

PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON CONNECTING WILLIAM STREET

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES FOR OPEN SPACE IN THE PLANS FOR CONNECTING WILLIAM STREET

Whereas, the DDA has been charged by City Council to make recommendations regarding five City-owned lots through its Connecting William Street initiative;

Whereas, the PROS plan recommends that PAC work with the DDA to consider plans for downtown open space, including, but not limited to the Library Lane lot;

Whereas, the PROS plan reflects PAC's commitment to, "assure citizens a voice in the decision-making process of the park, recreation, and open space system, including acquisition, planning, and development";

Whereas, many community members have expressed a preference for a downtown park in this area;

Whereas, PAC recognizes the potential benefits of downtown density, the value of mixed-use interface with downtown open space, and the importance of creating a safe, attractive programmable space in the downtown;

Whereas, PAC is in agreement that the amount of open space currently proposed in the DDA's plans for Connecting William Street is insufficient;

Whereas, PAC is in agreement that there is more than one potential site for open space within the City-owned properties under consideration;

Resolved, that PAC recommends additional evaluation of locations for a downtown park, the best mix of amenities for the population expected to utilize a downtown park, and the costs of developing and maintaining a new addition to the Parks system.

Resolved, that PAC recommends that City Council refrain from adopting plans for the five City-owned lots prior to resolving the question of open space within the Connecting William Street area.

Passed on September 18, 2012 by a vote of 7-2.