

7/18 Giant Eagle Meeting Summary

Retail/Grocery

- Primary concerns
 - Loss of product diversity
 - Hard to find culturally appropriate products at other stores
 - Pharmacy closing during construction
 - Store closing will be a burden
 - Black community disproportionately affected
 - Continued affordability
 - Access to affordable prepared and fresh foods, produce
 - Can seniors access what they need?
 - Grocery alternatives
 - Centre Ave Market district too crowded, Target too expensive

Housing

- Takeaways
 - 10% affordable housing at 50% AMI is not acceptable
 - Some residents skeptical about need for more apartments.
 - Others feel that 232 apartments is not enough, and more is needed to address shortage.
 - Developer indicated willingness to increase number of affordable units, as well as AMI income level
- Concerns
 - Affordability
 - \$750/month too expensive
 - Subsidies? Vouchers?
 - Wealth gap in community—22 affordable units will not make a dent
 - Will rent increase over time?
 - How will this affect my taxes?
 - Increased density >> traffic, congestion
 - Disproportionately Black people affected

Transportation

- Concerns
 - Penn Ave is a huge issue, unsafe for cars and pedestrians
 - Traffic study?

- Walking study?
- Accessibility
 - Handicap parking is currently accessible, close to store, how will this change?
 - More accessibility on busses, bus stops
 - Paratransit?
- Parking
 - Not enough/too much
- Jitney Drivers
 - Still allowed on site?
 - Very important service for those who have trouble shopping without cars
- Park n Ride
 - Currently informal

Development Impact/Amenities

- Concerns
 - Village of Shadyside
 - traffic, noise, pollution, natural light
 - curb cut on Aurelia
 - concerns about impact of parking garage
 - Gentrification
 - Construction impact
 - Dust, noise
 - Green space
 - Some residents feel not enough included in proposal
 - Other residents said Mellon Park is close by, green space not necessary
 - Open space plans
 - Parking height
 - Noise (construction, cars, trucks)
 - Shopping alternatives
 - Particularly for those who currently frequent all stores in the plaza
 - Will vehicles idle?
 - Aesthetics
 - How will building affect appearance of surrounding area? Shady Ave?
 - Opportunities for public comment?

Ideas/Suggestions

- Run free centralized shuttles
 - Shuttle called “The Burgh run”
- Interim pharmacy
 - Use Club 1, Eastside Bond, or Target for interim pharmacy/mini mart
- Free delivery
- Centralized curbside pickup services
- Open Giant Eagle in Homewood
- Offer 15%-20% affordable housing at 30% AMI
- Ask for tax credits, work with other developers
- Add 4-way walk signs on Penn Ave
 - Longer walking lights
- Add more lighting and cameras, for safety
- Need safe spaces for pedestrians and transit
- More police patrol
- Formal Park ‘n’ Ride
- DOMI should complete traffic study, not developer
- Developer should provide free transit passes to residents
- New retail uses
 - Small business incubators
 - No more banks/check cashing
 - No more predatory businesses
 - MWB/nonprofit organizations
 - Affordable/subsidized leases
 - Minority/women owned businesses
- Find creative ways to incorporate more plants and sunlight
- Make GE entrance at least 100-150 feet away from bus stop.
- In-store childcare
- Improve inbound bus stop
- Green road