

Manis, Dina

From: Denise Hill <faire@sonic.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 29, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Nutt, Jason
Cc: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: FW: Howarth Park Caretakers Cabin

I see the Q&A below was posted regarding the Howarth Park Caretakers Cabin on the city's website this week.

I certainly don't agree with some of the justification in the city's answers:

- 1) If lead paint or asbestos was a reason to get rid of a dwelling, a large majority of our historic homes would qualify for demolition.
- 2) If moving a structure compromised its historic significance we would not have at least 20% of the homes listed as contributors in the St. Rose Preservation District. Many homes were moved to our district to save them from the urban renewal of the late 1800's and early 1900's. The old Santa Rosa post office (now the museum) would also no longer be considered to have historical significance.
- 3) Remodeling an older building happens on a regular basis all over the United States and is not the daunting and overly costly task the city is making it out to be.
- 4) Our local real estate industry recognizes the value of historic homes and regularly lists this as a selling point. In the last year, homes built between 1900-1935 in our preservation district have sold at prices between \$600,000 and \$800,000. This includes bungalows similar to the Howarth Park Caretakers Home.

I truly hope the city can be satisfied with the "cost savings" it will achieve by demolishing the other 31 structures on its target list and save the Caretaker's Cabin that is loved by so much of our community.

Caretaker's Cabin at Howarth Park

Howarth Park Cabin

The upcoming removal of the caretaker's cabin at Howarth Park has generated both community interest and questions. The following information is intended to help answer those frequently asked questions regarding the removal plans.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. Santa Rosa has a housing shortage; shouldn't we keep the cabin to help a family or individual who needs a home?

Unfortunately, the 104-year-old cabin is in poor condition and is not suitable for habitation. A 2019 hazardous materials study found that 7 of 8 samples tested positive for lead, which would require extensive remediation work prior to any repair or renovation work. Additionally, the cabin needs a full roof replacement, ADA upgrades, modification to structural elements, and replacement of the communications, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems.

The City is focused on a number of housing initiatives to help make an impact on the regional housing shortage. Read more about those efforts on the City's Housing Action Plan webpage.

2. Can't the cabin be used for something else at the park other than housing?

Occupancy of the cabin is currently not possible due to numerous safety hazards and building code compliance issues. All the work described in the answer to question #1 would need to be completed prior to any use of the cabin.

3. Why can't the City make the safety and code upgrades to make the facility habitable again?

The City's Facility Assessment report indicates the structure is in poor condition and well past its service life. By industry standards, the cost to restore the cabin far exceeds its future value. Based on this assessment, the facility was recommended for divestment. Additionally, the Recreation and Park Department has demonstrated that the area where the Caretaker's house is situated could be better utilized for park activities.

4. Can the City let someone else relocate the structure and/or make the necessary repairs?

No. Given the facility's current structural safety concerns, extensive hazardous materials remediation requirements, and code compliance issues, there is no guarantee the structure would remain intact during any relocation effort.

5. Doesn't the cabin have historical significance?

An historical analysis concluded that the structure does not meet the criteria for historical significance since it was relocated to Howarth Park from its original spot on Ridley Avenue in 1983. The 1915-era structure would have been eligible had it been left in its original neighborhood. The relocation of the cabin to Howarth Park, however, placed it in a very different setting than the original modest, single-family neighborhood. This changed the original character of the building, resulting in the structure not being considered a historical resource.

6. What will the City do with that land once the cabin is removed?

The cabin is currently located near lower-level parking and picnic areas at Howarth Park nearest to Summerfield Road. The Recreation & Parks Department is considering this parkland area be re-purposed for additional picnicking space or added recreational/sports court activities following removal of the cabin.

7. When will the cabin be removed?

The cabin is slated for demolition and removal in October/November of 2019.

Best,

Denise Hill

Manis, Dina

From: Ellen Bowen <ellenrossowbowen@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2019 8:19 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Cc: Nutt, Jason
Subject: Caretaker's home at Howarth Park

Dear City Council Members:

As a 20+ year docent at Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, I am especially concerned about respecting and sharing the history of our town.

I am writing you to urge you to reconsider the demolition of the Caretaker's home at Howarth Park.

I realize that demolition may seem the expedient option at this moment, but I ask that you be more far-sighted in your consideration.

This house, although moved to Howarth Park from its original location many decades ago, represents a bygone era that is important for our citizens and visitors to remember and enjoy. It adds charm and character to a beloved park - charm and character that cannot and will not be replicated by food stands and bathrooms.

Please listen to the proposals of local historical groups and find a way to save this home. Asbestos and lead paint are common in buildings older than a certain age - and can be mitigated.

Sincerely,

Ellen L. Bowen

PS Did you know that Lake Ralphine is named after Ralphine McDonald, wife of Mark McDonald Sr. (yes, the original owner of Mableton, AKA the McDonald Mansion... He made his fortune in silver and railroads... owned many local business including the Santa Rosa Water Works and built Lake Ralphine... He was even a member of the SR City Council!)

I often portray Ralphine in historical reenactments... there is quite a history to the area and park you are looking at changing forever.

Please don't be cavalier in your decisions about our history.

Manis, Dina

From: Judy Kennedy <quinkenn@sonic.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2019 1:06 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic; _PLANCOM - Planning Commission
Cc: Jones, Jessica; Streeter, Patrick; Rivero, Rafael; Judy Kennedy; Lois Fisher
Subject: JOINT MEETING JULY 16 -- PUTTING THE SQUARE IN RAILROAD SQUARE
Attachments: UPDATE ON TUESDAY MEETING.eml; Rev Wall to Wall Piazza Option for Railroad Square Nov 2018 by Lois Fisher and Judy Kennedy.jpg; 001PlazaEnhancement.jpg

Dear Mayor Schwedhelm, Council Members, Chair Cisco and Planning Commissioners,

Last year, Lois Fisher and I came up with an idea for "putting the Square in Railroad Square." I organized a meeting at Cast Away Yarn Shop on November 20, 2018, which was attended by several local property owners, business owners, members of the Historic Railroad Square Association, the Railroad Square Development Oversight Committee, and city staff. We looked at two possible options including a green park, a small plaza or a larger piazza at the parking lot between Depot Park and the Visitors' Center. Of course, the main question from the point of view of the local business people and property owners is parking. Lois and I came up with several ways to put the 27 parking spaces and the RV parking space around the new square.

That meeting led to another meeting in the Mayor's Conference room on December 11, 2018 organized by Rafael Rivero, to discuss problems and possibilities with other city staff.

I have attached a copy of an email string describing the outcome of that second meeting, where no serious objections were identified. (Please disregard comments about an event called "Springtime in Paris," which was scuttled.)

I have also attached two draft plaza/park options for discussion purposes.

Since I will only have three minutes to speak on Tuesday, July 16, I want to bring council and commissioners up to date on this project. I have discussed the project with all council members and led a walk-about with Council Members Olivares and Tibbetts. The council consensus has been very positive.

We seek to have a community park/plaza at the Visitors' Center parking lot designated as the "preferred alternative" in the updated Downtown Station Area Plan.

Thank you,

Judy Kennedy

--

Judy Kennedy
quinkenn@sonic.net
(707) 528-0736

7/16/19

Manis, Dina

From: Rivero, Rafael <RRivero@srcity.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 4:20 PM
To: quinkenn@sonic.net
Cc: Lois Fisher; De La Rosa, Raissa
Subject: RE: UPDATE ON TUESDAY MEETING

Excellent summary of the meeting. Count on me for the planning of the "Springtime in Paris." And it was a pleasure putting this together quickly. You were all well prepared.

Happy Holidays! RAFAEL

From: Judy Kennedy <quinkenn@sonic.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Judy Kennedy <quinkenn@sonic.net>
Cc: Justine Malone <justine@castawayyarnshop.com>; TeeVax-Mike <mike@teevox.com>; Lynda Angell <lynangell@msn.com>; 'Willard Richards' <willard@sonic.net>; Dick Carlile <carlileplans@comcast.net>; Dee Richardson <hbr95404@aol.com>; Rogers, Chris <CRogers@srcity.org>; Jack Swearingen <jcswear@sbcglobal.net>; De La Rosa, Raissa <RdelaRosa@srcity.org>; Thompson, Tara <TThompson@srcity.org>; Rivero, Rafael <RRivero@srcity.org>; Nadeau, Kim <knadeau@srcity.org>; Kristin Kiefer <kkiefer.2012@gmail.com>; Geoffrey Smith <info@bikepartners.net>; Frank Masterson <frank@greenfishtrading.com>; Marta <hotco@sbcglobal.net>; Visitors Center <MyrnaL@VisitSantaRosa.com>; Jim McCalligan <jim@mccalligan.com>; Judy Kennedy <quinkenn@sonic.net>; Lois Fisher <lois@fishertowndesign.com>; Alima Silverman <alimas@sbcglobal.net>; Sprinkle, Rob <RSprinkle@srcity.org>; Eve Birdlebough <scbaffirm@gmail.com>
Subject: UPDATE ON TUESDAY MEETING

Dear Square People,

I want to thank Rafael for bringing together so many staff members and department heads to the meeting on Tuesday. I think every stakeholder one could think of was there. It appeared the City is taking our project pretty seriously. I didn't know all the staff, but here's the list: Parking Division Manager, Transit, Fire Department, three senior planners, two from economic development, Public Works Supervising Engineer, Arts Coordinator, and Recreation and Parks Dept. In addition to Lois and I, in attendance were Steve Birdlebough representing Friends of SMART, Dick Carlile and Mike Montegue representing Railroad Square Planning and Oversight Committee, Mike Montegue and Justine Malone representing Railroad Square Business Association.

1. Lois gave her excellent presentation with more slides of similar public spaces and a closer look at some of the parking spaces and sidewalks around Depot Park.
2. Fire & Safety voiced concerns about a fire lane between the Visitors Center and SMART property. Also discussed were fire requirements for La Rose Hotel. There was no serious problems identified.
3. Dick Carlile added a dedicated area linking the SMART gate to the proposed plaza. Again, not a problem.
4. Some discussion about financing such a large project. The usual suspects were named: A little from this, a little from that, and big grants.
5. Transit voiced concerns about the pick-up and delivery spot for ParaTransit and Shuttle service. Again, not a big problem.
6. Rec/Park voiced concerns about a fountain of any kind being a huge maintenance problem.
7. There was little resistance to putting 9 spaces on Wilson, just so long as we don't interrupt the original Depot Park curbing.

NEXT STEP:

We are going ahead with plans to stage an event "Springtime in Paris" at the proposed plaza site. We will close off the parking lot, add temporary parking spaces where we can fit them. This event will involve renting tables and chairs, having some low-key entertainment (mime, accordion music, stilt-walkers) and offering a spot for people to sit and relax, bring a picnic lunch or buy food from various small-cart vendors. Wine/beer and other beverages will be for sale to, hopefully, fund the event. We are currently looking at Sunday dates in late April or early May.

If anyone on this list has more to add about the meeting, please do.

Thank you and Happy Holidays (or is it Merry Christmas -- I can never remember which is the politically correct salutation),

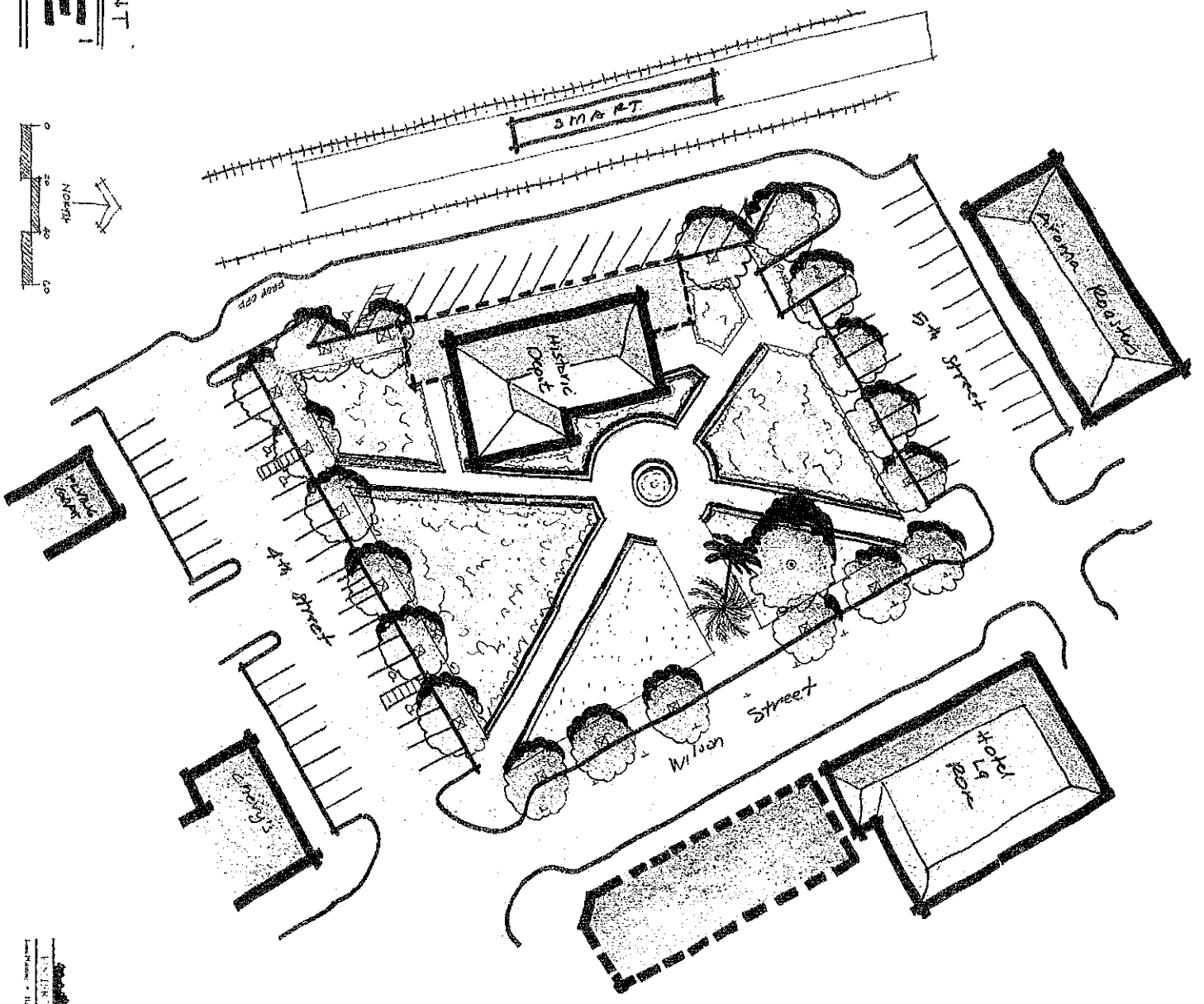
Judy 8-)

--
Judy Kennedy
quinkenn@sonic.net
(707) 528-0736

PLAZA ENHANCEMENT
RAILROAD SQUARE

SHEET 2418

NET +3 PAVED SPACES

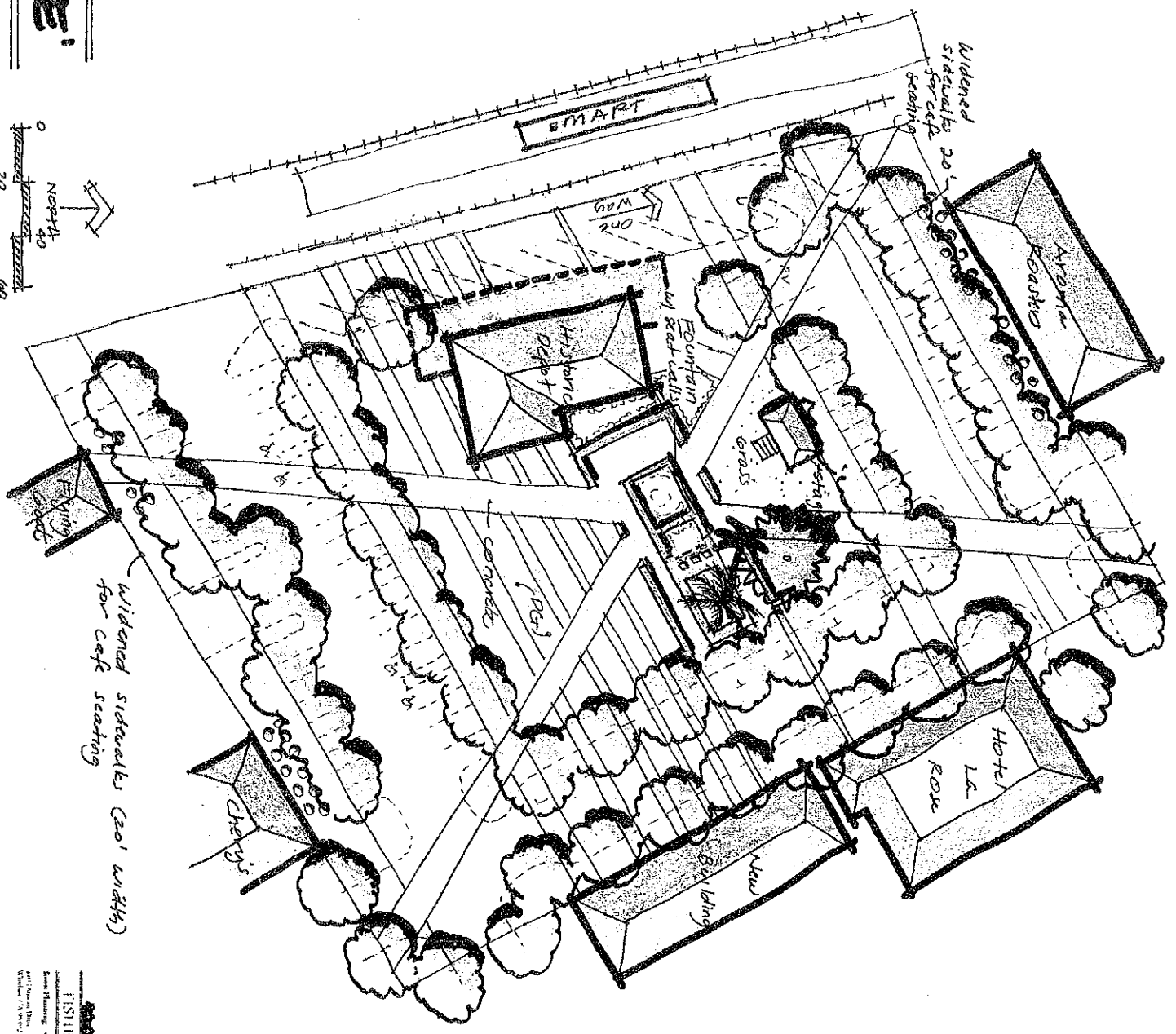


RAILROAD SQUARE

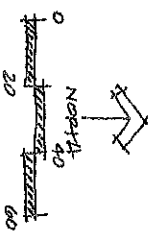
WALL-TO-WALL 'PIAZZA' OPTION

01/2018

NET + 5 PARKING SPACES



widened sidewalks (20' width) for cafe seating



BY LOIS FISHER & DE KEENEY

FISHER TOWN DESIGN
 Landscape Architecture
 1000 1st Street
 San Francisco, CA 94107
 (415) 774-1111