



## Residents provide input on next phase of Triangle project



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4:22 am CST February 14, 2019

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The master plan for the Main Street Triangle project is a work in progress. And the community recently had the opportunity to relay ideas to Structured Development representatives.

The two main topics of discussion Feb. 11? Entertainment and traffic.

Jeff Berta, senior director of real estate for Structured Development, which is set to develop the final phase of the downtown area, led the discussion during a special visioning session at the Orland Park Civic Center. Berta previously worked on Structured Development projects in locations such as Lincoln Park, the Gold Coast and Wicker Park. In each of those cases, he said meeting with the community played an essential role in creating a product with which everyone could be happy.

Berta stressed a line Mayor Keith Pekau mentioned earlier in the evening.

“It’s our community, and we want to make sure the project is something where everyone has input,” Pekau said.

There is not a set plan for the 9 acres of Village-owned land, but what is known for sure is that mixed-use buildings will occupy the space. Residents had the opportunity to submit feedback for the plan through goal boards. The boards, located throughout the meeting room, allowed residents to place sticky notes with their suggestions or stickers on pictures of what they wanted to see incorporated into the plan.

One historic area resident, Christina Lawler, suggested the plan include more opportunities for entertainment.

“We need something where people can get off the train and want to stay here,” Lawler said.

Several community members voted for theaters, festival space, museums and other forms of entertainment spaces.

Another longtime Orland Park resident, Andrea Eid, said the project should incorporate space for local businesses. Eid, 45-years-old and owner of One World (a cafe in Peoria), said local business is one driving force that could attract people to the downtown area.

“It wouldn’t make sense to put in anymore chain restaurants.” Eid said, “Incorporating local businesses would be a win-win for everyone involved. You’re supporting the business owners, and the community is getting a different experience than what they would anywhere else.”

Berta said there are plans to include local businesses; however, since they are not quite yet in the negotiation stages, they cannot provide any specific names or businesses.

A main concern from the group as a whole is traffic. Several residents spoke about wanting a solid plan for better traffic flow to and from that area.

“It is really too soon to say what will exactly happen with the traffic, but we do have a few ideas in the works,” Berta said.

Berta said there will be a better outline of what will be in the works concerning traffic control once they have an idea of what will occupy the space. He said the current Metra parking will move, and the plan likely will include adding parking for the businesses that will occupy the space.

The Main Street Triangle project timeline is as follows: negotiations is to take place in March, pre-development in December and construction beginning in spring of 2020, with an estimated completion of early 2021.

Berta said his team is working on a website for residents to further submit questions and concerns regarding the project.