

Notes, Zoom Pre-proposal conference for Midtown Greenway Light-emitting Sculpture, 11/15/21

(There were no attendees at the in-person pre-proposal conference on November 11, 2021 aside from two members of the Advisory Team, so there is no Q&A to report from that day.)

WELCOME

Tim Springer, Member of Advisory Team, also Project Manager (volunteer)

Two other members of the Advisory Team introduced themselves, scottie and Abdi.

A brief overview of some items in the Call for Sculpture Concepts was shared followed by Q & A as detailed below. Abdi's shared what he wants the sculpture to convey, which is making people think this a neighborhood, it is united and together, it has families, people, friends, and we're all united.

Q1: Can solar panels be remote from the sculpture, or must they be incorporated into the sculpture itself?

A1: Solar panels could be either incorporated into the sculpture or remote. Submittals in response to the Call for Sculpture Concepts do not need to detail where the solar panels will go unless they are incorporated into the sculpture, in which case they will appear in the drawings submitted. If the panels are remote, they could perhaps go below in the grassy area down below that is in the middle of the ramp switchback, or perhaps on the retaining wall that holds up the ramp.

Q2: How should the sculpture be supported from the ground?

A2: There could be posts or structures on both sides of the entrance ramp that the sculpture will hover over, or on one side with the sculpture cantilevered.

Q3: Can a community engagement opportunity be arranged?

A3: Yes, we can make that happen (Advisory Team and/or Midtown Greenway Coalition).

Q4: Explain more about the budget for implementation.

A4: The purpose of asking proposers to estimate their project cost for construction and installation is to inform our fund-raising efforts. There is no specific number we are looking for, but budgets should be justified by the impact of the sculpture and reflect the fact that this is a project of a small nonprofit organization rather than an international corporation or airport.

Q5: What do you use the Greenway for?

A5: Abdi, I use greenway for biking and walking in the summer.

Q6: Talk about the local context.

A6: The three members of the Advisory Team shared thoughts and explained what the residents of our two blocks went through in the summer of 2020.

- In 2020, there was excessive drug dealing on our two blocks. Every day there was a fight, it was loud, we couldn't go outside.
- There was excessive litter (including condoms and needles), speeding cars, threats to residents, the robbery of a 15-year-old girl at gunpoint.
- The murder of George Floyd happened, then the uprising, then we came together in a beautiful way while the city was in a state of chaos.
- We barricaded the street and kept everyone off the block who didn't live here, sitting at the barricades in groups 24/7 for eight days. After eight days, we stopped sitting at the barricades, but we left them up for the rest of that summer. We got to know each other, did not know the younger kids on the block or that there were so many kids on the block because everyone had had to stay inside all the time due to the dangers. After the barricades, the kids used the street like their playground every day and evening.

Q7: What does the Greenway represent to the neighborhood?

A7: Our families should feel like it is somewhere safe, OK to take a walk, exercise. In 2020 it didn't feel safe. It is a regional trail so people from all over the metro area use it, but is it also heavily used by our local community with high Latinx and Somali immigrant populations in addition to Black, Native, white, and Asian. We all use it. It is a source of pride. It is snowplowed in the winter, lit at night, and open all the time. There is a camaraderie among bicyclists when passing one another while it is 10 degrees F. Then in the spring, everyone is smiling and enjoying being outside without jackets, it happens every year. Your pace is slower than cars on roads so people can interact.