



Oakland Mills Community Association



Meeting 9 Notes

Subject: Robert Oliver Place Enhancement (ROPE) Project
Village of Oakland Mills

Meeting: Work Group
January 22, 2008
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Location: The Other Barn
5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, Maryland

Attendees: Sandy Cederbaum, Athena Dalrymple, Alex Hekimian, Jervis Dorton, Kodi French, Karen Gray, Marcia White, Mary Kate Murray, Randy Clay, Bill Mackey, Samantha Stoney

▪ Meeting Overview

- The work group welcomed Kodi French, art teacher at Oakland Mills Middle School (OMMS), to the meeting and thanked her for her interest in the project.
- Randy Clay gave a recap of the Dec. 18 meeting with the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center (OMIC) board. The board supports the project and would consider extending the existing walkway from the building's main entrance to the landscape area along Robert Oliver Place to provide a continuous connection with a walkway being proposed for the project area. The board signed a letter of support for the project and is interested in further opportunities to work with the community. There was interest expressed in creating both indoor and outdoor art displays; however, the board also strongly objected to any part of the project which looks to connect Robert Oliver Place and Thunder Hill Road. Other concerns of the board reflected on the existence and appearance of the community police trailer.
- Sandy Cederbaum mentioned that HCPD rents the trailer. Mary Kate described a special plastic wrap material that could possibly be used to create a mural for the trailer. Phil Engelke will be asked to look into this possibility. The group expressed general concern about the trailer's appearance. Sandy mentioned at a previous meeting with Officer Quinn, Southern District Commander, that if the trailer remains in its current location, there was a desire to see the appearance upgraded with landscaping and creating an entry point along the back side of the trailer facing the village center. Randy will send the meeting notes from the meeting to the work group for further review.
- Jervis Dorton shared news that Slater & Associates Inc. is working for the OMIC as they look at future use of their site.

▪ Action Item Updates

- Samantha Stoney gave a presentation on the Dutch "Woonerf" concept of shared-use streets for pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles. The design of these streets functions to create opportunities for social and civic activity in places that otherwise would not be able to accommodate their need. Design elements can include sidewalks that are the same level as streets and the removal of traffic signs. Other examples include bollards (stanchions) to provide pedestrian safety from cars. With a Woonerf, there is no segregation between motorized and non-motorized traffic.

- The following observations were made as they relate to applying Woonerf concepts to ROPE:
 - Jervis commented on the lack of buildings facing either side which help create a sense of enclosure. Each side needs to be made to appear as if it has “something” that disguises the lack of buildings. Karen Gray questioned whether an overhead element could provide the same effect.
 - Alex Hekimian pointed out the many curbcuts from the parking area into the roadway and the challenge the layout presented in creating something continuous. Mary Kate referenced the existing depressed walkway through the center’s parking lot as a possible solution.
 - Karen talked about the possibility of closing off some of the openings to restrict car circulation, cautioning it would require the removal of some parking spaces. Bill Mackey suggested keeping the existing open configuration in a way that allows ROPE to be a true Woonerf and use vertical elements to create edges, which would punctuate the space and help define the roadway. These elements could be a canvas for artistic treatments.
- Jervis mentioned a project he worked on where the roadway was painted due to a lack of funds for paving. Bill suggested the painted roadway could change each year and become a community project.
- Randy presented a rough cost estimate for the extended walkway presented in the Jervis sketch to give an example of what the project might fund. The cost for this one enhancement alone could average between \$65,000 and \$70,000. The design contract would be written to specify 15% of the project’s funding be allocated towards design and the remaining 85% used for construction and materials. The project may have to be done in layers with ROPE providing basic enhancements. Public art could be provided through ongoing community contributions in addition to other funding sources. The project’s design would provide spaces for locating these future community amenities.
- The group expressed some frustration over the reality of what the project might be able to accomplish, noting that thinking big about the possibilities may not deliver everything envisioned. Randy explained that thinking big allows for future phases of the project to be considered once funding can be identified. Otherwise, the project may not deliver a bold enough vision that fosters the type of continuing community involvement and participation desired.
- Kodi expressed interest in having students from OMMS involved in the art components of the project and reflected on how her students enjoy seeing their art work being displayed in the community.
- Randy explained the desire to have three design concepts ready for review by the community in time for the Town Hall meeting scheduled on February 26. Randy asked when the deadline for feedback on the art images on the wiki site would be. Mary Kate suggested the February 26 date would be a good time for collecting feedback. Marcia White added that it would also be a good time to follow up with Coleen West about the design and art ideas for the project once the community’s input had been collected.

- **Follow Up Actions**

- Concept designs for Town Hall meeting
- Wiki site feedback