

## Vaughan, Worth, Bridge Revitalization Committee

### Public Listening Session

June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 6:30pm  
Discover Portsmouth Center

#### Brian Murphy:

- Excited about the many submission portals for public input, especially the “mark-up” maps. Believes that revitalization should occur as three (3) concepts:
  1. All three lots should have a unified feel and functionality
  2. Primary green space with a heavy pedestrian focus (walkable)
  3. ART, “from the ground up” starting with landscaping
- Believes that any revitalization should include five (5) elements:
  1. Authentic 21<sup>st</sup> century buildings
  2. No cloisters, but open public spaces
  3. Farmer’s Market
  4. Elements of “Play” for all ages
  5. Mitigate environmental impact -> Urban Agriculture

#### Dan Rawling:

- Brought in a mark-up map of all the parks and public spaces in Portsmouth
- Believes the revitalization should try to mimic the success of ‘Market Square’ or Prescott Park.
- Recommends: Creating a pedestrian plaza on Deer street, turning the Bridge St. lot into public space and develop Maplewood to connect with the discover center
- Made connections to Savannah, GA for a guiding the creation of public spaces

#### Effie Malley:

- Strongly recommended creating “places to walk”
- Inquired about the City’s plan for a pedestrian connection between State and Porter Street (along the former Chestnut Street).

#### Everett Eaton:

- Sought to clarify the timing of when the full supply of the Foundary Place Parking garage will be realized. In addition, sought raise the planned repair and maintenance plans for the High/Hanover parking facility and the supply outages planned for that facility.
- The construction completion timeline for the Foundary Place garage was explained to be fall 2018; and a potential phasing for the High/Hanover work was described but is not final at this time.

#### Jonathan Sandberg:

- Asked: What is the City’s ability to build and make green spaces? Noting both the length of time and high cost of such projects and the feasibility of the city completing one.
- David, Councilor Perkins and Councilor Dwyer commented in response, clarifying that these are city owned parcels and that the city is really in the beginning stages: the visioning process. More

will come later after more public input. In general, the City's control of the parcels means the City will control the uses on the property.

**Bob White:**

- Noted that there are “several layers” involved with this redevelopment and it is a chance for the City to ask “What can we do better?” Likewise all decisions should be made by asking what values are present in this decision and with clear intentions.
- Recommended Helpful Insights for development:
  1. Redesign Maplewood Ave, creating a more pedestrian and bike friendly atmosphere
  2. Reconfigure Congress St, 1 lane, 2 lanes or 1 way?
  3. Integration of private development
  4. Parking (whether adding or detracting)- do so with purpose
- Strike balance with buildings, parking, green spaces, etc.- Start with values
- Connection to N.Y.C. Highline, as a successful urban space with the same dimensions as Vaughan Mall Corridor.

**Effie Malley:**

- Addressed a concern about creative parking solutions that can be easily added or found throughout the city. Linking to an earlier PS 21 event, at which Michael Manville spoke on the topic.
- Suggested that creative parking could take place of our wider streets, which would help to calm traffic as well.

**Peter Vandermark:**

- Suggested that the City make incremental changes over time to allow for the ultimate best use.
- Worth lot could benefit from green strips running down the middle- this breaks up the pavement with visual interest and is less costly than an entire park or green space.
- Worth lot through to Vaughan Mall, should be open to public

**Jonathan Sandberg:**

- Questioned why the City was having a meeting vs. a Charrette
- David, Councilor Perkins in response: we have more control over public land and we have the opportunity to be intentional.
- Councilor Dwyer: We are still too early for a Charrette – Committee needs to more preliminary works first.

**Ellen Fineberg:**

- Suggested that until Foundry Place and High Hanover parking is settled we do not know how that will impact or shape downtown; we should wait until that is done before deciding on if we need/want more parking, buildings, etc.
- “Let people not think about cars”

**Bob White:**

- Shared Tesla self-driving experience, in response to the future needs of parking topic.
- Again suggested that compromise is the best solution

**Ray Hershcough:**

- Suggested that Portsmouth was too auto centric, with the High Hanover garage and Foundry Place coming.
- Made comparisons of how Brookline and Belmont, MA has no parking structures as compared to Portsmouth, but are similar size and feel.
- Suggested that the City focus on building up resident population.
- Believes that closing Memorial Bridge and having people park outside the city and walk in is the best scenario.
- Recommends that the Bridge St lot should be used for housing and the Worth lot should be an extension of Vaughan Mall.
- Strongly recommends relocating Strawberry Banke out of downtown.
- Believes that some businesses should also be relocated to Fox Run Mall.

**Bob McCarly:**

- Worried about parking while the new garage is being built and through the phasing of High Hanover.
- Worried that if too much parking is gone, food stores especially will be affected, saying “we need parking for groceries”.