

Resilience Project Design Committee Meeting
September 22, 2016
2:30 P.M.
8 Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA

Minutes

- I. Roll Call
 - **Cedric Grant, Executive Director, Sewerage and Water Board (PRESENT)**
 - **Jeff Hebert, Executive Director New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (absent)**
 - **Vicki Rivers, Sewerage and Water Board (PRESENT)**
 - **Robert Rivers on behalf of Robert Rivers, City Planning Commission (PRESENT)**
 - **Daniel McElmurray – Parks and Parkways (PRESENT)**
 - **Bruce Adams, Sewerage and Water Board (PRESENT)**
 - **Vince Smith – Capital Projects (PRESENT)**
 - **Bill Gilchrist – Director of Placed Based Planning (Chairman) (PRESENT)**

- II. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion by Chairman Gilchrist to Approve the Agenda
 - 2nd by Daniel McElmurray
 - The motion carries unanimously

- III. Approval of September 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion by Bill Gilchrist to Approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2016 Meeting
 - 2nd by Daniel McElmurray
 - The motion carries unanimously

- IV. Opening Remarks
 - Colleen McHugh & Jarod Genova, Office of Resilience and Sustainability, are introduced as staff support for the Resilience Project Design Committee. They will be assisting project managers to find ways to support urban design goals. McHugh and Genova will provide analysis and policy considerations to committee members.

- V. Order of the Day

Agenda Item I: Consideration: HMGP Broadmoor Drainage and Green Infrastructure Project

- Introduction by Project Manager Jennifer Larmeu, DPW
- Consideration from Resilience Design & Planning Team, Colleen McHugh
- Presentation by CDM Smith, Project Manager Lewis Jackson

1. PowerPoint Presentation: HMGP Broadmoor Drainage and Green Infrastructure Project

a. <http://www.nola.gov/resilience/designreview/meetings/>

2. Discussion:

Jackson: During our modeling we saw localized funding in the 1 and 2 year storm, more widespread in the 5 and 10 year design storm; we deprive the benefits of meeting the FEMA BCA by reducing the infrastructure impacted

Larmeu: we have discussed the location of traffic configurations with HDLC

Jackson: Yes we have received some good feedback

Larmeu: Before we go to one lane roadways, we will do traffic studies to make sure that it is feasible

Jackson: We have spoken with Mr. Richard at NORDC about Taylor Park; about what a high performance field may look like.

Benefits include: reduced flood risks, improved water quality, reducing levels of imperviousness throughout the system, our models are showing substantial reduction in the amount of buildings impacted in an event

Gilchrist: What you are proposing is a system wide approach to managing this

Gilchrist: It would be nice to know if there are opportunity costs on transportation, etc.

Jackson: one of the benefits of the street basins on the corner is they create a visual effect that the street is narrowing, also gives pedestrians a little bit shorter of a walk at the corner, so there is less exposure to vehicular traffic from pedestrians

Rivers: can you talk a little about the thought process around from an urban design standpoint how this will impact our historic neighborhoods? What type of models did you look at, we have had some concerns about the impact to historic integrity or areas of our city and whether or not alternatives were looked at, or if there is still a need for research and thought around the impact

Jackson: there was not a lot of consideration given to the historical impacts, this was a scientific analysis to figure out a way to store the water in a way that is beneficial to the neighborhood, but we did not consider what the impact that this would have on a historical neighborhood

Jackson: we did get some really good feedback from Elliot about how adding vegetation to a Magazine St. corner may not work; there are solutions that may address the problem; however I can't say we spent a lot of time look at the historical impact

Rivers: there needs to be more look at the impact on historic areas; is there an alternative to – ‘it has to work this way’ – is there a solution that doesn’t involve as impactful an approach on Magazine St. that can be accomplished another way in a different area

Jackson: – the best place to catch the rain is at the top of the hill; Magazine St. is at the top of the ridge, its where we want to catch the water from a technical perspective; are there other treatments? Yes, there are other ways but they are not the best and most efficient; for the benefit of the project – we need to make sure we do not lose the BCA - Magazine St. needs to be included

Rivers: my concern is that we do have some competing public values, protecting historic neighborhoods vs. being aggressive in dealing with climate change and water storage; to the extent that a storm water solution is impactful on the aesthetics of the neighborhood, it may be good or bad, but it is a thing

Gilchrist: we may want to take another pass and look at the historic nature – I can find this type of solution in any neighborhood in any city

Elliot: the relationship of streets to sidewalks to neighborhood – to change the scale of these elements – we have a pretty established thing in our neighborhoods – I would like us to amend existing areas to capture water vs changing the whole scale of our streets

Smith: we need to do this in a way that is more pedestrian friendly; you need to look at other means of how you can ...

Adams: you should look at placing a lot of this on the side streets

McElmurray: somebody has to figure out how to maintain some of these things; a business owner may conceivably be responsible for this

Gilchrist: you may want to think in terms of a trans-section; when you put it all together – think of it as a whole corridor – Dana can help do some of this type of thinking

Rivers: – my concern is on the vegetation and the maintenance of all of this

Larme: – at 30% the team has not yet looked at maintenance

McElmurray: – I am more worried about who is going to maintain this; at this scope it’s a lot of area to maintain

Grant: the parks are going to be very important about how we retain water – we have an opportunity to fix past mistakes we did with fill etc. – right now we need to ask what can we do to allow us to deal with this in the future – keep maintenance low and that provide best practices on usability

Smith: what is the typical turnaround time

Dana Brown: depending on the budget we have greater subsurface storage in some fields and less in others, but the....

Smith: can you Dana give us some general parameters on rainfall and what the recovery time is, that will help them with their operations

Dana Brown: – yes

Gilchrist: it would be great to know what the opportunity cost is around doing changes for turn around

Jackson: we provided the city some guidance on what you will have to do to meet NEPA requirements etc.

McElmurray: this information doesn't seem like it is complete

Larmeu: FEMA will be doing environmental analysis and we will have access (CONFIRM THIS IS CORRECT)

Jackson: each of these projects relies on an underdrain that links up to the general drainage system

Brown: we do a series of infiltration test to make sure we are able to

McElmurray: I didn't see much about public outreach; using neighborhood engagement, etc.

Gilchrist: Colleen, it would be good to have the presenters tailor their presentation to make sure we know factors such as equity – income etc. –

Gilchrist: – I think at this point this is probably it on this

Tyler: I did a technical review of the semantic drawings – I noticed the catch basins on the wrong side of the inlets at the catch basins – in a number of think the bump outs the catch basin is not in the bump out – I think in moving into the next phase – we need to look into this

Tyler: why don't you want to touch the cobblestones

Jackson: – SHPPO – the historic character

Motion by Chairman Gilchrist

- A motion to require contextual alternatives – a range of options – a systematic approach based on the principal of first doing no harm – to the historical character of the impacted areas – this will go to a taskforce to offer suggestions back to the Design Review Committee

Question on the motion:

- Rivers: 2 points: on what corridors AND what does it look like on the corridor

Reply from Staff:

- McHugh – we can look at some case studies, where we have plenty of historic cities that are doing green infrastructure design
- Motion is 2nd by Rivers
- Motion unanimously carries

VI. Adjournment

- Motion by Chairman Gilchrist to Adjourn
- 2nd by Daniel McElmurray
- Motion Carries Unanimously
- Meeting adjourns