



The City of Brecksville

Resident Recommendation Committee

Valor Acres

Central School

November 6, 2019

Brecksville City Hall, Council Chambers

Committee Attendees: Committee Chair Andrew Van Nort, Ray Andrews, Neil Brennan, Meredith Gunzler, Judy Jackman, Holly Little, Michael Paskert, Susan Schindler, John Syrone, Frank Talerico, Nancy Woelfl.

Guests: Council President Mike Harwood, Councilperson Lou Carouse, Councilperson Kim Veras, Dominic Sciria, Planning Commission.

Committee Chair, Andrew Van Nort, welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance.

The first order of business was to review the survey results from the Committee Survey that was sent out via e-mail to residents who were signed up to receive City e-mails as well as those that contacted the City to receive an e-mail survey. A power point was presented with those results. Chairman Van Nort read the results. (Power Point will be available on website)

Visual Examples of possibly layouts at the Central School Site if the building is not kept where shown. One of all Townhomes, one depicting all R-8A lots, and one depicting a possible layout of R8-A along Arlington, retail along 82 and townhomes in the middle.

A question was asked regarding the water retention possibilities in the drawings. In the two residential layouts a retention basin is depicted. In the layout of residential and retail there is no basin depicted. Chairman van Nort explained again these are just examples and the drawing with residential and retail could be assuming an underground tank.

A resident asked if the retail would face 82. Mayor Hruby responded in this example yes, the retail would be facing Route 82.

A resident asked about the house the school was retaining on the property and where it was located. Andrew said the property is called the Comstock property and pointed it out on the map. The resident asked if the school had plans for the property. Mayor Hruby said the School District and the City have had discussions about the City possibly acquiring that property too.

The presentation concluded. Chairman Van Nort asked the committee some questions based off the survey results and asked only the committee to respond. He said the most popular survey answer for Central School was extension of park space, so what does the committee see that park space being. He has heard recommendations for an ice rink in the winter and fountains in the summer. A member said he lives in Echo Hills and for years they put up an ice rink that was never used. It could be a great expense for residents and might not be utilized as much as we might think right now.

A member asked if thoughts were to keep the whole property green space. Andrew said yes, he wanted to know thoughts on that. Members said no, not the whole space. Some members said maybe just the frontage along 82 keep green space if anything.

A member said he believes the property could be utilized better. He said he does not see the square busy now other than at Home Days or a wedding.

A member said that the City needs to do things to bring people into the City or bring them to the downtown area like a farmers market, then the square would be busier.

A member said she thinks the most astatically pleasing look for the property would be the slide that showed townhomes only on the property.

A member said he would not like to see homes and park space on the property. He said no one would want the public wondering around in what could be their back yards. The same for homes and retail, it should be one or the other. Andrew commented some people like living in a space they could walk a few feet to a restaurant or ice cream shop.

A member comment the only thing he does not like about any of the examples is the driveways leading in and out with 82 being so busy.

A member asked for clarification from the survey question since park/greenspace was the most popular answer. Kristen Kouri responded for that particular question people were allowed to choose as many responses as they would like so it could be a combination of people wanting retail and greenspace or residential and greenspace for example.

After discussions the committee agreed they were definitely leaning more towards residential for Central School at this time but would like to continue discussions on types of residential at a later meeting.

A request was made to bring more examples of possible layouts of school at the next meeting

A final request was made to hold the next meeting after the holidays in late January. Meeting then closed