

Council Agenda Report

Date: May 14, 2018
Submitted by: Odie Wheeler, Director of Public Works
Prepared by: Pat Escher, City Planner, A.I.C.P.
SUBJECT: Cannery Park Design

Recommendation: That Council:

1. Receive a presentation by Dennis Carmichael, Landscape Architect with Parker Rodriguez, Inc., regarding the master plan for Cannery Park Design.
2. Approve the park design and direct staff to seek funding sources for its implementation.

Discussion/Background: The City of Cambridge, in a joint venture with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Dorchester County acquired 6.6 acres of land for a park in 2014. The park property is located between Factory F building and the headwaters of Cambridge Creek. In addition to the property acquisition, the City acquired a long-term lease for the abandoned railroad rights of way that lies between the proposed park and Factory F, adding another 2+ acres to the park.

All of these properties, the factory, the rail right of way, the park and the headwaters of the creek, have redevelopment projects associated with them and while separate projects they are interrelated. The headwaters of Cambridge Creek is undergoing a stream restoration project that is nearing completion. The park has undergone a community out-reach process for the ultimate park design and amenity space. The railroad easement is being planned by the County for construction in the near future. And Factory F will be undergoing a rehabilitation of the building becoming a food/innovations center.

As these redevelopment projects move forward, the City, the County, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Cross Street Partners have joined forces in a coordinate effort by creating a small committee.

The park redevelopment process started in the fall by sending out an RFP for designers. In December, the committee hired the firm of Parker Rodriguez, Inc. to facilitate the community outreach and create an overall park design. In January, the committee and the design team held a community meeting to get citizen input and then the landscape architects went into a design charrette process to create three park concepts. The design team then presented the three alternative concepts to the community and took in community feedback, after which they created a final plan, incorporating elements from the two other designs and comments from the community. The committee went out to the community on April 24th, presenting the design to the Elks and again on May 8th. The overall response was favorable with some additional suggestions such as basketball courts and an interactive water feature.

Tonight, the Council will hear a presentation from Dennis Carmichael and the efforts that went into creating a master plan for the regional park.

Fiscal Impact: The consideration of this matter will provide staff with the direction to continue to seek funding sources and make this thoughtfully designed urban park a reality for the City residents and visitors, adding to the City amenities.

Approved by: Ginger Jenkins 