

Loretto Heights Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting # 6



Date and Time: Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm
Location: Loretto Heights Library – 3001 S. Federal Blvd.

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (AND ALTERNATES)

In attendance: John Olson, Jim Gibson, Adriana Pena, Zachary Wallace (Denver Public Works), Kasandra Ornelas, Norma Brown, Mark Witkiewicz, Sister Mary Nelle Gage, Tara Durham, Councilman Kevin Flynn, Tony Hernandez, Melissa Thate (Denver Economic Development and Opportunity), Andrew Rogge, Clare Harris, AnaClaudia Magalhaes (Denver Parks & Recreation), Hany Khattab

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Steve Nalley, Jason Morrison, Jenny Buddenborg, Brandon Shaver, Fran Peñafiel Vial

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME

Jason began the meeting by welcoming the steering committee members and members of the public in attendance. He invited the public to fill out comment cards if they had any questions or comments during the meeting or if they had any general questions and comments about the area plan process.

Jason thanked those members of the steering committee who attended and volunteered at the all-Spanish meeting held on Saturday, March 16th.

Councilman Flynn was pleased to see how much consensus there was between the two community meetings and the crossover of comments and feedback. Jim Gibson was happy to see how engaged the attendees were.

Councilman Flynn asked how the city plans to continue engaging the folks in attendance. Jason explained that the sign-up sheet will be used to send future materials and maintain those relationships. He also encouraged the steering committee to continue to think of creative ways to engage all communities and encourage attendance at upcoming community meetings.

Sister Mary Nelle Gage thanked Martha Kirkpatrick and the Englewood Historical Society for their event which showcased the campus history, architecture, and stories of alumni. Martha presented the history of Loretto Heights at two events this week.

2. FEEDBACK FROM SPANISH MEETING

A brief overview of the feedback on the precedent images activity from the all-Spanish community meeting was presented. During this activity, respondents were asked to identify which image best represented their vision for the area. Jason identified crossover between the first community meeting and the all-Spanish community meeting. He then gave an overview of the top amenities identified and the overlap seen between the two community meetings. There was consensus between both events and the similarities are documented in the presentation.

3. WHAT WE'VE HEARD: MOBILITY

Jason presented a brief highlight of the comments from the online survey that centered around the topic of "mobility". A pie chart demonstrated that the majority of comments were worries and concerns about mobility. The graphics that followed further illustrated and grouped the likes, concerns, hopes and opportunities the public has voiced thus far. Most of the comments centered around safety concerns as well as walkability and bikeability. The steering committee received all 1,800 comments for review in advance of today's meeting.

Jason mentioned the Dartmouth Avenue connection and displayed the comments that demonstrate both viewpoints. Clare Harris added that traffic on Dartmouth has increased drastically but only during the morning and evening rush hours. Hany Khattab was concerned that the connection would encourage drivers to take a shortcut through the neighborhood. Jim Gibson agrees that some east-west connectivity could be needed.

Jason introduced the next topic for the evening by revisiting the mobility vision statement.

4. FUTURE MULTIMODAL NETWORK

Jason explained the three main street classifications and how they move people and goods. He briefly touched on additional future street types such as shared and festival streets.

Jason presented the importance of complete networks and how important it is to move people, not just cars to improve overall quality of life. He then explained the necessary investments and priorities identified in Blueprint Denver. Jason gave examples of future street types around the study area.

When going through the bike priority streets around the study area, Jason clarified that Federal Boulevard is not a bike priority street. Hany Khattab questioned the connection of Dartmouth Avenue through the site as denoted on the bicycle priority map. Staff confirmed that there is no street connection here and would look into why the map was showing such a connection.

Sister Mary Nelle Gage asked how long it will take to build out the mobility network and how to change people's behaviors. The steering committee had a healthy discussion about needed east-west connections and tapping into mobility networks in surrounding jurisdictions. Jim asked about the prioritization and ranking system of proposed projects and if a major redevelopment at Loretto Heights could change that. He then asked if staff could provide a list

of rankings moving forward. Staff will work with the Department of Public Works to see if this information is available and will pass along any findings.

Andrew Rogge gave an overview of recently completed plans and studies, as well as coordinated efforts between the cities of Sheridan, Englewood, Littleton, and Denver. Chuck Huffine from the City of Englewood then described future projects along Dartmouth Avenue (from Inca to University). Many of the anticipated plans and projects are working to address crossings and east-west connections along the South Platte River, railroad tracks, and Santa Fe Drive.

Councilman Flynn asked bicyclists about a potential bike lane on Dartmouth Avenue given the decline down to the river. They replied that they would take any bike lane that can safely connect to a light rail station.

5. MOBILITY NETWORK DISCUSSION

Jason introduced the mobility topic for discussion. Steering committee members were shown three options for potential street grid layouts. They were then asked to describe pros and cons for each of the options. The first option was a grid, followed by a curvilinear street network, then a hybrid approach. Staff took notes from the discussion that will be scanned and posted on the website.

6. CLOSING

Jason presented the remaining schedule for the planning process and briefly described the focus of April's meeting which will be historic preservation and open space.

METTING SUMMARY PREPARED BY COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT –
MARCH 27TH, 2019