

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 2, 2007

Meeting No: 65

Project: Pratt Street Study

Phase: Continued Working Session

Location: Pratt Street from MLK, Jr. Boulevard to President Street

PRESENTATION:

Matt Poe of ASG Architects introduced team members Betsy Boykin (also of ASG), Sophie Robitaille and Dennis McGlade of the Olin Partnership and Paul Silberman of Sabra Wang Associates, (Traffic Planners) who each presented specific proposed elements of the study area. The evolving concept is that the north side of Pratt Street would emphasize continuous storefronts and retail activity while the south side should provide a continuous, but porous, landscaped park responding to its waterfront access as well as to the many institutions along its flank. The alternatives of two-way traffic versus one-way traffic continue to be considered.

COMMENTS OF THE PANEL:

The Panel felt that the design team had made good progress and agreed with the general direction of the study. Other comments included:

1. That traffic wise – a suggestion was made that the interest of the pedestrian be somehow more measured in this study of this issue rather than a traditional traffic planner approach. The elimination of thru trucks in this area was favored;
2. That the creation of the large park at the corner of Calvert and Pratt be given more study and that a stronger rationale for this park be developed;
3. That perhaps the intersections of Pratt at Greene, Calvert and Howard Streets should be considered “gateways” as well;
4. Or perhaps that the concept of gateways was inappropriate altogether on a street that is, in fact, continuous. Perhaps, also that the expression of the newly proposed cross-section of “Pratt Boulevard” is the only legitimate form determinant in deciding where the “Pratt Street experience” really begins and ends;
5. That a double row of trees be considered along the north side pedestrian experience;
6. That the issue of the consistency of the height “profile” of the proposed “saddlebag” development along the north side of Pratt Street, which received considerable discussion, should be further studied.

PANEL ACTION:

Continued Working Session

Attending:

Matt Poe, Betsy Boykin, Chi Yan – ASG Architects
Sophie Robitaille, Dennis McGlade, Ashley Bastow – Olin Partnership
Paul Silberman – Sabra Wang Associates; Nan Rohrer - DPOB
Jay Brodie – BDC; Ed Gunts – Sunpapers; Marty Millsbaugh; Jill Porter – GBC
Messrs. Bowden, Cameron, Ramberg and Schack – Panel
Doug McCoach, Natasha Poole, Bob Quilter- Planning Department

