

Open Space & Brownfields

March 9, 2022

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 20 attendees; 9 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Justin Denis (TPL) updates from Molina drop test drop:
 - Passed, opening celebration early may, flier to come
- b. Yaffa & Sons Property – Soil Pile
 - City CRA updates:
 1. CRA has applied to state for grant for the environmental assessment
 2. City has applied for an NJEDA grant for the environmental removal/cleanup of the soil pile on one of the lots the city owns
 3. CRA applied to NJDEP grant to remove a large portion of the Yaffa pile
 4. CRA has been awarded a contract to get an LSRP
 5. CRA has awarded a grant to city for the environmental removal/cleanup of the soil on the other lot that the city owns
 6. CRA working on redevelopment plans
 - Hoping EPA will move to remediate
 1. 7 samples collected off two samples 2 years ago
 - a. Not a huge sample, done a while ago
 - b. There is a strong argument that this pile has not been accurately categorized
 - c. NJDEP + CRA are talking internally about additional characterization sampling
- c. Block 1 lot 1
 - Owner has not been responsive to enforcement action, legal action is coming
 - Camden County Historic Society is working on getting an easement for the historic building rehab and trail
- d. East Camden Green Rail Buffer project updates- Bob Gregoria and likely Axel Gonzalez, Suburban Consulting Engineers (SCE)
 - SCE received acoustical update from Lewis S. Goodfriend & Associates (LSG&A), sub-consultant acoustical engineers
 1. This report considered the appropriate height of a wall buffer
 2. Sound reduction closest to the wall would be the greatest, drops as you move further from the wall
 3. Alternatives: height of the wall, different concepts for wall material
 - Next steps: preliminary concepts, layouts for wall placement, design choices, improvements to properties around there, type of landscaping
 - Preliminary concepts:
 1. Redo sidewalks, include new trails and greenery for stormwater retention
 2. Since there is a slope down to the rail tracks, want to keep wall closer to sidewalk
 3. Acoustical gate/ door at driveway to rail yard north of 29th St.

4. Incorporate retention basin by Stockton Park by looping the trail around it, connecting to Stockton trail
 5. Constraint: Unable to continue the sound wall at some points where the property is right up against the property line (approximately 21st to 25th St. on Howell St.)
 6. TBD: how could the wall could work in the neighborhood to the north
- Comments:
 1. Plan for a community paint day/ plant day (if applicable)
 2. Designs: green walls can add to acoustic dampening and fugitive dust removal
 - a. Could alternate based on visibility of the wall (different when it is hidden versus very visible)
 - b. Anticipated height of the wall: 25'
 3. Clarification: the scope of this project is just design, no funding for construction yet
 4. DCCB: There is a security concern with vandalism, residential input would certainly be needed before going to construction, murals are great idea, DCCB would be happy to assist down the line

III. Park Planning

a. Current Issues

- Harrison & State St. [Expo Pilot project](#) with DVRPC: Summer 2022
- Community meeting to discuss ongoing plans for upgrading Dominick Andujar Park and Cornelius Martin Park in North Camden, weds., March 16, 6-7:30 pm
- [NASA grant](#) (Using earth science data to examine equitable greenspace access): Rowan, CCP, NJ Future, Social Responsibility Through Me
 1. [Conservation blueprint](#) could be one area to investigate
- Lead Dust Abatement Plans in East Camden underway
- TPL: parks and open space steering committee coming this month
 1. After hours to hopefully get more community involvement
 2. Bringing in Camden Fireworks, hoping to engage arts more in the parks

b. Key Next Steps

IV. Park Security & Maintenance

a. Current Issues

- [Alliance for Watershed Education](#) of the Delaware River
 1. Conducting surveying and marketing, promoting programming in the parks
 2. Looking to do a mural on the shipping container storage in parks
 3. Suggestion: hit local business to promote parks in the community

b. Key Next Steps

- Consider a parks marketing plan to educate residents on availability of parks in their neighborhood: current investments mailer, app, website, etc.

V. Brownfields

a. Current Issues

b. Key Next Steps

VI. Programming

a. Current Issues

b. Key Next Steps

- Create an "active" marketing plan that inspires residents to create their own Camden adventure; offer opportunities for kayaking, fishing, birding, etc.
- Pool together a calendar of events for CCI members

VII. Additional Information/Resources

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com

Next Meeting: CCI Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Meeting, April 13th at 1 pm