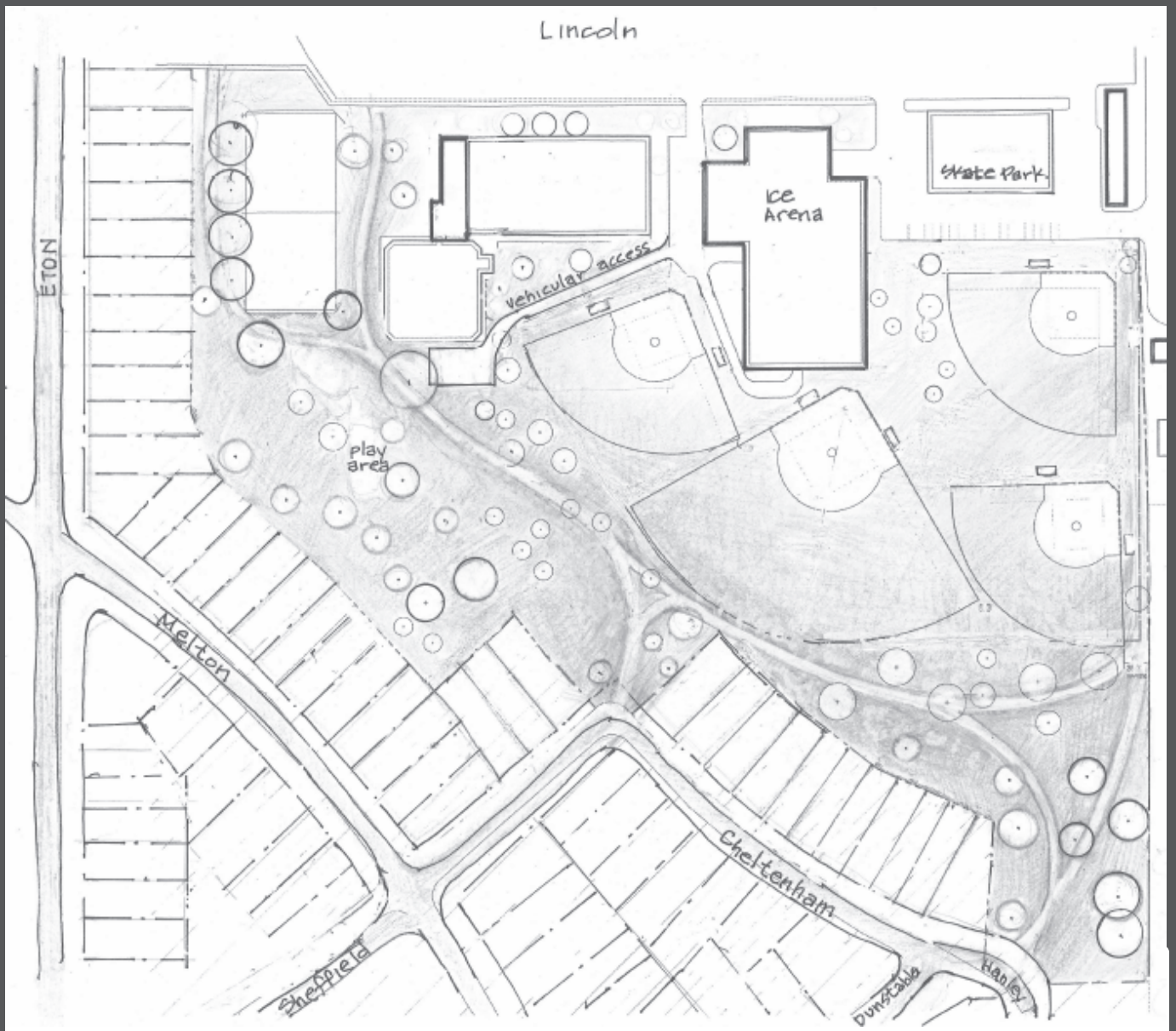


# Torry Community News

VOLUME I

SPRING 2013

PAGE I



**Kenning Park Trail Concept Site Plan**



Jeff Surnow  
**The Surnow Company,  
to speak at the  
TCA spring meeting , May 21**

Welcome, new residents to Birmingham! The Torry Community Association is your Neighborhood Association if you live east of Adams & Woodward Ave. and north of 14 mile, up to Hazel Street. Our organization is non-profit, a voluntary membership, and has been in existence for over thirty years. We believe it is important to maintain the TCA to offer the community a forum to gather information, network, & work together in addressing concerns that affect our area.

TCA has continued to offer at least one yearly meeting. At this year's spring meeting on May 21, Jeff Surnow, one of the creators of the Birmingham Bike Festival held last August, will be joining us. He was quoted in the Birmingham Patch stating, "The festival is a celebration of what I consider one of the best cities in this country. I want to educate pedestrians, motorists and cyclists on how to get along safely and respect each other. Exposing the community to the thrill of racing (either as a spectator or participant), the fun of a family/kids race, the amazement of watching disabled people race hand cycles, and the inclusion of benefiting charities, like the Miles4Miles ride, in my opinion, demonstrates how well-rounded Birmingham is. Birmingham is already one of the top walkable communities in the country. I want to make it a bike-friendly community also. The benefits are limitless. And let's not forget it's fun."

With all the recent studies the City is conducting regarding "Complete Streets" & Inter-Modal Transportation, we think that Jeff's insight will be beneficial for all who want to better understand a cyclists point of view.

Birmingham's Multi-Modal Transportation plan suggests eliminating parking along the west side of Eton road, between Lincoln and Maple, for a bike lane. Other proposals included extending the sidewalk and curb into Eton road to reduce the walking distance to cross the street. The consultant believes when the street has these configurations the changed width will naturally slow down traffic. You can review the entire proposal at [www.greenwaycollab.com](http://www.greenwaycollab.com) Go to projects (on top ribbon) then Birmingham, then preliminary Plans & click on the Eton Road for our area.

There are two upcoming workshop sessions, May 2nd & 3rd that are looking at changing portions of the commercial districts along Woodward & Adams from 14 mile to Lincoln (on both the east & west side of Woodward) . The City has hired two consultants, a planner & a market analyst, to review what the City calls, "The Southern Gateway" of Birmingham. The parking requirements for these commercial buildings will be addressed and the proposals may recommend mixed-use (retail on street level and office/residential above) developments. The workshops are meant to get public input from residents, retailers, business owners, developers, etc, to help determine what is best for the area.

Mary Olson, TCA Director, is conducting a survey to determine the interest level in whether to continue having a picnic. Please respond to her questions below & direct your comments to Mary Olson (email: [schatzbell@comcast.net](mailto:schatzbell@comcast.net)) or US Postal mail to TCA PO Box address.

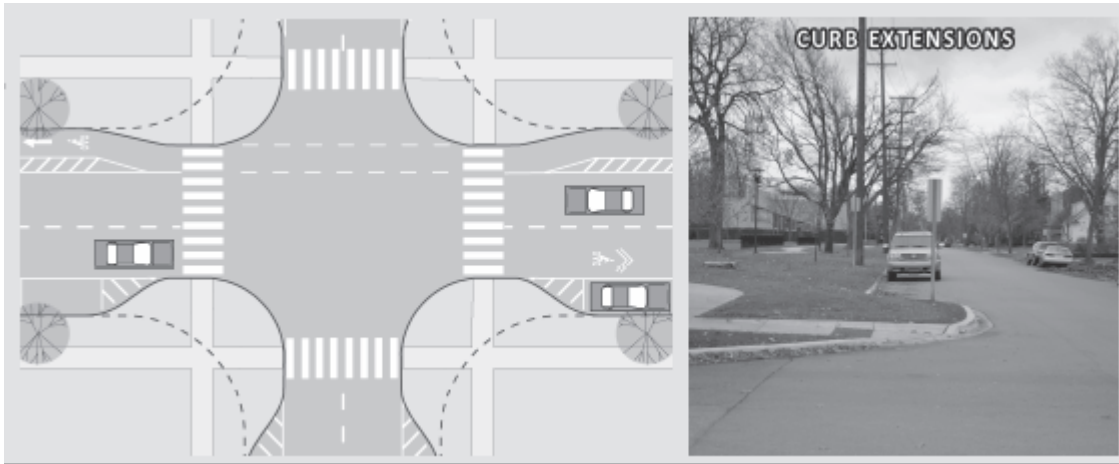
Are you familiar with the TCA (Torry Community Association)? Were you aware that the TCA hosted an annual summer picnic? How long have you lived in the Torry community? When was the last time you attended the picnic? If you have never attended, may we ask why not? Is the location convenient? (Typically, Kenning Park near the ice arena) Is the day and time convenient? (Typically a Saturday from noon to 4pm) What would you suggest to improve the picnic details? (i.e. More or different activities for both adults and children? A different menu than pizza and lemonade? Longer or shorter hours? Or other improvement?) Is there any other family oriented community activity idea you might like to share for the TCA's consideration?

At our Spring meeting we will discuss whether or not to have the picnic this year which is tentatively planned for August 3rd. Remember our sign is always up at the corner of Torry and Lincoln one week prior to any TCA functions.

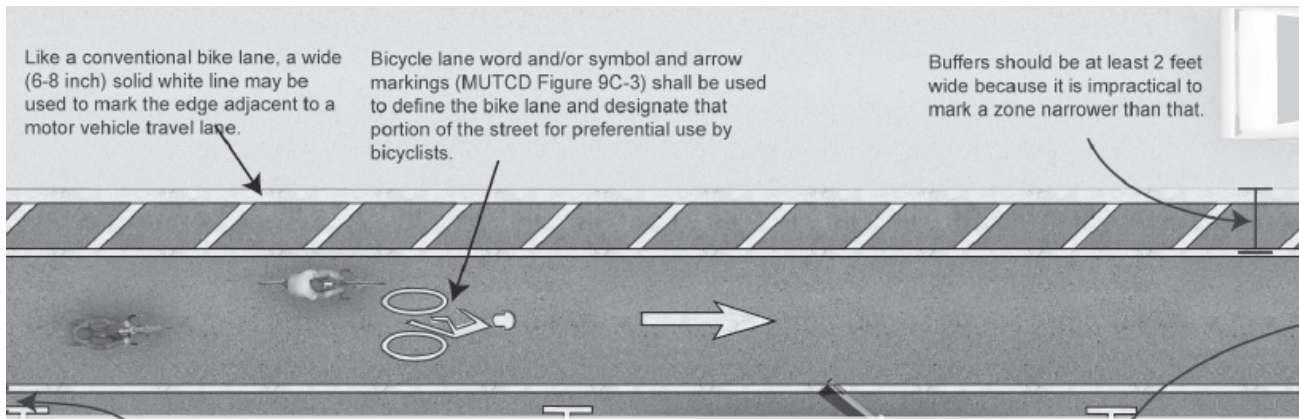
The TCA wants to improve Kenning Park's access, visibility and neighborhood use. Since Kenning Park is the only dedicated City land available to residents within the TCA boundaries, it should be utilized as a neighborhood park. Presently this land behind the Birmingham Ice Arena has a nice quiet setting with many trees and a small children's play structure. We have generated a sketch showing a bike/pedestrian trail (trail material similar to the rubber track at Seaholm HS) through the park for your review and feedback.

As always, please consider volunteering for the TCA. Thank you for your support.

Larry Bertollini



**Plan indicating proposed curb extensions by The Greenway Collaborative, Inc., Ann Arbor MI and Toole Design Group consultants for Complete Streets. The locations on Eton Road are Yosemite, Villa, Bowers, Holland, and Cole.**



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We are always seeking new leadership and ideas, please write us or  
 contact [www.torrycommunity.org](http://www.torrycommunity.org)



**TCA Newsletter printing and distribution courtesy of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**Torry Community Association  
Spring Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

**Our Shepherd Lutheran School  
7-9 PM in the Library (Lincoln & Torry)**



**Guest Speakers:**

*Home Energy Expert*  
**Paul Hulsey**

*Business Owner, Bike Aficionado*  
**Jeffrey Surnow**

***Open to all local area residents & businesses***