East Central Area Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
May 10th, 2018
CHUN Tears McFarlane House
## East Central Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting
**5/10/18 AGENDA**
6:00p – 8:00p
CHUN Tears McFarlane House Community Room - 1290 Williams St

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 6:00-6:05</td>
<td>Approval of April Meeting Summary</td>
<td>Confirm or make edits to meeting summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 6:05-7:00</td>
<td>Vision Statement Development Activity: Healthy and Active</td>
<td>Provide direction on the Vision Statement for access to recreation, fresh food, healthcare services, and social safety / crime issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 7:55 – 8:00</td>
<td>Homework Assignment</td>
<td>Preparation for June Meeting</td>
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</table>
VISION ELEMENTS

1. Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive
2. Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods
3. Well Connected, Safe and Accessible Places
4. Economically Diverse and Vibrant
5. Environmentally Resilient
6. Healthy and Active
Healthy and Active

Health
Health

1,706 comments
26% of all comments

813 comments were associated with a pin on a map

Frequent Words & Phrases:
- Parks
- Crime
- Dog Park
- Police Presence
- Grocery Stores
Likes
765 Comments
45% of health comments

466 comments were associated with a pin on a map
Dislikes
504 Comments
30% of health comments

212 comments were associated with a pin on a map
437 comments
26% of health comments

133 comments were associated with a pin on a map
Parks (58%)

Likes (62%)
- Park Activities: City Park Jazz, swim lessons, running, dog walking, car-free days
- Park Amenities: Zoo, Science Museum, view to downtown, tennis courts, playgrounds, water features
- Botanic Gardens

Dislikes (13%)
- Lack of amenities: dog parks, bathrooms, trash cans
- Geese
- Overuse
- Illegal activity: drug use, camping

Ideas (25%)
- Amenities: Dog parks, bathrooms, trash cans, playground, soccer field
- More activation/less activation
- Update Congress Park pool, modernize playground
- Link parks (greenway, loop)
East Central Area Parks – Existing Conditions

• Approximately **84%** of households are **within a ten-minute (half-mile) walk to a park**
• **25%** of all likes in the survey responses were about parks
• City Park Master Plan update currently underway
Food (13%)

Likes (65%)
- Grocery stores
- Farmers’ markets
- Community garden
- Restaurants

Dislikes (7%)
- Grocery stores: overcrowded, closing of Whole Foods
- Food chains
- Food options are not affordable

Ideas (28%)
- Additional small grocery stores, farmers’ markets, specialty shops like a butcher, bakery, vegetable market
- More community gardens
- Organizations like GrowHaus
- More restaurants, coffee shops, etc.
East Central Area Food – Existing Conditions

• **21%** of East Central households are within limited food access areas, compared to 24% citywide.

• Approximately **43%** of the households in the plan area are within a ten-minute walk of a full-service grocery store.

• **Dining and grocery stores** were the top two amenities listed in our survey.

![Bar chart showing the top amenities](chart.png)
Crime (25%)

Likes (2%)
- Safety, feeling safe

Dislikes (73%)
- Increase in crime
- Homelessness and perception of impact on safety
- Drug use, drug dealing, and needles
- Blight on Colfax and associated crime
- Graffiti
- Lack of police presence
- Inadequate street lighting

Ideas (24%)
- Increase in police presence
- Improving safety and perception of safety
- Better street lighting
East Central Area Crime – Existing Conditions

• The rate of violent crimes per person in East Central is **slightly lower** than the citywide average.

• Neighborhoods with **higher** violent crime are North Capitol Hill, Capitol Hill, and City Park West, primarily concentrated along Colfax Avenue.

• Property crime rates are **slightly higher** in East Central than the citywide average, with a concentration in North Capitol Hill.

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**Survey Results:**

I feel safe in the East Central Area...

- Rarely
- Usually
- Always

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>100</td>
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*Graph depicting survey results for feeling safe in the East Central Area.*
Healthcare (5%)

Likes (48%)
- Multimodal access to medical facilities
- Variety of services: hospitals, pharmacy, Planned Parenthood

Dislikes (25%)
- Not enough/too many rehab services
- Not enough/too many shelters
- Expansion of hospitals
- Lack of urgent care, vet

Ideas (27%)
- More social services – support for homeless, mentally ill, drug addicted; combined with assisted/supportive living
- Dilute concentration of services
- Drugstore
East Central Area Healthcare – Existing Conditions

• Approximately **23%** of the households in the plan area are within a ten-minute walk of a hospital or clinic

• More than **100** people listed medical services as a top amenity
Pollution (10%)

Likes (4%)
- Parks, Botanic Gardens for access to nature

Dislikes (64%)
- Trash, needles, lack of bathrooms
- Noise
- Traffic and exhaust
- Odor, smoke
- Goose poop

Ideas (33%)
- Street and sidewalk cleaning (including alleys)
- More public trash cans
- Recycling and compost services
- Low-light fixtures to provide safety but not too much light pollution
- More certified green businesses
East Central Area – Existing Conditions

- The adult obesity rate in East Central is **19%**, compared to 27% citywide
- East Central scores **3.3** on the Equity Index, which is **slightly better** than the citywide average of 3.2
- North Capitol Hill scores 2.5, indicating that it has **greater health challenges**
Key Opportunities

1. World class **parks and open spaces** with an appropriate mix of amenities and activities within walking distance of every household

2. **Affordable** and **healthy food**, including grocery and restaurant options, within walking distance of every household

3. A well-lit neighborhood that **feels safe** and has **low crime**

4. A wide range of affordable **healthcare**, including supportive services, hospital care, and pharmacies

5. Clean streets, sidewalks, and parks with **minimal air pollution**

6. An **equitable** allocation of resources for people and areas facing the greatest barriers to good health
Discussion Activity

• Choose one or more *Key Opportunities* that you feel strongly about and should be a priority **OR** describe one that you feel is missing.

• **Imagine you are in the year 2040** and are describing what this *Key Opportunity* looks like.

• Write 1 sentence on a sticky note. Start your description with “In 2040”, this will help you stay focused on **Outcomes** and not process.
Environmentally Resilient

Green Infrastructure
Environmentally Resilient

- 490 Total Comments (8%)
- Top Five Topics
  - Park(s) – 58%
  - Tree(s) – 41%
  - Colfax Avenue – 23%
  - Impervious Surface – 20%
  - Green Space – 13%
Likes

- 275 Comments
- 56% of Comments
Dislikes

- 78 Comments
- 16% of Comments
Ideas

- 137 Comments
- 28% of Comments
Landscaping (87%)

- **Likes**
  - Mature tree canopy
  - Balance between historic architecture and innovative landscaping and garden use
  - Botanic Gardens

- **Dislikes**
  - Removal of older, mature trees to make way for new development
  - Lack of trees and appealing landscape along Colfax Avenue

- **Ideas**
  - Accessible community gardens
  - Streetscape enhancement along Colfax Avenue
  - Integrate new plaza and public space where appropriate
  - More trees
East Central Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

- The East Central Area has a tree canopy coverage of **18%** which is consistent to the Denver average of **19%**

- The Capitol Hill/Cheesman Park Plan (1993) encourages community gardens and calls for streetscape enhancement
Water (9%)

- **Likes**
  - Recreation at Ferril Lake

- **Dislikes**
  - Increase of impervious area leads to more flooding
  - The removal of trees and other features that naturally absorb rainwater
  - Poor water quality
  - City Park Golf Course redesign

- **Ideas**
  - Improve storm water infrastructure
  - Increase natural greenways for drainage
  - More xeriscaping
East Central Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

• 68% of the East Central Area is considered impervious compared to the Denver average of 44%.

• The East Central Area is home to two priority basins - the Central Platte Valley Basin and the Upper Montclair Basin.
Heat (2%)

**Likes**
- No common themes

**Dislikes**
- The removal of older homes and larger trees which increases the surface temperature

**Ideas**
- Plant more trees to prevent “heat island” effect
East Central Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

- 14% of the East Central Area has a heat island designation of “hot” compared to the Denver average of 19%
Energy (2%)

Likes
✓ Close proximity allows for the ability to lower carbon footprint by using alternative modes of transportation

Dislikes
✓ No common themes

Ideas
✓ Incentivize environmentally friendly buildings
Key Opportunities

1. Abundant tree canopy throughout the entire area
2. Cool and shaded neighborhoods
3. Lush landscaping along Colfax Avenue
4. Thriving neighborhood treasures like Botanic Gardens
5. Rich open space network with connected parks, community gardens and plazas
6. Neighborhoods safe from flooding
7. Green storm water infrastructure provides beautification and clean waterways and is seamlessly integrated into the community
Discussion Activity

• Choose one or more Key Opportunities that you feel strongly about and should be a priority OR describe one that you feel is missing.

• Imagine you are in the year 2040 and are describing what this Key Opportunity looks like.

• Write 1 sentence on a sticky note. Start your description with “In 2040”, this will help you stay focused on Outcomes and not process.
Ideas Needing Direction / Guiding Principle

1. Improved Pedestrian Environment, Bike Lanes, and Transit vs. Convenient Driving
2. More Parking vs. Less Parking
3. Affordable Development vs. Design Quality
4. Additional Housing Needs vs. Residential Character Preservation
5. Desire for More Jobs, Businesses and Services vs. Residential Character Preservation
6. Thriving Businesses, Events, and Parks vs. Residential Character Preservation
7. More Social Services vs. Fewer Social Services