

Resilient Bridgeport
Public Information Meeting & Workshop
December 12, 2017 5:30-7:30 PM
New Vision International Ministries
130 Gregory Street, Bridgeport, CT 06044

Meeting Attendance:

40 signed in

Public Comments:

How did you hear about this meeting?

- On email distribution list
- Facebook
- Door Hanger
- NRZ
- Church bulletin

Connections:

- Connection to Downtown, waterfront and multi-modal transportation system should be enhanced
 - Neighborhood too distinct from Downtown and from Seaside Park
 - Sidewalks are in disrepair
 - Did they say anything about bikes?
 - Too much congestion on local roads; exacerbated by on-street parking
 - Paths in Seaside Park and along waterfront should be integrated into the neighborhood pedestrian network and expanded by whatever flood risk reduction infrastructure is built
- South End needs a gateway
 - Entrances to neighborhood under highway and railroad are bleak
 - Land uses in transportation corridor zone not friendly to walking
- Public infrastructure could enhance community connectivity
 - More playgrounds needed
 - More services in the South End- Community and/or Emergency Center

Neighborhood Development:

- Significant opportunities to bring new businesses and residents to neighborhood without compromising neighborhood character and supporting local goals
 - Broad and Lafayette Streets provide greatest redevelopment sites
 - Reuse of abandoned factories would convert current non-productive and blighted eyesores into something providing value for neighborhood
 - Residential could be appropriate
 - Residential development should include efficiencies to support UB students
 - Residential development should take advantage of the high rents that could be achieved with water views
 - Another 1,000 housing units would bring vitality to the neighborhood and downtown
 - 60 Main Street is an early opportunity if flood risk can be reduced
 - Commercial could be appropriate
 - UB students currently have to go to Trumbull Mall for shopping
 - Restaurants would be perfect given University and waterfront

- 30 University and sites like that near park would be great restaurant sites but that site is a cautionary tale since restaurants there keep failing
 - Boathouse in Seaside Park could be great destination restaurant
 - Development policy doesn't seem to be effectively enforced
 - Greater density is ok as long as the style and scale doesn't detract from neighborhood's historic character.
- Some land should be reserved for water management and leveraged as a community asset
 - Stormwater parks and retention areas could provide benefit during flood events and year round
 - Rain gardens integrated into development could bring park-like feel into neighborhood
 - Look to low-lying points in neighborhood for new pocket parks that could hold water during rain events

Public Realm Improvements:

- Seaside Park needs to be a bigger part of South End identity
 - Most travel through the arch to enter the park; all three entrances are important; Broad/Main and Iranistan entrances should be improved
 - If you hired a branding firm, the brand for Bridgeport would be "It's the Park City"
 - There's currently no public location that gives an elevated vantage point where you can see the breadth of the park; an elevated spot in the park could be great for stargazing and interacting with nature
 - Seaside should be the anchor of an outdoor recreation lifestyle in South End
- More and better managed street trees should permeate the South End, bringing the Park into the neighborhood
- Floodwalls or other flood risk reduction infrastructure should include public art and new public spaces
- Investment in public realm should be limited to those areas of the flood risk reduction infrastructure that touch the community
- More public activities and programming necessary for new public spaces

Resilience Hub:

- Could be used to bring energy to the area under I-95
- Stand-alone building
- Leveraged for broad community uses
 - Information
 - Learning
 - place to go for emergency
 - healthcare
 - engineering and design
- Engage students
 - Youth staffing
 - Volunteer/paid program for youth
 - Use students for data collection
 - STEM program with students
 - Afterschool program for children
- Senior Citizen's Center
- Urban Agriculture
 - Link to strong network of existing community gardens
 - Expand existing resources with a community farm