

GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHT BACK ASSOCIATION MEETING

May 13, 2008

Downtown Urban Form Plan Update

Stakeholder/Residents comments

Character Area

- Historic context, proud of heritage dating to WWII - American Legion Building
- Proud Spanish heritage
- Neighborhood-familial connectivity is high – important ties, keep neighborhood together
- Strictly a residential neighborhood

Vision

- Remain strictly as a residential neighborhood, no changes – retain neighborhood connectivity

Needs

- Complete infrastructure – sidewalks in poor shape and some streets lack concrete sidewalks
- Extend boundaries of DASH to provide residents with service to downtown, or another solution to create a gateway between the Parks neighborhood and downtown
- Improve lighting
 - Vandalism issues with existing lighting – easy to break/shot at
- Bicycle paths needed, riders using sidewalks
- May be interested in shade trees, but
 - concerned that shade will increase transients in the area

Issues

- Do not trust the City, do not want any changes
- Not interested in mixed-uses
- Not interested in more density/height – no changes to the neighborhood*
- Complaints about parking
 - Ball games: visitors take parking spaces and cutting through local streets
 - Gallery events: parking and noise issues – stakeholders do not want more of the same
- Not interested in more parks
 - Those that exist are not used much
 - Homeless/transient problem and security issues
- Not interested in redevelopment of school bus depot

* Stakeholders may know, but don't seem to grasp that their zoning allows for multi family and heights are predominantly 40 feet, 1st Avenue at 48, and a couple of 56, and density at 29 units per acre

Stakeholders at this meeting seemed very steadfast in not permitting changes to their neighborhood, their way of life, and spoke as one voice, same concerns, same vision.