

Druid Park Lake Drive

Stakeholder Interview Summary – February 2021

Purpose of Interviews:

- Identify community perspectives and concerns specific to both vehicular and non-vehicular travel along the Druid Park Lake Drive corridor and when accessing Druid Hill Park from Druid Park Lake Drive and the surrounding transportation network.
- Identify community goals for the project.
- Engage key stakeholders to raise awareness about the project and encourage involvement when requested.
- Find out if there are other key stakeholders we should engage.

Protocols:

- PRR held interviews through Zoom and phone conversations.
- In three instances the original interviewees were unable to be interviewed or suggested an alternate contact to serve as an interviewee.
- Interviewees were provided with questions in advance and contact information for follow-up questions.

Interviewees:

Community Representatives:

Woodberry – Patricia Adams, of the Woodberry Community Association. She was interviewed as the president of WCA, with the suggestion of Tracey Brown (WCA secretary).

Reservoir Hill - Suzanne Rackl, of the Reservoir Hill Improvement Council.

Penn North - Linda Grey, a representative of Penn North as a block captain. She was interviewed at the suggestion of Annie Hall, of the Penn North Community Association.

Park Heights and Park Circle - Yolanda Jiggetts, of Park Heights Renaissance. Yolanda was interviewed as an alternate to Pam Curtis (of the Park Circle Community Association) who PRR was unable to reach after several rescheduled interviews.

Stakeholders:

Leon Pinkett, the former Baltimore City 7th District Councilman.

Graham Coreil-Allen, of the Access Project- Druid Hill.

Questions and key messages

- 1) First, please tell me about the people and groups in your community that you represent (Prompts: business, neighborhood, community group; their size; and special interests or focus).
 - a. Woodberry – WCA is active in reviewing proposed development projects. The group is concerned about increased traffic from outside the neighborhood with the completion of park improvements.
 - b. Reservoir Hill – RHIC focuses on placemaking, beautification, bringing in resources for both knowledge and capital financial needs, including visual improvements, housing, advising, counseling, and other on-the-ground programming like financial literacy.
 - c. Penn North – They are a small but active group of concerned neighbors focused on removal of drug use, community cleanliness, and keeping the community aware of issues.
 - d. Park Heights/Park Circle – Park Heights and Park Circle have more than twenty active community organizations. Park Heights Renaissance acts as the Community Development Corporation and a Community-based Organization focused on redevelopment and neighborhood economic development to support neighborhood revitalization. PHR focuses on supporting the efforts of returning citizens and youth to work towards a positive future.
 - e. Leon Pinkett is the immediate past councilman for District 7, and a long-time resident and pastor in the community.
 - f. TAP –The Access Project Druid for Hill Park is a coalition that envisions a future where residents of all ages and abilities are able to reach the recreational, public health, and cultural benefits of Druid Hill Park using safe and accessible Complete Streets. Graham also represents the New Auchentoroly Terrace Association.

- 2) What should we know about the context or characteristics of the community the project is located in (i.e., cultures and diversity, language, youth, elders, etc.)?
 - a. Woodberry – This area’s demographics had remained the same until recently when we began to get an influx of younger mixed class residents. While most residents are of the working class, and the infill development is repurposing old mills as mixed-use space. Its nickname is TV Hill, as that’s where several of the television broadcast companies are stationed.
 - b. Reservoir Hill – It is recognized as an integrated community with a history of being predominantly Jewish and Black, although it has a smaller Jewish population now than previously. It consists mostly of renters, with mixed housing types (affordable housing and high market rate), which demonstrates the mixed income of neighborhood.
 - c. Penn North – There is a lot of demolition of older homes happening, although new developers are not reliable. The neighborhood includes mostly long-term older residents, as young families tend to move away for better schools. It has a predominantly Black population with few white and Latinx residents.
 - d. Park Heights/Park Circle – This is a diverse community with 30,000+ residents and over sixty businesses and faith-based organizations. Residents are very vocal and generally feel frustrated with the lack of progress in the neighborhood and the continued lack of community engagement on improvement projects. PHR is trying to bridge the gap between developers and the community.
 - e. Leon Pinkett – The park is the front door to the community, but it is easier and safer to drive to it than to cross eight lanes of traffic. Community voices have historically been ignored. However, improvements to DPLD and connections to the park can create unrealized economic benefits that will help legacy homeowners.
 - f. TAP – A highway was blasted through this community decades ago. Now is the chance to undo some of the resulting harm to the community.

- 3) What are the main connector roads and access points your community currently uses to get to Druid Park Lake Drive and the park?
 - a. Woodberry – Parkdale and Greenspring avenues, with unofficial paths into the park from the Brick Hill community.