

SFC Public Meeting Yonkers Public Library January 17th, 2007

The following is a synopsis of the discussion points raised by the public at the January 17, 2007 Community Forum, held at the Yonkers Public Library.

After an introduction by Joe Apicella of Cappelli Enterprises and an overview of the Conceptual Development Plan by Hilary Bertsch of EEK Architects, the public was invited to join “breakout” groups based on topics of interest in the development project. The breakout groups were: (1) Open Space/ Waterfront, (2) Development and (3) Transportation.

What follows are the discussion points and suggestions voiced during the breakout sessions.

Open Space/ Waterfront

- Increase number of outdoor activities (e.g. ice skating rink, bike paths, bocce courts, playgrounds with swing sets, chess tables in park)
- Increase water/marine activities (e.g. swimming pools, fishing areas, kayak and rowing landings)
- Questions about increases in sewage
- There is a major need for more public restrooms
- The city needs rain shelters
- Programs for maintenance of new parks
- Open space vs. green space
- “Passive” park—quiet place for parents and children
- Teen centers would be a good way to keep kids off the streets
- Trash bins and recycling cans should be available at all outdoor parks/recreational areas
- Park for animals
- Provide space for public parking
- Adapt recreational concept like Chelsea Piers in New York City
- Provide Residents (Yonkers only) parking for waterfront
- Place picnic areas around the city
- Ludlow Area—a need for a large park (similar to Trevor Park)

Development

- Discussion of project timeline
- Better plan than previous ones, as this is more than just ballpark
- Energy-efficient development
- Possibility of drawing a SUNY technical campus
- Additional uses of ballpark
- Ongoing dedication of developers to Yonkers area
- Economic impact of development
- Enthusiasm about adapting older Victorian feel to new developments
- Concern about current industrial activity in Ludlow
- Improve situation with oil tanks and tracks
- More access to waterfront and marina is a positive step
- Necessary to respect what already exists
- Building plan for Ludlow
- Want opportunity to evaluate and revise
- Thoughts about concert hall, museum, science center
 - Educational, recreational, cultural
- What is end-date for project
- Respect developer and amount of money invested
- The plan is economically sensible
- Affordable housing concerns
- Maintaining Mom & Pop stores
- Impact on property taxes

Transportation

- No reduction in bus service
- New trolley service proposed
- Signage for ballpark parking
- Increase number of bicycle/ pedestrian paths/lanes
- Want different modes of transportation
- Ashburton Ave. improvement plans
- Link into NYC Metro Card system
- Parking hubs for remote parking