

CREATING A CIVIC VISION FOR THE CENTRAL DELAWARE

“INTERVIEW DESIGN” PROCESS

Report form

Question 1

Date: February 12, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: St. Peters School

Moderators: Jose Morales, Lisa Santer, Sally McAfee

VALUE: A safe place to live: We value a neighborhood where children can play outside, where adults and kids alike walk the neighborhood, where they can feel safe because they know and trust each other, whether they live or work in the community.

Major Themes:

1. Safety in numbers
2. Enhanced access
3. Make it a destination
4. Balanced police presence
5. Enhanced lighting and sight lines

Design Examples:

1. Safety in numbers
 - Like Schuylkill river park, “it works”
 - Need to study how it attracts people
2. Enhanced access
 - Find ways to bring people
 - Cover I-95
 - Extend city
 - More points of access and exit
 - Better pedestrian, car, and boat access
 - Make it a park like “Central Park” in NYC
 - Would create a positive increase in real estate value
 - Increased opportunities to use land
 - Reduces noise and increases safety
 - Increase residential and commercial areas
 - Top level residential...lower level commercial
 - Adds a layer of economic support
 - Creates a 24 hour presence

- Increases livability and visitability
3. Make it a destination
 - Reasons for people to go there
 - Additional restrooms
 - Fishing opportunities
 - Diverse uses: Restaurants, museums, provide facilities for group uses (fairs, cultural activities, etc.)
 - Take 2 lanes of the Delaware Avenue and create dedicated mass transit lines. Example: In Switzerland, the train comes every 5 minutes to take tourists to the ski resorts.
 - Strong “elevated corridors” between city and waterfront highlighted with art, and landscaping to attract tourists and others wanting to move to Philadelphia
 - Iconify / increase pride in and around waterfront area.
 - Paris has the Eiffel Tower and Chicago has its huge ferris wheel
 - Create local Philadelphia “Icons”
 4. Balanced police presence
 - Not too much nor too little
 - Hire “safety ambassadors”
 - A cross between police and civilians
 - Placed at kiosks or substations
 - Examples: University of Penn., Center city
 5. Enhanced lighting and sight lines...More is better.
 - More lights, like Temple University...”Even though you need sunglasses to visit the area but you feel safe”.
 - Urban planning and development takes into consideration “blind spots” where people can get assaulted

Based on what you heard, if you could make the rules for a design of the waterfront that supports safety and security, those rules would include:

- Mandate studies prior to construction to identify and correct safety issues and identify and promote “best design practices”
- Start an initiative to identify and promote Philadelphia Icons in order to increase pride in city and waterfront
- Powers that be in urban planning and development take into consideration safety issues prior to construction/development along and within the waterfront
- Create initiatives to connect local communities to the waterfront via and increase their “stake” in the waterfront