

# MEETING NOTES

**Project Name:** Morrison Road Improvements Project  
**Meeting Location:** Outside of Cultura Chocolate – 3742 Morrison Rd., Denver, CO 80219  
**Date:** May 17, 2022  
**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm  
**Meeting Name:** Plaza Site Visit  
**Attendees:** John La Sala, Kayla Gilbert, Jessica Fields, Karl Burkhart, Daisy Rocha Vazquez, Paul Casey, Norma Brambila, Yuridia Bahena, Chandi Aldena, Jake Houston, Gaby Medina, Esther Rivera, Gretchen Wilson, Julie Casault, Jose Esparza, and Janina Calderon

## Plaza de Artista:

Explained plaza area & extents, explained project goals and plaza benefits

Highlighted pedestrian access, Via Verde Trail & utility constraints

- Via Verde Trail will only run along north Side of Morrison Road

Unanimous agreement that crosswalk here is a great idea

- Explained how the crosswalk would work; not a full signal but flashing yellow light activated by sensor or push button

Shade is critical and unanimously requested.

- Option: Shade sails that can be taken down seasonally.
- Larger than normal trees upon planting (instead of waiting for them to grow).
- Overhead Festival structure would enliven the space and slow down traffic.
- BID can help maintain.

Plaza should not be private, or favor one business.

- Should be open to public, families, and locals.

Community will want a balanced combination of auto access, parking & plaza space.

- Explained process and that plaza plans came from community engagement
- Wants to see a deeper analysis on the traffic impacts
  - Currently the layout isn't working and people are not following the new layout
  - Driving over bollards
  - Explained driver behavior takes a while to adjust
  - Recommend signage on what turn movements are allowed
    - Example: No U-Turn

Potential location for outdoor Zumba classes / Casita classes

Potential location for fountain or water feature would be very nice.

- Nothing like this in the neighborhood.

Potential location for play with fence or bollards for protection.

- Fence should be inviting, not too tall or look like auto shop fence.
- BIG desire for this to be child-oriented for fun on weekends and weekdays. Would like to see a play area, perhaps on the southern leg (as this one won't need fire access and can be more permanently closed). Concrete wall across W. Virginia Ave to define the plaza?

Potential location for families to picnic, enjoy local affordable food, and family time.

- Picnic tables (large, moveable, customizable)
- Mention of BBQ /Community Grill (gas?)
- Mention of space

## **Plaza Tejido:**

Explained plaza area & extents

Highlighted pedestrian access, Via Verde Trail & utility constraints

This plaza should be different, but complementary to Plaza de Artista.

- Same materials but different arrangement and activities.

Family Space for children is most Important here

- Focus on families enjoying this space on weekends.
- Good location for play features due to seclusion
- Soft surface?

Party business gets very busy on weekends. Parking and access become an issue. Drunk drivers will drive through plaza or park in it if possible.

- Recommend driving by at 8:30pm on a weekend to see how busy area can get

Potential location for a water fountain or visual Art Element

Bike Parking

- Along Via Verde Trail, a way to get to business without a car

Solar Phone Chargers

Streetlight and Plaza lights

- For safety and to discourage people from sleeping in plazas all night

Lots of trees

Concern that people may ruin the space – community needs to be involved in protecting it.

## **Shade/Noise:**

- Need for shade
- Locations are very noisy from car traffic. Need to address.

## **Art:**

Changing or rotating local artist installations & exhibits

- Provide a foundation and mounting.
- Consider automotive art or metal artwork – popular in the corridor.

Murals and adding a local neighborhood

- Mosaic / Tile walls made by local children
- Artist / Community murals

## **Outdoor Dining and Vendors:**

A place for families to come and picnic / buy affordable snacks and ice cream from local carts / businesses and enjoy being outside.

- Does not need to be fancy, its more about time with the family.
- A place for businesses to bring carts – paletas, chips, etc. People selling their wares. Very casual/small carts.
- BBQ grills would be very popular
- Tables that seat the whole family
  - One CAG member shared a picture of an outdoor dining area with wooden picnic tables as an example.

**Seating:**

A mix of "permanent" seat wall seating and movable bench / table seating options

Seat walls that are purposely "skateable"

Tile walls as a community art opportunity

- Shared example of school children painting individual ceramic tiles that were then used to clad walls.

**Picnic/Dining:**

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**Play:**

Casita Classes - while parents participate in classes, children only have a small area in the building to wait. It would be great to have a place for them to play / engage nearby while parents participate in recreation classes and cultural events.

- Play should be secure, keeping children safe from traffic.
  - Fence shouldn't look like what is there now, play fence should be more inviting
- Play Surfaces should be soft.
- Natural / Creative / Water play preferred
  - Norma shared an example with big, round rocks surrounding a small water feature that is very popular.
- Play at Artistas - larger, more protected space but located across the street from recreation/cultural activities.
- Play at Tejido - same side of street as recreation/cultural activities but smaller more exposed space.

**Policy:**

City Zoning is changing to allow food carts, paletteria carts, and craft vendors to be allowed to set up and sell goods in the area and within plazas.

Who oversees cleaning and maintenance?

- This will not be a Parks and Rec facility but maintained by the BID and maintenance depends on the BID's goals and capacity

**Restrooms:**

CAG interested in a bathroom or porta potty.

Not in project scope.

Nearest public restroom is Cuatro Vientos park and it is perennially closed.

- Need for a planned location during events
- Debate whether appropriate for everyday
  - Help relieve pressure on local businesses
  - Can attract unsavory activity

**Outreach:**

- Should go door-to-door to all homes affected by plazas, too
- Produce a rendering or video for public to see future condition

**Plaza Decisions**

- There may not be funding for all desired plaza features.
- We hope to build two plazas but there is a possibility we may only be able to build one with funding. To be determined as design progresses.
- If only one, which one is desired?
  - whichever one is best for children.
  - whichever one provides the bigger safety benefits from closing off street.