

Electric Park Public Input Meeting – 10.28.19

Small Group Discussion Question Summary

1. What is your initial reaction?

- Economic impact and destination
- Cleans up the area
- Functional and realistic
- Performance venue space is very important for arts
- Boost for youth in activities and sense of community
- Energized
- What youth want to see, exciting that leadership thinking like young adults
- Good start to what will be involved process
- Riverfront is unifying to community and downtown is where to start, but south of river is also important
- Will there be a continuation of trail upstream to connect?
- One possible plat of many possibilities. Not fixating on what this is going to be. Not overwhelmed by it, but not underwhelmed.
- Has some good possibilities – promenade, seating. If it is kept up – especially little parts along walkways – simple ones like distance to downtown, restaurants along trail
- Like, but who will take care of it – restrooms, green. Very fancy. We need to engage people to come and take care of it.
- Like homage to hydro, but like calling it Hydro Park instead of Electric Park because it is called that by locals now. Electric can have negative connotation
- Better than parking lot
- Like Dubuque – spur development
- Opens up trail connection
- Good to connect to Amtrak
- Lighting is great
- Housing is good
- Concern of dead fish
- Skeptical/pipe dream (money, Legacy said private funding/now grants)
- Skeptical of city, government and borrowing
- Not happy to have a chance to choose some of above
- Redundant to central park and others
- Blighted area that needs work
- Like how it ties to downtown
- Near other amenities
- Has access to everything
- Bringing river back into Ottumwa
- Exciting – inclusive all encompassing, amazing, not sold on fish theme
- Lots of question – why is this piece the first piece?

- Excited by it. Always be challenged. Design is nice. Ready for action.
- Lots of other river towns recognize the importance of enhancing river vs. seeing it as a barrier.
- The Riverwalk/promenade would tie in the trails
- The living piece/residential is important
- Interesting
- Progress; economic growth – great opportunity
- Excited!
- Like concept; private investment
- Enhanced fishing experience
- Positive
- Fun to show visitors and newcomers
- Nice entrance to Market Street bridge
- Visuals useful
- Powerhouse focus
- Fishing is important!
- Firepit/seating area
- Promenade
- Shorter deck

2. What excites you the most?

- Keeping fishing opportunities available!
- Economic development possibilities
- Parking beneath and peripheries
- Fifty-five percent of us like the idea (instant poll use!)
- Interaction of the ped-bridge
- Private development cares f/bathroom
- Reconnects the downtown and riverfront and fills void across river
- Unifying aspect for community
- Puts unity in community
- Brings activity to blighted and stagnated area that should strengthen
- Creation of modern space to retain talent (young) angering improvements
- Job creation
- So much emphasis on downtown and riverfront
- Draw you to downtown – not a shopper – a reason to go downtown
- Activities proposed – concerts, bands, things to do at night
- Seating/relating elements
- Artwork
- Potential economic development
- Like the fish, maybe not too much light – sophisticated
- Big improvement – rid of parking lot
- Get used a lot
- Boos economic development
- Green space

- Fish and lighting would make it stand out
- Good first impression, great place for outdoor events
- Next election
- It's an ugly area so is the station
- Great potential for a current eyesore
- Add some beautification to the area
- People will want to come to see
- Ties in with development
- Sounds good
- Nice area for living
- Progress, detailed plan, like the housing option
- Pedestrian friendly, it connect so many great things in our community
- Love the water canon or other interactive water feature
- Electric sculptures and lighting
- See it as a catalyst for economic growth and development
- Draws the younger professional – things to do. Draws people who want to live here to work. It helps to get the convergence
- Truly getting close and at the water for relaxing and doing things
- It brings different demographics together – community and then including the residential folks
- Electric park theme
- Pinpointed and specific
- Unique
- Take something old and worn out and redevelop it
- More green space
- Connection to trails
- Public artwork
- Lighting at powerplant
- New housing
- View from the Amtrak
- Bike trail can draw more users
- Residential use

3. What concerns you the most?

- Obstruction of viewshed f/remainder of downtown
- Funding!
- Do we have developers?
- City maintenance
- How long will this take?
- Reception of initiative
- How are we delivering information
- Theme is a concern/more expansive theme/more Ottumwa centric in theme
- Worried about other neglected areas
- Safety with kids at river

- Maintenance/upkeep
- Safety at night using it – big space to be monitored
- How does it “fit”
- Ensure quality built structures – with building quality landlords and neighboring buildings
- Parking – ensure spaces
- Blocking view of river
- Traffic pattern blocked?
- Existing infrastructure? How does it work?
- Fish
- Cost – who will pay for it?
- Public support
- Priority – is it?
- Impact taxes
- Safety – pedestrians
- Casino for the listed communities
- Parking, where will it go?
- Skate-parking make it better
- Gentrification – drive tax base up and force out folks
- Maintenance – struggle now
- Security
- Where skate park
- Emergency access with trains present
- Emergency pumps
- Easy access to get out
- Parking
- Enough room for fishing
- Is it pet friendly
- Don’t block view of trains (both ways)
- Street access to gateway drive
- Flooding may be a concern
- May block view of new downtown apartments
- Is this a city park (government maintained)?
- Do we need another entertainment venue or does this add to the possibilities?
- The powerhouse building
- River smell during the summer (when it is hot and humid) – other communities have to have figured it out
- Is it really a draw? Don’t understand overall vision
- Safety concerns at night (vandalism and homelessness); Like public restrooms
- Funding – including maintenance
- Train (noise)
- River level; with standing changes
- Do we know if there are any Native American artifacts/sites at this site before we dig?
- Cost of electricity – renegotiate contract with Alliant?

- Geese
 - Cost – impact of investment on city and their capability to fund
 - Do we have number of producers to commit to performances?
 - Maintenance plan
 - Development of private investment connected to development of Electric Park
 - Residential use at railroad
 - Not as cool as the visual?
 - How are dimensions? Can't tell
 - Flooding and ground water
 - Amphitheater slope
4. What's missing? What are additional elements or activities that you'd like us to consider?
- Operating plan f/booming "venue"
 - Eagle-watch/bird-watching
 - Railroad influence. Discussion of history of evolution of riverfront
 - Discussion of interaction to mixed-use (restaurant)
 - Canoe/kayak launch/boat-marina (D.M. River Trail)
 - Cat-walk around pump house f/fishing at high river levels
 - Public restroom closer to fishing areas/cleaning stations
 - Direct connection across the river
 - Community resource center
 - Native American interpretive center (brings grant opportunities)
 - Splash pads for kids
 - Dog Park
 - Logistics like community app to connect dots
 - Church Street connection
 - Connection to rail at depot
 - Elevation commercial is missing
 - Need more platform to get out this information
 - Connection to community at large
 - Pedestrian connection to beach
 - Pedestrian connection over railroad
 - Showcase/teach about wildlife/river
 - Bike race
 - Enough space to ride bike
 - Tai Chi/yoga spaces (connect with natures) – places/initiatives for variety of groups – inclusive to immigrants, etc.
 - Boutique casino
 - Restaurants
 - Parking lot
 - Space for vendors
 - Community center
 - Ziplines

- Bike rentals
- Developer take responsibility
- Money
- Public vote?
- Historical museum
- Do a carousal or something – make some revenue
- Utilization during winter
- Public Wi-Fi
- Splash pad that includes lighting
- Ice skating rink for winter
- Concessions
- Public wading pool
- Jobs not just housing – mixed use
- Food trucks
- Education pieces as well on migratory wildlife, trains, water works
- Boat docking area
- Water access
- Grocery store downtown (like HyVee in downtown Des Moines)
- Other water related activities (paddle boats, kayak, canoe)
- Functional water features (splash pad, fountain shoots water with music or lighting)
- Parks responsibility to maintain
- More details
- Lighting of stage
- Family space for get-togethers/parties – charge?
- Riverfront restaurant in water works building