

Downtown Commission – June Updates

TO: Downtown Commission
DATE: June 9, 2017
PREPARED BY: Dana Frankel, Downtown Development Specialist
SUBJECT: Updates on downtown projects and initiatives

Haywood/Page – Short Term Use

Staff is proceeding with implementation of temporary uses for the City-owned sites at 68 Haywood Street and 33 Page Avenue. An [update](#) was presented to Council on May 23.

Improvements to 68 Haywood Street are underway to accommodate temporary uses. Those improvements include: clearing gravel from portions of the site, repairing the concrete surface, installing electricity and the purchase/placement of trees and vegetation in planters, tables, seating and shade sails. The site is expected to be open to the public for general access beginning July 1.

A [request for expressions of interest \(RFEI\)](#) was released on Friday, June 2nd, to seek ideas for temporary programming at the site to take place between August 2017 and August 2018. The RFEI is an initial mechanism for reviewing, selecting and scheduling programs and activities on the site. Once that process has concluded, the site will be made available for special event permitting through the City's existing application process for outdoor special events on public property. The deadline for submissions is June 26. More information is [here](#).

Access and maintenance of the site will be managed by the City's Parks Department. Rules will be consistent with other spaces managed by the Parks Department, including open hours and the prohibition of smoking.

33 Page Avenue is now being managed as a temporary community garden, as part of the Office of Sustainability's recently launched program. More information is [here](#). An official kick-off for the community gardens program is scheduled for June 10 at the Southside Community Garden. More information about the event is [here](#).

Haywood/Page – Long Term Use

Staff is drafting a RFQ for planning/design services to be released later this summer, informed by a [community vision](#) developed over the past year. The work of that contract is expected to be completed by late 2018. Any plans would ultimately be adopted by City Council. Implementation would follow.

Budget Process FY 17/18

The City Manager's budget was presented at the May 9th Council Meeting. A public hearing on the draft budget took place at the May 23 Council Meeting. Council is scheduled to adopt the budget on June 13th. More information is [here](#).

Comprehensive Plan

A draft of the City's Comprehensive Plan is now available, and community input is sought this month through [Open City Hall](#).

In addition to providing feedback through Open City Hall, Stacy Merten, Project Manager in the City's Planning and Urban Design Department, will present an update to the Downtown Commission at the July 7 meeting. She will also join for Downtown Open Office Hours on Thursday, July 20th (3-5 PM in the Pack Square Park Pavilion).

More information is [here](#).

Pritchard Park

Pritchard Park landscape improvements began in April. Programming has and will continue throughout the construction period. The project is slated for completion by the end of July, pending factors such as weather. A project page is available with more information [here](#).

Street and Sidewalk Work

College Street Sidewalk

The section of sidewalk on the north side of College Street between N. Lexington and Rankin Avenue was replaced last month. The bricks in disrepair were replaced with stamped concrete (the downtown standard "running bond" scored concrete pattern), historic granite curbing and new gutters. Sidewalk width was extended about 1 foot.

This month, beginning on Monday, 6/12, the City's concrete crews will repair the section of sidewalk on the north side of College Street between N. Spruce and N. Market Streets. This section will also feature the running bond pattern, with new historic granite curbing and new cutters. Two trees will be replaced, installed in new (larger) tree pits. Sidewalk width will be extended about 6 inches. The intersection and crosswalk at College Street and N. Market Street will also be improved to meet ADA accessibility standards. More information is available [here](#).

In sections, the sidewalks along College Street are being completed. The section completed by the AC Hotel will be open soon. The section between Rankin and Haywood Street will be next for the City's concrete crew. Once construction on the Arras is completed, the north side of that block will also be replaced, completing the north side of the corridor.

Broadway Vaulted Sidewalk

Work began on April 24 to replace the section of vaulted sidewalk on Broadway between Walnut and the alley next to Strada. The contracted work will be completed by July 24 at the latest, but they are on schedule to complete it sooner.

Downtown Open Office Hours

On the third Thursday of every month, staff is available at the Pack Square Park Pavilion from 3 – 5 PM to share information, answer questions and discuss ideas about downtown with those interested from the community. On June 15, Cathy Ball, Assistance City Manager, will join Dana Frankel, Downtown Development Specialist.