

For CC packet public comments

Lisa Porras <LPorras@cityofsancarlos.org>

Thu 5/30/2024 9:54 AM

To: Linnet Kwok <LKwok@cityofsancarlos.org>

Heres the other one..re email I just sent.

From: Andrea Mardesich <AMardesich@cityofsancarlos.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:35 AM

To: Lisa Porras <LPorras@cityofsancarlos.org>

Cc: Al Savay <ASavay@cityofsancarlos.org>

Subject: Fw: Feedback on Downtown Design Proposal

Al and Lisa,

Please see email from a resident on downtown design. Thank you,

Andrea

Andrea Mardesich, AICP

Assistant Community Development Director

City of San Carlos | 600 Elm Street | San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: (650) 802-4258 | www.cityofsancarlos.org

From: Peter Hartzell [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:09 AM

To: Janet Castaneda <jcastaneda@cityofsancarlos.org>; Kristen Clements

<kclements@cityofsancarlos.org>; Ellen Garvey <egarvey@cityofsancarlos.org>; Jim Iacoponi

<jiacoponi@cityofsancarlos.org>; David Roof <droof@cityofsancarlos.org>; Andrea Mardesich <amardesich@cityofsancarlos.org>

Subject: Fwd: Feedback on Downtown Design Proposal

External Sender - From: (Peter Hartzell

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<[REDACTED]>

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Planning Commission and Staff,

Thank you very much for the open meeting on Monday, May 20th.

On reflection after the meeting I have two recommendations for the process outlined for the weeks and months ahead as the designs and implementation plan are finalized.

1. Think boldly about how to create a central feature in the 700 block of Laurel.

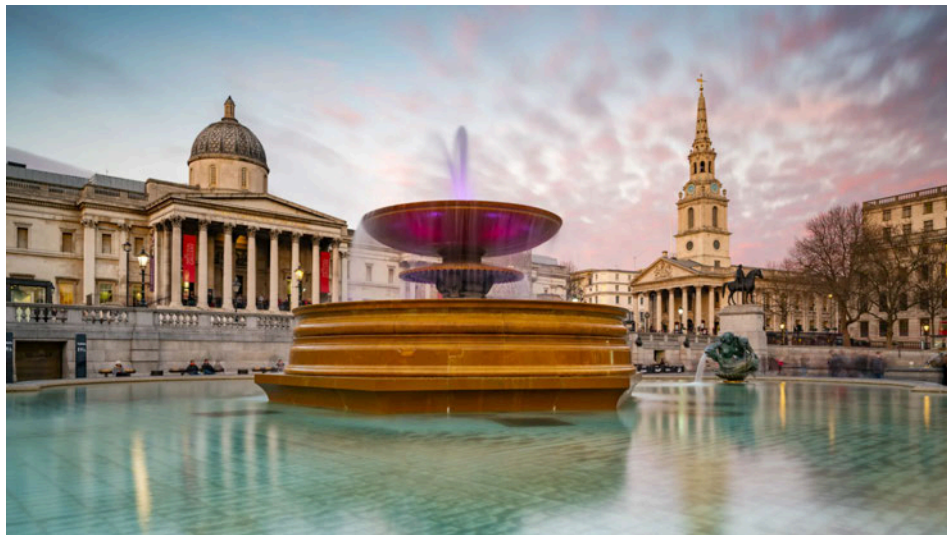
I am excited by the idea of permanently closing off the 700 block to traffic and using the Harrington Park axes for a central feature to the downtown. Upon reflection I encourage San Carlos to think boldly about how such a feature could add to the cohesion of downtown and become a draw in and of itself that reinforces the attractiveness of San Carlos, for residents and for visitors. Consider the great downtowns of Europe. Often they feature a fountain or statue or obelisk. In the best cases this becomes a meeting or gathering

place. Around it often are chairs or tables or it is in itself a place to sit. Good examples are:

Piazza del Popolo in Rome



Trafalgar Square, London



The Chicago Bean



Arguably, San Carlos is not London or Rome or even Chicago. However, no other peninsula city has such a feature in its downtown that is, in and of itself, an attraction to visitors. Stanford has the Old Union Fountain, White Fountain and clock tower which are examples of features.



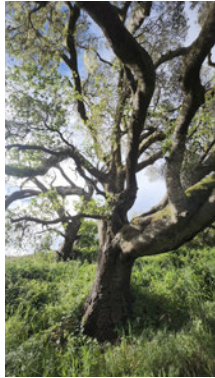


In San Carlos, I suggest the designers consider:

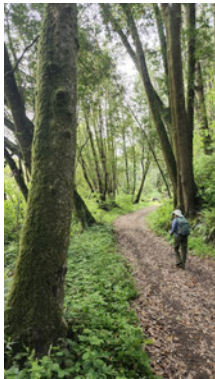
- a. Something on the scale of the Old Union Fountain, although with an oval base versus a square to correspond with the space and linear lines of the street.
- b. Raising it off the grade level to provide focus and attention and allow seating at/on the base and (as mentioned in the presentation) at public cafe tables around its base.
- c. It expressing and organic nature. This is to correspond with our times -- organic, natural, respect for our environment -- as well as to connect with the tree-inspired street names of our downtown.

Here are some examples to consider/inspire:

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a tree with expressive personality and seasonal changes with bright green leaves in the spring and empty branches in the winter?



Or, given that the street is named "Laurel" a native Bay Laurel tree. The designs shared in your meeting included ideas for new trees and lighting. Maybe it is possible to simulate the feeling of the waving trunks of a Bay Laurel forest through the design of the light fixtures and trees along the 700 block. A mature Bay Laurel could also be the feature ... there are some wonderful inspiring examples in Pulgas Ridge and along the Sawyer Camp Trail.



Or, if the maintenance of a signature tree is deemed challenging, a sculpture with organic properties and on the scale of a tree is an option.





2. Include in the plan improved aesthetics in alleys that run between and behind Laurel and El Camino.

The design proposal was mainly focused on Laurel St. itself with traffic routing, widening sidewalks, accommodating bicycles, new tree plantings, parallel vs. angle parking, etc.. However, the larger concept was to make a cohesive downtown area including the alleys running parallel to Laurel and out to El Camino. It is my experience that the El Camino retail stores are isolated from downtown. It is hard to park in front of them and they have no presence facing the alley between them and Laurel Street. An exception is **Mints and Honey** (and to a lesser degree Plantation Coffee or Gourmet Haus Staudt/Beer Garden on Broadway in RWC) which has an entrance and inviting signage on both its alley and El Camino sides. While ultimately, it seems it will be up to the building owners and retail stores to decide if and how to attract customers from their alley entrances, I encourage the city's design work to find ways to encourage this connectivity.

The challenges I foresee needing to be addressed are:

- a. Handling the trash containers and cleanliness at the back end of any properties that back onto the alleys. For example, the wide alley running south of House of Bagels



could be an inviting walking path to El Camino (The Carlos, retailers, San Carlos Bar and Grill) or in the 700 block the alley next to Donna's Hallmark shop



or Harrington Park to access Rita's or Mountain Mike's Pizza. But today, these alleys are off putting with exposed trash containers, imposing tall walls and "employee only" entrances.

b. Continuity of signage, pavers, plantings and lighting that visually connect Laurel with the alleys and El Camino.

c. Encouraging the landlords/retailers to feature signage, outdoor patios, trees/plantings on the alley facing side of their businesses.

d. Parking and delivery access in the alley's is important to the store employees but less appealing to the pedestrians using these areas as access the "whole" downtown.

To make the downtown "whole" and encourage more traffic to El Camino retailers, attention to these connections should be considered in the overall plan. Maybe the best approach is to pick one connection ... say Harrington Park ... and extend it back through the alley to create a park and beer garden esque space linking to the back of what is now Mountain Mike's. Maybe food trucks and other retailers can occupy this "secret garden" area of downtown and it will become an attraction adding to the two dimensions of the downtown grid.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Regards,

Peter Hartzell

[REDACTED]

Resident since 2004

Peter D. Hartzell

[REDACTED]

Prepare for CC packet

From: Steven J. Machida <smachida@cityofsancarlos.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 1:28 PM
To: Lisa Porras <LPorras@cityofsancarlos.org>
Subject: Fw: Please support the Downtown Specific Plan!

fyi

Steven J. Machida
City of San Carlos
Public Works Director
sjmachida@cityofsancarlos.org
(650) 802 4203

From: Arley Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Jeff Maltbie <jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org>; Adam Rak <arak@cityofsancarlos.org>; City Manager <citymanager@cityofsancarlos.org>; John Dugan <jdugan@cityofsancarlos.org>; Pranita Venkatesh <pvenkatesh@cityofsancarlos.org>; Ron Collins <rcollins@cityofsancarlos.org>; Steven J. Machida <smachida@cityofsancarlos.org>; Sara McDowell <smcdowell@cityofsancarlos.org>; Grace Le <gle@cityofsancarlos.org>
Cc: Sonia Elkes <soniaelkes@gmail.com>; Andrew Hsu <andrew_hsu@yahoo.com>
Subject: Please support the Downtown Specific Plan!

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May 25, 2024

To

Mayor John Dugan
Vice Mayor Sara McDowell
Council Member Ron Collins
Council Member Adam Rak
Council Member Pranita Venkatesh
Jeff Maltbie, City Manager
Steven Machida, Director of Public Works

Grace Le, City Engineer

City of San Carlos
600 Elm Street
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re **Downtown Specific Plan**

Dear Mayor Dugan, Vice Mayor McDowell, Council Members Rak, Venkatesh, and Collins, Mr Matlbie, Mr Machida,

Thank you for all the work you've done over the last few years to make downtown a more welcoming and vibrant place. As local bike and pedestrian advocates, we're excited about the **Downtown Specific Plan** (<https://www.sancarlosdowntownplan.com/>) that the planning team plans to make available at the City Council meeting on June 10. **This plan deserves your support!**

Here's why we hope you'll support and implement the plan as proposed:

- **It builds a lively downtown** By adding safer pedestrian and bike access in the downtown sections of San Carlos Ave, Arroyo Ave, and Brittan Ave,
- **It provides access to the growing East Side** This plan complements the East Side Innovation District Vision Plan by building safe, efficient routes
- **It fits our future commute patterns** The bike and pedestrian improvements on San Carlos Avenue will accommodate current bike and foot traffic

In particular, we urge you to implement the following aspects of the plan:

- Add bike lanes and widen sidewalks on **San Carlos Avenue between Walnut Street and El Camino**. Currently, the second lane in each direction is
- Add bike lanes and widen sidewalks on **Arroyo Avenue between Elm Street and El Camino**. This makes space for the growing bike and foot traffic

The plan creates a solid foundation, but there's always room to improve. We'd love to see **more visible and accessible bike parking** added to support the bikes, scooters, e-bikes, and cargo bikes that shoppers, diners, and commuters are using more and more.

Sincerely,

Sonia Elkes, San Carlos Bikes founder

Andrew Hsu, SVBC board member, San Carlos Bikes volunteer

Arley Lewis, San Carlos Bikes + SVBC volunteer



San Carlos Bikes & SVBC Local Team

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