - Love the idea of market rate housing or coast guard housing
 - Want to see a plaza with a lot of comfortable seating
- Narrowing 12th could be an issue with delivery trucks blocking streets during deliveries
 - How would neighboring businesses be affected?
- Move Sunday Market to Waterfront
- Parking – consider the increase in housing when determining parking counts
 - Consider amphitheater and creating a lower zone on the site
- By not doing it:
 - Market benefits by having the back of the booths closed off and a wider pedestrian path in the middle one day a week.
 - Rest of time we don’t need wider sidewalks.
 - Not a fix.
- Where is the small amphitheater in the Safeway hole? It was a great idea.

- All of these are expensive fixes to a problem we don't have – Consider Astoria's budget.
- Library on Heritage Square would revitalize a mostly empty/derelict, but central quadrant of downtown. A much needed addition for Astoria.
- Curbless is great. Makes it feel like a plaza.
- If you have tried to maneuver through the crowd at Sunday Market, you might be reluctant to make the path narrower.
- Narrowing the middle lane during Sunday market? It's a safety issue already...don't make it narrower, please!!

Architecture

- Would love a lofty/lighted design with sustainable wood
- Get rid of American Legion Building then start planning
- Option C achieves my desire to see an open space for community to gather, visually achieve a common space, minimize view obstruction for Duane and 11th, and optimize the Curbless street scape. Our view of our hill is a major draw to visitors and a reminder of our heritage, I would be sad to lose it, a great asset potentially lost.
- Lots of interior light. Public meeting spaces accessible after library hours. Lots of public restrooms, including some accessible from outside or the lobby so people don't have to go through the Library to get to them. One plus for housing, make it market rate. Please remember what the American Legion stands for and be respectful of its importance to its members, if that means it stays exactly as it is.
- I used the existing Library to do college studies. When set up – too much noise from children's area. Please set up to contain play area noise and children's noise.
- Great project, Library is a huge community resource
- Outside space for housing on top of Library would be nice
- Seaside's "new" Library is very successful, meeting spaces, central location, etc., we need the same
- Please remember existing businesses in the area and how street scape traffic in the area would affect them. Walls are walls. Open space for public gathering "in town" is needed to balance riverfront attraction
- Awesome project! The Library needs to be updated, more light, more computers, more reading lounge areas. All the ideas look great!
- Overdesigned for Astoria. Simplify. Prefer option 2. Build on current site, not Heritage Square. Library doesn't need a café

- Not convinced need to move the library to Heritage Square. If moved, any plans to deal with existing building (tear down, sell) won't work, can't even tear down Waldorf. Like "C" the best, if moved. Definite need for separated children's space. Really like curbless street idea
- Library on Heritage Square would benefit all residents, visitors, and vulnerable populations. Benefits would have a positive impact far outweighing the cost
- Simplify! More nature
- Moving the library is fine, but it might not be critical for the success of a redeveloped Heritage Square
- The architecture/design of the library and housing element is important. Of substantial importance is the ability of these designs to support the character of the historic district. Consider architecture, materials, building mass and streetscape in meeting historic guidelines
- No housing here, please. It is no going to be 'affordable' housing. People think they want to live next to open space, farmer's markets, event space, but in reality, when vendors are setting up at 7am, and music is playing, and kids are shouting, they will not love it, and they will complain. This is not an appropriate location for private housing. Library, yes. Public space, yes.
- I would love to see Scandinavian design in the interior
- Astoria's library definitely needs to be renovated in some way. The preservationists want to save the building, but when it is not serving its purpose, when it is too small and dark that it can't, you have to rethink the situation. Demolishing the existing library and rebuilding it would be great. If we decide to move the library to Heritage Square, option C is the best option. Unified buildings, skylights, naturally flowing open public spaces and affordable housing (needed for downtown) it could be really amazing and bring our community together
- For who exactly is this affordable housing for? Single moms with kids? Waitresses with dogs? And what exactly is "affordable?" Those of us who are single, employed, and not making over \$20,000 tend to fall through the "affordable" housing cracks.

The following charts document the feedback collected from the Architecture boards:

OPTION A (8)	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum sunlight in plaza. Excellent library space • More parking. More housing, seems obvious 9 • We need an Amphitheatre and this one has room for one, as well as extra parking
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Legion Building for housing or ? That fits in design for Heritage Square • Split parking is confusing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaza is small • Twelfth Street in shadow of buildings
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the setback from 12th • Attached library • Light available to library • Responds well to Elliot • Option A allows more sun to plaza area and parking i.e. had (something) to plaza • Don't forget about a community meeting room for 200 people • Love underground parking!! • I feel sun exposure as an option "A" is important to site. How about some type of stadium seating for summer events? No crate boards! • Any building that Butts on a street (12th) doesn't need a sidewalk. Do diagonal parking

OPTION B (20)	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaza allows for Sunday Market to continue as is. Good light • Great street space for use. Library access and visible from lovely green area
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why / at what cost is the existing library abandoned? • Library and housing split plaza
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent any cost estimates • Considering any of these is premature. Renovate the present library • Option D – a drawing with the Legion Building beside the Library, which is beside landscaped multi use space • Option E – do not build library and housing here-that offers a lot more flexibility

OPTION C (17)	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the open space; it would complement curbless street scape. Connects to surging waves, and over City Hall. • Worried about cast shadows, especially in winter. • Like the open space • Most open space, most aesthetically appealing • Light in Library

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects buildings in unified zone • Open space is great! Plaza will naturally flow from garden to 12th Street Market • Library open to river/park view, and well from 12 traffic • Best flow for open space, 12th street doesn't become a tunnel • C is best. Gives most open space and continuity. Like the staggering housing
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lose the Legion!! Trade them for old Library.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, looks too blocky • No housing. This is not a good place for it! As much as people think they will like living next to park/farmers market/event space, they will complain and not like it

OPTION 1	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses existing space for new, big, awesome library • Only if underground parking is open for market parking
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mixed use library on Heritage Square would be great • Keep and either renovate, or demolish library with parking under it

OPTION 2	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Battalion architecture that recognized style and ours • Keep existing library, but go up, not out • Parking now is about six spaces – street parking is not a problem
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground parking won't work. Homeless dangerous • Parking nightmare • Parking would decrease a lot

OPTION 3	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the fresh start and closeness to the market • Best use for the library
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No to this new library space. It takes up market space and parking

New Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daycare. Yes!• Daycare is a great idea• Adult education Clatsop Community College
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Open Space

- New buildings should be encouraged
- Make sure night-time activity, usage is encouraged
- Consider the success and design of below-grade spaces
- To what degree should Sunday Market determine the design of project?
- Housing idea is a good one, structured parking or underground parking is good. I don't support adding any additional surface parking
- I like the idea of an urban plaza – provided that space is enlivened with events and activities that encourage pedestrian use
- I like the idea of Duane Street becoming more pedestrian oriented
- Library must be well lit at night, as well as open spaces
- All three design options could be successful, but I like B & C the best. Option A has too much surface parking for my liking
- Convince the Legion to move. Do this right. The Legion Building must go
- Remember that it is usually very rainy here. Think about where sunlight can reach park space and how space can be utilized during rainy season, not just for market season
- Underground and structured parking. Maybe 5 and 4 stories, built to resemble an old building. Bottom parking can create revenue with paid/monthly "rent". The top floor can be an outside roof top garden/covered park, with a great view. Top level parking open to public.
- The library is a dedicated memorial and will stay the same. "Astoria Library and Veteran's Memorial"
- I prefer concept B & C for the festival street design. Lunch benches would be great with lots of planters/baskets
- No new buildings – keep it as open space/public gatherings
- Please investigate Bellingham's Farmer's Market's structure, low visual impact, optimal variability of space use, a great success for them, perhaps for us?
- Downtown market rate housing, please. Places to sit (comfortable)
- Affordable housing for locals. YES
- Make library use priority. No mixed use
- Three cheers for "C" – Two cheers for "B"

- Maximize “Draw” attraction to project area for diverse uses. Vitality of downtown needs balance to riverfront
- Affordable housing
- I don’t see the need for expensive housing as part of the project. Prefer more openness
- I don’t see the need for any housing as part of the project. It should be for all citizens equally!
- Thank you for making the library a priority
- Library needs to be the main priority after years of multiple options – its resources need to expand for our growing community and culture. Our downtown is seriously lacking in green/sitting space with filtered lighting. Things could include solar powered trash and recycling bins. Except for “private “ green space across from Film Museum there is no large tree or grassy areas for lunch breaks, opportunities for library reading groups for children. Canvas type “sails” as awnings are eco-friendly, water and weather resistant, and architecturally pleasing (triangular shaped). Affordable housing is critical in our “NOW” current development. Now housing cost should be best deferred to already existing homes with multi-family in current neighborhoods. An amphitheater would be best placed at the base of the hill by the Astoria Column. Keeping a more desirable and “green” space landscaped with seating to enhance the Sunday Market space on 12th, I feel is important
Water conservation, ongoing maintenance and overhead costs need to be considered for long-term sustainability. Creating space that is family oriented is needed. Also, continue working on vision plans to enhance and create a downtown culture for walking and biking – healthy cities in the US are taking lead based on reports from the CDC. Parking could be created outside downtown core. Grant money is available for artists as a pass through grant for rural development and beautification of space. The Legion Building is in serious need of rehab and refurb. Would stick out without a sense of continuity around the garden and surging waves, not to mention options A, B or C. Consider transfer of Legion to Library. Uphold history of both the old building (Library) and existence of Legion. Library should not be torn down and reconstructed by new developers. Option of concept B is the best use of resource, sources and uses proposals and future investor and marketing efforts. Loft with one or two bedrooms should be out. Keep natural use of lighting on ceilings – 2 story library – grants available for state of the art computers, reference materials and resources. Library could become that space providing performance areas inside and out, and large children’s area inside (Field trips could be taken there) really need to take a look at the Legion Building. We have enough artists living here to create collaborative designs – especially pertaining to Alley
- Preserve Legion Building! Remember Veterans are the ones we need to thank for the choices we still enjoy

The following are tallies of the voting boards for the Open Space station.

PLAZA PROGRAMMING	
Green Space	10
Reading Garden	17
Food Carts	4
Performance Space	36
Ice Rink (Temporary)	4
Trees (Shade)	22
Covered Space	26
Amphitheatre	39
Market	26
Play Area	5
Other Multi-use parking and community event space landscaped	1

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THIS AREA?	
I live here	65
I work here	38
I came here to shop	13
I pass through here	3

HOW DO YOU ARRIVE?	
Car	48
Bicycle	3

Walk	32
Other	2

WHAT VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT?	
Public Access	17
Economic Redevelopment	14
Community Gathering	44
Sustainability	15
Historic Reference	18
Adaptive/Flexible Space	11

WHICH OF THESE STREET IMPROVEMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE MOST TO SEE?	
Festival Streets Curbless Streets	27
Pedestrian – Oriented Streets	31
Improved Crossing	7
Hanging Baskets or Other Vegetation	14

Benches	10
Trash Cans	7
Art	10

WHICH OF THESE FEATURES DO YOU DESIRE MOST?	
Amphitheatre	30
Lunch Spot	3
Covered Area	22
Parking	9
Seating Outdoor	8

Play Area	1
Small Event Space	12
Public Restroom	20
Food Vendors	5
Garden	2
Trees	27
Market Space	11