



## Meeting Summary October 24, 2018

### Attendance

Panel Members: Bob Gorman, Vice Chair  
Juan Rodriguez  
Larry Quarrick  
Fred Marino (Recused)

DPZ Staff: Valdis Lazdins, Nick Haines, Lisa Kenny

1. **Call to Order** – DAP Acting Chair Bob Gorman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Review of Plan No. 18-15:** Columbia Lakefront Neighborhood Square – Columbia, MD

Owner/Developer: Howard Research and Development Corporation  
Architect/Landscape Architect: Design Collective

### Background

The 0.6-acre site, zoned NT, is located on multiple parcels at 5635 Furnace Avenue. The NT (New Town) zoning accommodates pedestrian oriented, urban activity centers, with a mix of uses. The existing open space currently provides access to the Lakefront Promenade and serves as a general recreation space. The Neighborhood Square is to be revitalized into a diverse amenity space, linking the surrounding land uses by creating a civic destination. The intent is to deed the park to the County fulfilling CEPPA 22.

### Applicant Presentation

The project team gave a multimedia overview of the project and described it as a revitalization of the existing open area into an enhanced civic space. The design includes an updated veteran's monument, planting areas, shade trees, open lawn, children's playground, hardscape, community pergola, and fixed and movable seating. The proposed elements and amenities will create areas for relaxation, play, civic gatherings, and community programming, and events in accordance with the Lakefront Core Neighborhood Design Guidelines.

### Staff Presentation

Staff requested the DAP evaluate the concept plan and provide recommendations on site orientation, layout and configuration, edge treatments and transitions, pedestrian connections, and visual cues into and out of the plaza. No written comments from the public were received in advance of the meeting and provided to the panel and applicant.

## **DAP Questions and Comments**

### **Site Design**

The DAP commented that the plaza would be a nice addition to the waterfront and a destination for families and children, as there are currently few places to sit. DAP asked if incorporating both a ramped boardwalk and staircase had been considered, as the existing stairs are highly used. The petitioner said the idea was considered, but including both compressed the site and created a very busy space. The DAP supported the veteran's memorial and suggested using personalized pavers. They also commented on the curvilinear seating wall and suggested incorporating a timeline representing significant events in U.S. military history (ie battles, wars, and/or other significant military events). Grape myrtles were recommended to provide summer interest. The DAP suggested a more curvilinear boardwalk alignment, to match other features, bench seating at landings, and art/sculpture in transition areas. The DAP recommended graphics for the rubberized play surface and slide area and shade sails for the play and seating areas. They also recommended incorporating activities for an age range of children, using ledges and terraces for makeshift sitting and climbing areas. They further suggested the use of plant labels or small signs to identify major trees and shrubs. The DAP asked about park management and the petitioner responded that the property is owned by The Howard Research and Development Corporation, but that it will be transferred to the County, per CEPPA requirements. The DAP asked about renting park space and if electrical and water service would be provided. The petitioner said this has been preliminarily discussed with the County and considered as the project proceeds.

### **DAP Motions for Recommendations**

DAP Acting Chair Bob Gorman made the following motion:

1. Expand landing areas with seating along the boardwalk near the center junction. Seconded by DAP member Larry Quarrick.

Vote: 3-0 to approve

DAP Member Larry Quarrick made the following motion:

2. Introduce a water feature that may cascade down the rock slope between the upper & lower play areas and also add shade sails to the playground. Seconded by DAP Acting Chair Bob Gorman.

Vote: 3-0 to approve

DAP Member Larry Quarrick made the following motion:

3. Make the boardwalk more curvilinear and incorporate art or sculpture at strategic points. Seconded by DAP Acting Chair Bob Gorman.

Vote: 5-0 to approve

### **3. Other Business and Informational Items**

No meetings have been scheduled

### **4. Call to Adjourn**

DAP Acting Chair Bob Gorman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.