

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 21, 2010

**Meeting No: # 107**

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**Project:** Improvements for Pedestrian Safety and Biopark Imagery

**Phase:** Continued Discussion

**Location:** MLK, Jr Boulevard and West Baltimore Street

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**PRESENTATION:**

Scott Huot of Floura Teeter Landscape Architects Inc. reviewed the changes to the design since the last presentation and the Panel's response. The primary changes included: extending the arrival apron along the west side of MLK which created larger corner entry plazas; saving 6 of the large existing Oak trees; clustering double rows of two species of the gifted Cherry trees in the revised central planting area; and relocating the MLK bus stop shelter out to the curb line.

**COMMENTS OF THE PANEL:**

The Panel reviewed the proposed changes and offered the following additional comments:

- A. ***Existing Oak Trees*** – Panel members unanimously expressed support for saving the mature existing Oak trees but strongly recommend keeping more of the trees than currently proposed in order to achieve the “grove” effect that currently exists in the southern corner of the triangular site.
- B. ***Cherry Trees*** – The combination of the two types of Cherry trees in a central bosque was well received although Panelists agreed that the trees could be reorganized to accommodate more of the existing Oak trees. The Panel supported the placement of Cherry trees in the MLK median as shown.
- C. ***Baltimore Street Transit Shelters/Identity*** – The Panel suggested strongly that some type of covered bus shelters should be planned along Baltimore Street, even if they are to be provided by others at a later time. It also challenged the excessive width of the sidewalk/plazas and suggested that the Cherry trees be brought closer to the curb to reinforce the sense of edge and importance of Baltimore Street itself as it crosses thru this area.
- D. ***Geometry and Paving Materials***– It was questioned whether the circular geometry of many of the design elements and the frequent change in paving materials were in conflict with a strong/simple yet unified statement for Baltimore

Street in this location where “edge” and “promenade” are so critically important. In this regard, it was also felt that the proposed street light fixtures alone were not sufficient to achieve this goal.

**PANEL ACTION:**

Discussion purposes only.

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**Attending:**

Jim Hughes, Jane Shaab, Linda Cassard, Ron Brown, Mickey Miller -  
UMB and the Biopark

Charles Wilson – ASG Architects

Scott Huot – Floura Teeter Landscape Architects Inc.

Kate McManus – UMB President’s Office

Susan Williams – STV

Ron Kreitner – Westside Renaissance

Mackenzie Paull – DPOB

Jay Brodie, Kathy Robertson, Paul Dombrowski, Ben Stone – BDC

Ms. Eig, Messrs. Bowden, Britt, Cameron, Ramberg – UDARP

Tom Stosur, Gary Cole, Brent Flickinger, Gary Letteron, Wolde Ararsa,

Bob Quilter - Planning