

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Minutes

September 22, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Police Department Training Room
120 Wilkinson Avenue
Cary, NC

Present: Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Council Members Lori Bush, Don Frantz, Jennifer Robinson, Jack Smith and Ed Yerha

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Gale Adcock (away caring for an ill family member)

1. Call to order

Weinbrecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Academy Streetscape and Downtown Park Updates (TF15-017)

Review of updated designs for the Academy Streetscape and Downtown Park Projects

Speakers: Laura Cove and Doug McRaney

Executive Summary: *The purpose of this Work Session is to review updated designs for the Academy Streetscape Project to be included in the final design; review feedback from Town Council on aspects of fountain design for the Downtown Park and receive recommendations from Town Council on elements to be included in the fountain design for the Downtown Park. Staff requests Council feedback and direction on the updated designs for the Academy Streetscape and Downtown Park Projects.*

Background: *With the approval of the Community Bonds in November of 2012, design firms for both the Academy Streetscape and the Downtown Park Projects were selected, with Clark Nexsen the prime consultant for the Streetscape project and Cole Jenest & Stone the prime consultant for the Park project. The projects are being coordinated due to their relationship to each another. Current schedule for the project is for design to be complete for both projects by summer of 2014 and for construction to occur in 2015.*

In relation to the Academy Streetscape, Council has provided the following input prior to the March 25, 2014 Work Session:

- Supported the "Rooms" concept at key intersections;
- Agreed to use brick pavers in the "Room" areas and concrete sidewalk in other areas;
- Prefer cast in place concrete with varying joint patterns as opposed to large concrete pavers proposed in rooms;
- Prefer squared edge pavers as opposed to English Edge pavers with tabs;
- Directed staff to only use cobblestone pavers as accent pieces;
- Discussed the issue of on-street parking shortages, and the functionality of parallel parking, and long-term parking plan;
- Desire for street trees that retain the view to the Cary Arts Center;
- Eliminated "Memory Markers" during the October 17 Work Session, since their practical and aesthetic purposes can be provided in other elements of the project;
- Approved Option 3 for the intersection treatment of Academy and Chatham (pavers in the intersection, but not arranged to show a Dogwood image);
- Agreed to use the Dogwood image near the intersection of Chatham and Academy;
- Approved of Option 3 for the light fixture (similar to the existing fixtures with a more modern look)

- General approval of the types of furniture including etched and carved granite benches and metal benches but did not like granite benches that looked like air conditioning units;
- Agreed to modify intersection of Academy and Dry by widening street into the park to provide exclusive right turn lane onto Academy coming from Kildaire.
- Maintain the intersection of Walnut and Kildaire Farm in the existing configuration;
- Approved value engineering concepts with the exception to continue working to develop street tree up lighting and twinkle lighting concepts.
- Satisfied with the proposed retaining wall in the vicinity of the Guess Ogle House;
- Satisfied with the room fronting the library;
- Generally liked movable tables and chairs to be included at the Library and Jones House Rooms;
- Not to include wrapping signal boxes with historic pictures or some other subtle covering;
- Not to include the Jones House Room concept;
- Not to include tree guards;
- Commented to provide shade in seating areas;
- Supported the dogwood bike rack concept;
- Suggested including other unique bike racks.

During the March 25, 2014 Work Session, Council provided the following input in relation to the Academy Streetscape:

- Supported tree grate option #1, Ironsmith-Camelia;
- Commented during construction:
 - "Business Open" signs should be prevalent throughout the construction area;
 - Have a project web page with construction updates and project information;
 - Email business owners with construction information;
 - Incorporate social media
- Commented on a communication plan for affected businesses;
- Commented on the anticipated project schedule including construction to begin in Spring of 2015 (depending on right-of-way acquisition) and relocation of Lazy Daze in 2015

To date, Council has given the following direction regarding the Downtown Park:

- It should be a signature park and approximately 7 acres;
- It should include the Library with structured parking;
- It should retain the Town square space along Academy;
- It should include features such as a Water fountain' Outdoor performance space, Open lawn area, Pergolas;
- Safe and accessible connectivity should be provided from the Town Square into the park due to the elevation change;
- It should not include space for a farmer's market;
- The proposed building in the northeast corner of the park should open into the park from Walker and Park Streets;
- There was a preference for the small pond and meandering trail;
- At the November 21, 2013 Council Meeting- in the selection of the \$5.2 million town square option, council approved Staff's recommendation that the additional project funding of \$3.2 Million should be appropriated from General Fund Balance;
- Out of the \$5.2 million for town square, up to \$1 million will be budgeted for a central water feature.
- While Council liked the general concept for the Town Square, they requested staff to develop new options that reflected a more traditional, classical fountain.
- On the town square design, council liked options A and C for the side raised garden lawn areas where one was a multipurpose lawn area and the other was a shaded area with more proposed activities such as chess and table tennis.
- On the discussion of art themes, council does not want to focus on an overarching theme. Rather, they want to ensure good urban planning that incorporates subtle information about Cary so that people visiting the park have an opportunity to learn about and celebrate Cary.

- In the March 25th, April 10th, and May 8th work sessions, Council participated in a series of active charettes to determine the best design for the fountain. On May 8th council selected the design of Option A (the fountain with three tiers, four columns, with a central bowl and planter bowls along the fountain edge) for the consultants to move forward in design. Council suggested adding some decorative design elements to the fountain that can be representations of the town seal and the dogwood flower.

Discussion:

Academy Street – Council feedback and direction are requested for the following items:

- Bike and Hike Map – Streetside Trail on Academy Street
- Bench Quantity and Locations
- Bench Text Engraving (see below)
- Street Lighting
- Tree Palette
- Tree Lighting
- Electrical Infrastructure and Locations
- Traffic Control Plan / Communications Plan
- Communications Plan During Construction

Downtown Park – Council feedback and direction are requested for the following items:

- Fountain Design Updates
- Fountain interpretive elements
- Side garden design options
- Lighting design
- Pavement Materials
- Planting design

Next Steps: Based on the information provided at this work session and Council's feedback, staff and consultants will move to the final design phase of both projects and toward beginning construction in the first half of 2015.

Fiscal Impact: There are no operating or capital impacts associated with this staff report.

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests Council feedback and direction on the updated designs for the Academy Streetscape and Downtown Park Projects.

The proposed text for the Academy Street Musical Instrument Benches have been selected based on narrow requisites including: reference to the musical instrument bench into which the words are carved; passages referencing music, dance, singing and song – each being events that will occur during Cary's Festivals on Academy; brevity with clarity of subject; and context of the bench locations. This last criteria places text by Walter Hines Page adjacent to the Library. Searches for North Carolina poets and prose writers produced four authors who are integrated into Cary's Academy Street renewal. These poets are Dr. Maya Angelou (Winston-Salem), Carl Sandburg (Flat Rock), R.R. Richardson (Camp Lejeune), and as noted, Mr. Page. Highly-regarded and widely known Classical poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Yeats, and Mary Anne Evans (published under the name George Elliot) are incorporated into our project as is noted American naturalist John Muir.

Each bench location has been carefully selected, taking into account placement in relation to nearby businesses, homes, and churches. Each placement first and foremost always allows room for pedestrians to pass easily along the sidewalk. Each bench is at a height closely equal to other benches set along Academy and are sized to easily seat two to three people. The majority of the benches are paired with another of its kind which sets opportunity for numerous musicians to play in groups – string quartets on the violin benches set along the entry way to the library or a pair of dulcimer players on the "Courting Dulcimer" set between the new Park and the new Mayland Hotel.

The Dulcimer bench incorporating Dr. Angelou's text, from her poem "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" carries images of Henslowe's Buntings - a native North Carolina bird, often referred to as a humble songbird. This poem and this bird are a match for one another on the Dulcimer located adjacent to the Baptist Church.

The violin bench incorporating "Taking Violin at School" by April Halprin Wayland is sited along the path to the Library and adjacent Holly Smith Talton's Violin Studio that is housed in her home, formerly the home of her Grandmother.

Adjacent to this violin bench is another violin carrying Walter Hines Page's strong regard and advocacy for education - "I believe in the free public training of both the hands and the mind of every child born of woman" - placed on the path to the Library.

During a visit to a stringed instrument shop to study these various instruments, upon my mention of the Dulcimer, the shop owner, unprompted, recited the Coleridge poem. In a visit to a violinmaker's shop a sign on the shop wall held the reference to "Stradivarius's Violins," Mary Anne Evans' poem.

Due to space available on the benches and need to make the letters big enough to be both legible and large enough to easily cut into the granite, certain texts may require editing. When this is necessary I am working with the poets / poet's estates / publishers to be certain our edits retain the intent of the work.

A standard fee for one-time copyright use in a public setting is \$100.00 and is the amount being offered to poets and publishers. If this payment is refused we will make use of other text. You will note that some of the text is Public Realm meaning the copyright has lapsed and no fee is required.

The copyright use price was paid to contemporary musicians for a one-time application of their work in stainless steel sheet music reproductions for a transit center public art project in Nashville 2008. This establishes the precedent we are applying for Academy Street.

Academy Street Benches, Authors, Copyright Status & Bench Location

Dulcimer – four benches

*A damsel with a dulcimer
In a vision once I saw; It was an Abyssinian maid,
And on her dulcimer she played,
Singing of Mount Abora.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Public realm
sited east side Academy south of Chatham*

*Sweet Dulcimer...
in your strings and swirly grains
lie my life's story
and the way my river runs.*

*Somewhere in the misty moonlight
I hear her music play
Sweet Dulcimer
take me home.
Sweet Dulcimer...she'll take me away.
R.R.Richardson
Use fee \$100 - Copyright use secured
North Carolina poet
may require editing*

sited at Park & Academy, northwest corner at Church

*A bird doesn't sing because
It has an answer, It sings
Because it has a song.*

Maya Angelou

Use fee TBD – Copyright use underway with publisher

North Carolina poet

sited at Park & Academy, northwest corner at Church

*O body swayed to music, O brightening dance,
How can we know
The dancer from the dance
William Yeats*

sited east side Academy south of Chatham

Courting Dulcimer - one bench

*and those who dance are considered insane
by those who cannot hear the music*

George Carlin

public realm

south side Academy across from Library

Violins - four benches

*Taking Violin at School
I open my case
tighten my bow
pluck a string to tune.*

*My friends are in class
reading about
a famous English king.
But I am training this wooden
bird upon my arm to sing.*

April Halprin Wayland

fee TBD – Copyright use discussion underway with poet

sited adjacent to the violin studio on Academy

*Sell me a violin, mister, of old mysterious wood...
Sell me horsehair and rosin...
Sell me something crushed in the heartsblood of pain
readier than ever for one more song.*

Carl Sandburg

fee TBD – Copyright use underway with publisher

North Carolina Poet

sited along the entry path to the Library

*'Tis God gives skill,
But not without men's hands: He could not
make*

Antonio Stradivarius's violins

Without Antonio.

Mary Anne Evans [George Eliot]

Public realm

sited along the entry path to the Library

*I believe in the free public training of both the hands
and the mind of every child born of woman.*

Walter Hines Page

Public realm

sited along the entry path to the Library

Dobro - two benches

*The water in music the oar forsakes.
The air in music the wing forsakes.
All things move in music and write it.
The mouse, the lizard, and grasshopper sing
Together on Turlock sands,
Sing in the morning stars.*

John Muir

fee TBD – Copyright use discussion underway with publisher

sited adjacent to Post Office

Mandolin - two benches

*The Mandolin
Made for the monster
Played by the pauper
Aged by the sage
Loved by the lunatic*

*Now waits
mounted
on a poor man's wall,
For a master
to recall:
the hidden,
the mystery,
the music-
its all in all.*

Martin Hugo

fee TBD – Copyright use discussion underway with poet

may require editing

sited across Academy at Waldo, southwest corner

*Mandolin harmonies
trailed up Bear Hair Gap,
echoed between
the chestnuts, hickories & sweet blackberries.*

Jonny Angel

fee TBD – Copyright use discussion underway with poet

sited across Academy at Waldo, southwest corner

Academy Streetscape

Consultant Josh Hurst of Clark Nexsen reviewed the project area that includes the Walnut Street-Kildaire Farm intersection, Dry Avenue-Academy Street intersection and

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Academy-Chatham street intersection. (The PowerPoint presentation for the Academy Streetscape is attached to and incorporated herein as **Exhibit 1.**)

Bike and Hike Map - Streetside Trail on Academy Street

The greenway master plan calls for a street side trail on Academy Street. The Academy Street project provides connectivity from the existing Higgins Greenway to the future Chapel Hill Road street side trail. The street side trail is 10 feet wide, and with benches and other furniture, the sidewalk on Academy Street will have a five foot wide unobstructed path.

The connection between Cary Towne Mall and downtown Cary is not identified as a greenway or street side trail. Future connections of the Higgins Trail and Chapel Hill Road trail provide opportunities for way finding signs to be installed within the Academy Street project. Staff can create signage instructing how to walk to the mall.

Granite Bench Quantity, Locations and Text Engraving

Staff proposes the following location changes:

- Locate granite benches across from each other instead of side by side at the south side of the library plaza
- Move two granite benches closer to the library plaza area
- Add new courting dulcimer bench across from the library near the northern edge of the park.
- Move the bench originally facing the Waldo and Academy Street intersection into the Post Office plaza area

The benches look like musical instruments and have a smooth finish with engraving. The quotes for the benches provided by Artist Jack Mackie are referenced above and will include the poet's name.

Bush expressed concern about using public funds that potentially give weight to quotes referencing "God". She requested a wide variety of quotes for council members to choose from, including Shakespearean quotes.

Several council members expressed concern about the wordiness of the quotes and copyright issues. Cove reiterated that the artist is working with copyrighters to receive permission to use the quotes and shorten them.

ACTION: The majority of council agreed to use the quotes provided.

Paver Concept

Staff proposed a minor change to the street and road paver concepts to include a range blend of different reds for the sidewalk. The white provides the edge to the crosswalk and is used for required pavement marking in the same areas of brick pavers. The yellow is used for lane marking in paver areas. The banding paver is a significant difference and compliments the concrete sidewalk. The banding paver wraps around

each tree pit and runs through the street and to the back of the sidewalk. It works well with concrete on the side and the red brick pavers in the room areas.

Frantz expressed concern about removing pavers if the Town needs to add or correct infrastructure. Deputy Town Manager Mike Bajorek doesn't anticipate any issues with removing the pavers and putting them back in place.

ACTION: By consensus council approved the paver concept.

Street lighting/Electrical Infrastructure Locations

Staff proposed leasing the light fixtures from Duke Energy.

Bush asked about the impact of Duke Energy providing the street lights. Hurst said Duke Energy will not allow receptacles in the base of their poles. Receptacles would need to be metered and separate from the street light poles. Staff and consultants are looking at other ways to integrate the receptacles.

Receptacle pedestals will be located throughout the street near benches and will be used to provide power during an event. With the location of the receptacles, the Town will have to run power cords across the sidewalk in trays. Power will also be located in the park. The power distribution will be located at the Jones House, at the library, behind Academy Street Bistro, in the alley behind Ashworth Drugs and at the traffic signal cabinets at the intersections of Chatham and Academy and Dry and Academy.

Several council members inquired about the Town purchasing some of the street lights with electrical receptacles, and leasing the others from Duke Energy. Hurst said it's an option. The streetscape would have a few more light poles if purchased by the Town.

Bush and Robinson requested "warm" lighting. Hurst said the Town can specify the LED lighting color.

ACTION: By consensus council agreed to the street lights and requested the following:

- **Information on the cost difference if the Town purchased the poles versus leasing them from Duke Energy;**
- **Information on what the Town currently provides electrically at Lazy Daze and other events;**
- **Lamp posts illustrations that include the receptacles.**

Tree Palette

The streetscape provides for three areas of trees: canopy trees that would be in the areas between intersections; accent trees that would be located at the intersections or in the rooms; and upright trees located in similar locations.

ACTION: By consensus council agreed to the Tree Palette; for the Ginko staff will only use the male species.

Tree lighting

Hurst reviewed the tree lighting plan. The streetscape will include uplighting with the canopy trees. The park will use uplighting for the trees along the perimeter at Academy and Dry. There will be string lighting at the intersection of the rooms, the intersection of Park Street, in front of the post office on both sides of the street, in front of the Methodist Church and all the way to Chatham Street. The uplighting will be at the large trees in front of the library and where there are art sculptures.

Robinson asked about strings lights on the trees on the east side of Academy Street. Hurst said they were trying to focus the lights where there's pedestrian activity. Robinson said she would like symmetry with lights on both sides of the street. She cautioned that light should have soft warm glow, not too bright, and not too harsh.

ACTION: The majority of council agreed to move ahead with the tree lights and add tree lighting on the east side of the street to provide symmetry. Yerha likes the uplighting, not the string lights.

Next Steps

Weinbrecht asked about the contractor working at night. Hurst said there is an option for the contractor to work during night, particularly for entrances and driveways, etc. of businesses. Bailey clarified that the Town's standard contract work hours are 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The contractor may need to close some of the intersections. Staff is working to minimize the impact. Hurst added that the construction would close one lane of Academy Street for several months making it a one way street; they would then reverse direction for the next phase.

Downtown Park

Staff's PowerPoint presentation for the Downtown Park Updates is attached to and incorporated herein as **Exhibit 2**

Consultant Scott Hazard, of Cole, Jenest & Stone, facilitated the discussion of the Downtown Park and provided an overview of fountain design updates, interpretive elements to complement the fountain, side garden design options, lighting design, paving materials, and planting design.

Fountain

Fountain Cost Estimate	
Description:	Cost:
Base Fountain [includes cast stone cast concrete bowl with bronze ring, cast concrete and granite outside and cast concrete interior with two pumps]	\$975,000
Bronze Bowl	\$90,000
Bronze collars on columns	\$22,000
Added pump for tiers [top terrace to the bottom pool]	\$70,000
Color lights [colored lights have more control options than white lights]	\$75,000
TOTAL COST for all options	\$1,232,000
TOTAL COST for the Council preferred options	\$1,120,000

Council had expressed concern that using bronze elements can leach and streak the precast stone or concrete. Hazard stated he will investigate and suggest alternatives.

ACTION: By consensus council agreed to the base fountain, added pump and color lights as an add alternate(s) and would decide on whether to include them based on the prices and budget at time of bid award.

Hazard stated there was discussion to place the Town Seal at the base of the bowl of the fountain. Each of the planters on the pedestals could be a dogwood flower for a nominal cost with each planter cast in stone.

Interpretive Elements

1. Use the four graphic elements of the seal on the walls, sides and the pavers
2. Use text of the four terms of the Town seal and translations of the different cultures within the Town of Cary
3. Hybrid – graphics are smaller and include quotes to reflect the graphics

ACTION: By consensus council agreed to use the planters without the dogwood symbol on it and to not include the recommended interpretive elements on the fountain.

Side Gardens

Southern garden is more passive with a planting buffer on the south and small lawn area and an art area and seating benches.

Smith expressed concern about safety because of the curve. Hazard stated they would explore options of safety features that could be incorporated into the design.

ACTION: By consensus council agreed for the consultant to recommend safety feature(s) from vehicles for the Southern Garden.

Northern garden is more recreational with a couple of options:

1. Include community chess tables, bocce court, and ping pong tables
2. Include community chess tables, benches, paved surface surrounded by planting area

Frantz questioned if engraving is an option for the chess tables and ping pong tables. Hazard stated this could be an option added in the future if additional engraving is warranted.

ACTION: By consensus council liked the ping pong tables and amenities (option 1) for the Northern Garden.

Site Lighting

Combination of accent uplights at the outer edge of park, pedestrian light pole, twinkle lights in some of the trees and the two gardens

Paving Materials

Create a unique character to the park that ties in with the streetscape. Will use the same pathway brick along the outer ring of the pedestrian seating area; ring between that area and the fountain would be concrete; field pavers would be at the front and the two entrance points; granite would surround the fountain.

Planting Plan

Planting plan includes similar trees to the streetscape with oaks toward the streetscape, maples in the gardens, and ornamental trees to complement the outer ring. Include evergreens, such as blue Atlas cedar or a deodar cedar that could be lit during the holidays. Based on question by Council, evergreens would frame the stage and be located in the back.

ACTION: Robinson requested reconsideration of the library remaining on Academy Street. The majority of the council members were in favor of the library being on Walnut Street. No additional action necessary.

Weinbrecht suggested a master plan for the downtown park to know the direction as a whole that includes phases and estimates for inclusion in future budgets. Clarified he would like to know the cost of a master plan for the downtown park so Council may make a decision on whether or not to pursue a master plan.

Bajorek suggested including the downtown master plan in the upcoming budget and added there would be a six month delay.

3. Closed Session

Council did not conduct a closed session.

4. Adjournment

Weinbrecht adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.