

# DOWNTOWN URBAN FORM PROJECT

## COPPER SQUARE COMMUNITY MEETING - JUNE 26, 2007

### Consultant suggestions:

- Pay attention to the difference between the shading needs of E-W streets and N-S streets.
- Building materials: permeable pavement, pre-cast concrete pavers that are white in color *instead of* poured-in-place concrete for sidewalks (this would be a fully-integrated approach).
  - Reduction of heat gain in new buildings through building materials or promoting underground parking.
  - Stucco over styrofoam are hottest surfaces in desert, although they cool rapidly at night.
  - Stone materials do not get as hot during the day, but they retain heat longer and release the heat into the night.
  - Key is to shade exterior surfaces of new buildings:
    - Retrofit existing buildings to provide shade,
    - No one cure all plan,
    - A block by block analysis is needed to determine the best shade strategy.
  - Design structures to provide best shade at the most extreme times (summertime)
- Consider the option of removing trees and putting in shade structures only.
- Choose alternate trees to Palo Brea and Acacia in Copper Square.
- The city has a list of desired trees for downtown;
  - Low water requirement,
  - Provide much needed shade,
  - Need proper planting and maintenance,
  - Make the existing trees work, do not remove unless absolutely necessary,
  - Either fully integrate existing trees or remove everything and start over.
- Permeable surfaces contribute to lowering the downtown temperature.
  - Allow water to get to the soil and not into the sewers.
  - Generally do not hold heat and release into the night.

### Feedback from public:

- Does more people downtown mean more crime?
  - The current Copper Square Ambassador Program provides extra ears and eyes in the downtown. The program is looking to expand by hiring additional employees.
  - The police do not patrol 24-7 downtown, primarily around events (basketball, baseball games), however this is beginning to change.
  - Possibly a downtown police precinct.
  - With more people, generally more self-policing.
  - The addition of a retail / restaurant open in the evenings would improve the downtown situation.

- The most important comfort issue is safety.
  - Homelessness is a major issue in terms of the perception of safety.
- Will new development downtown have public uses on the ground floor of the buildings?
  - There is a need to have more public uses on the ground floor so that the buildings do not create a “blank wall effect” (i.e. restaurants, retail)
  - Would prefer to require it on new construction, however PROP 207 stands in the way,
    - Requirement could diminish the property value. (requiring restaurants on the ground floor of all buildings)
  - There should be NO non-public uses on the ground floor of buildings.
  - Biomedical campus: there is concern that there will be no public uses on the ground floor of the biomedical buildings.
- There is lots of pressure from the hospital to not allow first floor uses:
  - A closer look is needed with the proposed Biotech Campus.
  - Do not want an “isolated business park”.
  - The Biomedical Campus could create a civic space within the center.
  - There will be public meetings regarding campus planning, all interested parties are encouraged to attend.
  - We have to be careful about balancing the need for bio-med uses with the need for public, civic, and residential uses within the bio-med campus.
  - We should look for something about biomedical uses that might have the potential to attract people, pedestrian traffic. Provide a ground-level open space that will help encourage people, pedestrian traffic through the campus. Or, is it enough to focus just on the periphery of the campus?
- Concern about traffic congestion.
  - Suggestions:
    - Remove the offset on Fillmore at Central;
    - Increase usage of alleys for access.
- Newspaper racks: clean them up, if possible?
- Parking at Orpheum Lofts:
  - Will the neighboring developer help accommodate Orpheum residents with parking?
  - Can the City do something to encourage this?