

San Quentin Reuse Planning Committee Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

San Rafael Corporate Center

Committee Members Present:

Jessuina Perez-Teran
Bob Brown for Al Boro

Steve Kinsey
Annette Rose

Staff and Consultants Present:

Kristin Drumm Collins, Marin County CDA
Dan Dawson, Marin County CDA
Alex Hinds, Marin County CDA

Michele Rodriguez, Marin County CDA
Laura Hall, Fisher & Hall Urban Design
Robert Alminana, Fisher & Hall Urban Design

Process Timeline and Outcomes

The minutes from October 9, 2002 were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda item 3, Community Benefits and Relationships, was deleted from the agenda because Peter Breen was unable to attend.

Visioning Session Trial Run

The purpose of the trial run was to prepare for the community workshop on January 11, 2003 to determine if the planned program is on the right track, to discuss the agenda, and to make any final modifications. Laura Hall and Robert Alminana were to facilitate the visioning exercise.

The agenda timeline for the day was tightened up to reflect the input from the committee. Each station would have a resource person available to answer questions from the public. The purpose of the morning session is to educate participants and capture more specific details on the seven subject areas.

Andres Duany was identified as the keynote speaker, pending final confirmation. He will be asked to address what elements of the past could be incorporated or introduced into the future.

The meeting will conclude with a "Gallery Walk" to indicate preferences of suggestions from the morning session.

Comments

Concerns were raised regarding the location of the meeting. Staff attempted to pick a location close to the bay to inspire participants. The Marin Rod and Gun Club and the Civic Center café and patio areas were suggested as possible alternatives to the Strawberry site that would be more centrally located and accessible by transit.

In terms of the subject names for the stations, "traffic" should be added to the name for the Transportation and Circulation station. The names could be more specific. It was explained that each station would have two or three key questions to frame discussion and elicit input on opportunities and constraints in those subject areas.

A packet should be prepared beforehand and placed on the web and at other public areas for people reference and prepare for prior to the meeting. It would be helpful to also prepare a bilingual packet. Phone numbers and web site locations should be included on the fliers, and possibly set up an 800 number for people to call for further information.

The workshop needs to be more strategic in nature and should address the unmet needs of the county.

There should be a station that displays the various studies that have been done over the years concerning San Quentin.

Trial Run Exercise

Laura Hall displayed draft boards with various photographs on display. The boards covered three topic areas: district, city, and village. The "Town" board was missing and would be added to the continuum.

Participants should be given two dots rather than one so that they could place one dot within the continuum, and one dot to vote for their special district choice. A decision tree may also be designed to clarify and obtain input. There was some concern about the potential for bias and influence on people's choices in the dot exercise.

It was suggested that the names of the boards in the continuum should be changed and defined to avoid confusion. For example, what does each mean in terms of the number of dwelling units and how they will be clustered.

Laura Hall conducted a mock run of the visualization exercise. Comments included:

- The exercise did not integrate the outer hillsides and ridges, or how one would leave the site.
- Incorporate and emphasize ideas generated in the morning, particularly with transportation, into the visualization exercise.
- How you get home, or maybe you are home already?
- The historic buildings need to be designated on the topographic map.
- People should be encouraged to visualize places that they have visited and seen that inspire them.
- The exercise had people visualizing themselves arriving at San Quentin by ferry. This is biased and needs to be eliminated as it assumes that a ferry terminal has been developed on the site.
- The primary objective is to come up with a concept of what should be at San Quentin, accompanied with the underlying general plan and zoning designations that would allow people to build the desired uses in the future.

- The photographs on display lack a range of activities and uses that should be considered. "Bad" images were purposefully not shown to remove bias towards undesirable uses. The images should include more transit.

Next Steps

There will be no meeting in December.

The public workshop will be January 11, 2003.

Next Meeting: 6:00, Wednesday, January 15, 2003, San Rafael Corporate Center.