

Friends of 26th Street Green

December 1, 2019 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Agenda

1. Gather (11:30-11:45)
2. Welcome and individual introductions (11:45-11:55)
3. Background (11:55-12:00)
 - a. Project history
 - b. What is a “Friends Group?”
4. DISCUSSION: Meeting goals (12:00-12:05)

Proposed meeting goals:

 - a. Determine the purpose of the Friends of 26th Street Green Group (“Friends Group”)
 - b. Determine structure for the Friends Group and identify community participants
 - i. Schedule next meeting
 - ii. Identify Friends Group representative at CVCA Land Use Committee Meetings (next one scheduled for 12/3/19)
 - c. Determine community communication strategy
5. DISCUSSION: Friends Group purpose and breakout session topics (12:05-12:15)
6. Breakout sessions (12:15-12:35)
7. Breakout session reports (12:35-12:45)
8. DISCUSSION: Group governance and communications (12:45-12:55)
9. Action items and wrap up (12:55-1:00)

Meeting Materials

Proposed Friends Group Purpose

1. Coordinate with DoT & other community groups
2. Determine and promote rules and guidance for space
3. Contribute to space design
4. Oversee/coordinate space maintenance
5. Coordinate programming in space*
6. Communicate inside/outside of group*
7. Apply for and manage funding*

Proposed Breakout Session Topics

1. Guidance/rules for space
2. Outreach and coordination (communication inside/outside the group and with DoT)
3. Design and maintenance
4. Grants and funding*
5. Programming*
6. Vision for wider 26th Street Corridor*

*Maybe appropriate for a later meeting

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Meghan Ames, Kyle Fritz, Kathy Pinto, Jessica Smith, Leona Lee, Jeff Larry, Linda McCurnin, Wilson Freeman, Adrian Alday, Kristen Janiszewski, Eric Penman, Dave Heilker, Todd Blatt, Laurel Ady, Jennifer Martin, Kathy Christian, Gabi Elkaim, Kat Giordano, Sandy Sparks

Notes

1. All attendees introduced themselves
2. Kyle presented brief history, as included on <http://j.mp/26-green>
3. Topics of discussion
 - a. Concern with inability to find close (within one block) parking, especially for neighbors at south end of 2500 block
Proposed solutions:
 - i. Add additional parking on east end of 26th Street Green space
 - ii. Request removal of meters on 25th Street
 1. This block of 25th Street is currently zoned commercial, but is mostly residential
 2. Linda had reached out to Councilman Stokes on this, but was awaiting a response
 - b. Concern with safety (“health and wellness” language proposed) threats that might arise with the creation of the 26th Street Green
Proposed solutions:
 - i. Keep the space well maintained to promote respect for the space
 - ii. Include positive activities and programming
 - iii. Investigate bright pedestrian lighting on 300 block of 26th Street
 - iv. Engage with local services to reinforce support services for those in need
 - c. Community engagement and communications
 - i. Need to be more intentional about including underrepresented groups and communicating beyond electronic sources
Proposed solutions:
 1. Meet at communal space, rather than individual homes
 2. Have block ambassadors responsible for doing door-to-door and personalized outreach
 - ii. Need to keep all neighbors (even those who don’t attend meetings) up-to-date about park progress and activities through multiple communications channels
Proposed solutions:
 1. Continue to use Facebook and Nextdoor and promote widely the use of the newly developed website <http://j.mp/26-green>
 2. Send out periodic email updates to neighbors who have provided their email and requested updates
 3. Build sign (perhaps a sandwich board) to keep in 26th Street Green with updates and postings; this is something the Abell Community Association has had luck with
 - d. Friends Group purposes
 - i. Desire to broaden the scope of this Friends Group to include the entire 26th St. corridor (perhaps name “The Friends of the 26th Street Corridor”)
 - e. Intended and unintended benefits of the park to date

- i. Kids utilize the space for biking, sports, recreation
 - ii. Reduction in cars speeding down Huntington Alley
 - iii. Reduction in sex solicitation activity on 300 block of 26th St.
- 4. Friends group goals and purpose were discussed to potentially include:
 - a. Coordinate with DoT & other community groups
 - i. Attend CVCA Land Use Committee Meetings
 - b. Determine and promote rules and guidance for space
 - c. Contribute to space design
 - i. With focus on parking concerns and safety/wellness
 - d. Oversee/coordinate space maintenance
 - e. Coordinate programming in space
 - f. Provide multi-channel communications and outreach
 - i. Intention of keeping neighbors informed and engaged
 - ii. Special focus on underrepresented groups
 - iii. Manage sandwich board or other signage within park
 - g. Apply for and manage funding
- 5. Friends of 26th Street Green committees proposed to be the following (names up for revision):
 - a. Communications and outreach
 - b. Health, wellness, and safety
 - c. Space design
 - d. Space maintenance
 - e. Programming
- 6. Follow-up and next steps:
 - a. Meghan will send out meeting notes and post on website
 - b. Next meeting will take place on 1/12/20 at 11:30 at 26th and Guilford
 - i. Will agree upon Friends Group name, purpose, and committee/meeting structure
 - c. Sandy and Kyle will share discussed items at CVCA Land Use Committee Meeting (12/3/19 at 7pm at CVCBD)