

## Republic Square Partners

May 9, 2007

Attending: Taylor Andrews, Charlie McCabe, Steve Rutledge, Steve Skidmore, Charlie Betts, Dale Sherman, Julie Fitch, Stuart Strong, Neil Landers, Daniel Woodroffe

Summary of presentation from Daniel Woodroffe, TBG Partners:

- Daniel presented an overview of the plan and new renderings for the Auction Oaks, showing two options - A with the deck and B, without the deck.
- Everyone preferred the deck option, but the historic nature of the space cannot be ignored.
- For the deck, we'll need a certificate of appropriateness from the Landmark Commission (per Stuart)
- Interpretation of the area is a key ingredient. We need to tell the story of the Auction Oaks as part of the project (also helps with Landmark Comm. approval process)
- Specific Items to address in design and plans:
- Grades of project must be established. Limbs hang low in certain areas of the park, especially toward the corner of 4th and San Antonio. These will need to be factored into the design to ensure that they are not an attraction for folks to grab, hang on, break.
- Deck will be proposed to be build on the existing low stone wall around the center oak, minimizing the impact of the deck, most likely using a steel subframe resting on the existing stone wall. Let's call this "adaptive re-use"
- Deck will be need to built tightly for durability and long life. Daniel suggested that Trex or a similiar engineered wood alternative would be used.
- ADA compliance for deck (ramp, rails on steps)
- Tree roots might have grown into the adjacent berms which may limit our ability to re-grade. Study will need to be done to determine this.
- Where there isn't a continuous stone seat wall, but bollards, Pard would like cross pieces (decorative chain, horizontal block to make sure users know that they should stay out of the Auction Oaks area.
- Security wall is a possibility, but the GSA would need a fair amount of time to get a security review and approval. The challenge here is that the courthouse construction is still not funded, thus the rest of the perimeter is not designed (along the edges of the park along San Antonio St as well as on both the north and side of the to be closed section of San Antonio St.

Suggested additions:

- appropriate lighting along seat wall so the seat wall and deck can be used at night as well.
- lighting the trees in a decorative way

Next steps:

- Obtain input and feedback from the entire Republic Square Partners committee on June 13th.
- Work to incorporate input from above meeting(s) and cost savings from not doing security walls into design.
- Plan to present conceptual plan to Parks Land and Facilities Committee.
- Plan to present conceptual plan to Historic Landmark Commission.