



900 South 22nd Street Community Meeting

Shiloh Baptist Church
August 2, 2006



City Council

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Agenda

Welcome: Les Robbins, SOSNA Board Chair

Speakers: Kathleen Murray, Special Assistant to City
Council President Anna C. Verna

Laura Blanchard, Former SOSNA Board Chair
Member of Green Space committee

Terry Gillen, 30th Ward Leader

Presentation: Community Design Collaborative

Question and Answer: Design Collaborative Team

Conclusion: Kathleen Murray

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Context of Analysis

- Loss of Community Gardens
- Increased Development
- Lack of open space

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Planning Group

Open Space Group

Office of Council President

SOSNA

Terry Gillen

30th Ward Committee members

City Planning Commission

Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

Neighborhood Garden Association

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Gardens Lost

21st and Fitzwater

Parcels: 2120, 2122, 2124 Fitzwater Street

Year established: 1994

Philadelphia Green City Gardens Award: 2000

Status: Developer built "House of Bad Karma" on 2122, effectively destroying garden.



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Gardens Lost

20th and Catharine

Year Established: 1989

History: Neighbors cleared the lots over a two year period and, with the assistance of Philadelphia Green, laid out a 7,000 square-foot garden combining 20 individual 8 ft x 8 ft plots with generous lawn and flower areas, flowering trees, and shrubs.

Status: Developed



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20th and Catharine



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Gardens at Risk

Fitzwater 2000



Fitzwater 2000

Year Established: 1995

History: The residents, in partnership with Philadelphia Green/PHS, cleaned and fenced these lots and turned them into an award winning Community Garden-one that has won city wide recognition in each of the past eight years.

Status: RDA has acquired 2040, 2042 and 2044 Fitzwater Street.

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Policy Concerns

- Garden vs. Park
- Public Accessibility
- Quality, use and benefit of space
- Public Good Vs. Resources Spent, i.e., Cost vs. benefit

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The top of the slide features a collage of three images. On the left is a soccer field with a goal. In the center is a heavy traffic jam on a multi-lane road. On the right is a white school bus.

Policy Recommendations

Focus on developing park and educational garden

- 22nd and Montrose, Park
- 20th and Catharine, School Campus Initiative

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22nd and Montrose



Benefits

- Park Space
- Provides green space for western end of the community.



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22nd and Montrose

Challenges

- Not all parcels city owned
- Not all parcels Tax delinquent
- High acquisition costs
- Five RDA owned parcels acquired for Greater Saint Matthew's housing initiative

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20th and Catharine

Benefits

- Extension of 20th and Catharine Garden - located across from Arthur Elementary School
- Central community location
- Potential funding from School District



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20th and Catharine

Challenges

No publicly owned parcels

Very high acquisition costs

Developer wanted too much in the way of swaps for ground (3:1)

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Acquisition Status

2040-2044 Fitzwater Street

\$478,000

900 South 22nd Street

\$863,000

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Future Steps

[Saved for community action]

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