

# Meeting Minutes

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**DATE OF MEETING:**

February 2, 2017

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:**

Burroughs Community Center

**PROJECT:**

Ash Creek Bridge Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Improvements

**SUBJECT:**

Public Informational Meeting #2  
PD Submission Information Meeting

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**PREPARED BY:**

Dominick Celtruda/Kim Lesay

**BL PROJECT #:** 15C5687

**PREPARED ON:**

February 9, 2017

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The purpose of this meeting was to provide a project update concurrent with the PD design submission to the City and also allow the public to provide input.

Attendance: See Attached Sheet -Note: Individuals were not required to sign in -private comment was allowed

**Presentation:**

- Introductions were made and representatives from the City of Bridgeport and the Black Rock NRZ provided opening statements
- BL Companies made a brief presentation and reviewed the scope of the project as well as general project status to date.
- The public was then provided an opportunity to review the presentation boards / drawings of the various elements of the project with one-on-one time with City and Consultant representatives.
- The meeting was then re-opened to questions from all in attendance.

**Comments & Questions from attendees:**

General Project Scope

- Question raised regarding when construction is anticipated.
- Why does the trail stop at Davidson and can't the trail be connected to the BlackRock trail farther south? (BL responded that a private property lies between Davidson and the trail)
- Question raised as to why the entire project is not planned as a boardwalk.
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Flooding concerns

- Questions posed regarding what determines the low chord elevation of the bridge and what design storms were considered.
- Concerns were voiced that the bridge may not be high enough. (A general discussion was held regarding the elevation to which residential structures in the area must be flood proofed, which was stated to be 14'). BL representatives stated that criteria differ for structures such as residential homes, versus the bridge, which needs to be designed to pass certain storm events and not pose an adverse impact to safety or property.
- Questions were raised regarding scour at the bridge. Many in attendance feel that Ash Creek floods more frequently since the construction of the Fairfield Metro Center. Statements were made that tree clearing for the construction led to erosion and deposition of material into Ash Creek. Many feel the Creek flows differently since that construction. Some felt Ask Creek should be dredged to alleviate flooding. BL representatives discussed numerous reasons why flooding patterns may have changed. Dredging of the channel would need to be addressed as a separate project. Restoration of a natural high marsh / low marsh system along the banks of Ash Creek in Bridgeport should better buffer the eastern embankment.
- The parking lot associated with the large commercial property on the Bridgeport side was reported to flood approximately 2 – 3 feet at least 3 to 4 times per year.

- During even typical moon tides (non -storm events) Canfield floods – consider raising the grade through here. There is also a low spot which holds water which should be graded to drain.
- There can be 2.5 feet of water in the south lot behind the building on Canfield.
- Suggestion made to install a bulkhead along Ash Creek - BL representatives explained that typically hard armoring in coastal areas tends to move the erosion issue either up or downstream (or both), and does not truly address the problem.
- Sentiment was expressed by one attendee that the erosion of the banks must be addressed first, before a trail is planned.

#### Parking & Traffic

- Encouragement to involve the Police and Fire Departments sooner rather than later concerning this project, especially regarding parking.
- City Public Works (Facilities), Police and Fire Departments should be added into the formal organization slide.
- People park on the south side of Canfield in order to access the Fairfield Metro Center. Parking in the neighborhoods must be deterred and kept for the residents.
- The apartment building on Canfield Extension is 4 units with 2 cars per unit for 8 cars total that need to park in that area.
- How much of a parking reduction will occur along Fox Street?
- Consider speed bumps on Fox Street to deter speeding
- Assume 2 cars per every unit on Fox Street -some single family some multiple family
- Strive for a curb cut at all homes along Fox.
- Discussion was held regarding a parking ordinance and pros / cons.
- Request to investigate striping only areas where no parking is allowed and leave other areas unstriped to allow flexibility in parking on Reef Road.
- Traffic typically does not heed the stop sign at Fox and Canfield – Investigate addressing in design.

#### Trail and property / access issues

- Questions were raised regarding the material to be utilized for the trail surface. Suggestions that the entire trail be on a boardwalk. Question was raised if Flexipave has been considered?
- 211 Canfield has a garage that is accessed via the trail area.
- Question if trash receptacles will be provided. Residences reported much littering in the area, and some self-police and clean up voluntarily.
- Request to engage the abutting property owners in a separate meeting to address concerns.
- Foot traffic will increase-need to get police involved
- The trail should be safe and have lighting.. use of cameras was mentioned.
- Reach out to the garden club for input
- Local bulb importer may donate items.
- How will the trail be secured during flooding?
- Request made to incorporate some level of green infrastructure along the street.
- How will fishing from the bridge be prevented? (not desired as this tends to bring in trash)
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Dominick J. Celtruda P.L.A., ASLA