

Date and Time: March 19th 6-7:30pm
Location: Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Sean Brady	Kaye Kavanagh
Brien Darby	Mo McCanna
Dannie DiIonno	Dan Shah
Jeanne Granville	Kory Whitaker

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDS

Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval, District 1
Councilwoman Jamie Torres, District 3
Ben Chavez, District 3
Naomi Grunditz, District 1
Daisy Rocha Vasquez, District 3

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

Eugene Howard, Community Planning and Development	Becca Dierschow, Community Planning and Development
Valerie Herrera, Community Planning and Development	Sung Han, Community Planning and Development
Beth Vogelsang, OV	Ryan Sotirakis, DIG
Fernando Abbud, OV	Zackary Wallace-Mendez, DOTI
Anne Kuchenmeister, MBI	Geneva Hooten, DOTI
Bryan Robinson,	

GUESTS

AnaClaudia Magalhaes, DPR
Jesus Orrantia, DPR
Kathy Sandoval
Bill Vitek

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME

- Eugene opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. The meeting was recorded.
- Councilwoman Sandoval said a few words to the group, emphasizing the importance of focusing on our neighborhoods, which will be here after the crisis is over.
- The council representatives noted that Council is actively working to support residents during this time, including increasing information that's available in Spanish, to proactively engage with community.
- Eugene then gave a brief overview on using the Microsoft Teams Virtual Platform:
 - Please mute yourself to keep the audio presentation as clear as possible.
 - Use the chat feature to ask questions or send comments to the team – the team will be monitoring the chat for your questions.

- The City and County of Denver has put together a Skills Course on using the Teams Platform, which we will try to share if possible.

2. AGENDA FOR THE EVENING

- The meeting agenda for the evening was focused on Quality of Life – the third ‘bucket’ of major topics (following Land Use/Built Environment and Mobility). These conversations will be guided by the city-wide objectives laid out in Comp Plan 2040, under the goals of Environmentally Resilient & Healthy and active:
 - Denver is a thriving, sustainable city connected to nature and resilient to climate change
 - Denver is a city of safe, accessible and healthy communities.
- For this section of the West Plan, we will be working with several partner agencies, including:
 - The Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency
 - Denver Parks and Recreation – 2018 Game Plan for a Healthy City (city-wide Parks planning document adopted in 2018).

3. PRESENTATION

- AnaClaudia Magalhaes, a Senior Planner with Parks, gave a brief overview of the Parks *Game Plan* “Every drop, every person, every dollar, uniquely Denver”. The plan emphasizes conserving resources, protecting the environment; reaching all Denverites; grow park system and access; and reflecting Denver’s unique character in parks across the city.
- What is Quality of Life? Very broad range of topics. Will be broadly separated into two areas:
 - Green Topics: Parks, open space, gulches, trails, etc; stormwater; green roofs; resilience to climate conditions and changes
 - Human and Built Environment: safety and security; food access; social well-being; youth engagement; Health Care access; animal protection and control; social capital and wellbeing; grass roots initiatives; youth engagement
- Val gave a brief overview of the “Human and Built environment” section, which we will be covering in the next Steering Committee working session:
 - Community Food Environment – complete food systems, community priorities for food access, connectivity of food systems
 - Health and the Built Environment – access to health care services, access to schools and jobs, design and the impacts of health
 - Safety and Security – Crime prevention through Environmental design, lighting elements, animal protection, Signage (wayfinding)
 - *Kathy - Will you also add risk factors as it relates to health and the built environment? Under safety and security can we also include crime free leasing programs with landlords.*
 - Healthy and active living – Connectivity, Safe Routes to School, Community Organizations, Neighborhood Groups, Events, Social Capital & Mental Wellbeing
 - *Q: Councilwoman Sandoval - can we start a youth NPI program?*
 - *A: Val – we are working on this, have a youth engagement action plan, want to work with High Schools and DPS, but Covid has paused that effort.*
 - History, art and cultural significance – Highlight Cultural Lenses within West Denver Communities
- Ryan with DIG studio then introduced the evening’s main topic: parks, open space, and trails
- The West Area has a wide range of amenities in existing parks, but what counts as a park may not be what the community views as a park (gulches, for instance). There are also several sports amenities - ball fields, etc

- Number of parks acres per residents is 4.1- 6 acres per thousand, which is about average for Denver, but a lot of that acreage comes from the gulches
 - *Kathy* - Can we look at extending gulch development? How can we dedicate gulch trails through parks?
 - *Q: Add to the map - cowell elementary, presentation school*
 - *A: The schools were not included because they don't have open space*
 - *Q: Is the bike path north-south along the west bank of the S. Platte shown on the map?*
 - *A: Yes it is*
- Ryan also presented a few maps showing the impervious surfaces in the West Area, the tree canopy and the extent of the Urban Heat Island effect. All these factors affect the area's climate resiliency and highlight the importance of Green Infrastructure.
- Wrap Up – How did the Steering Committee feel about the virtual meeting?
- The steering committee agreed that this was a good format, and that shorter but more frequent meetings would be good. It also allowed more people to 'voice' their opinions and thoughts through the chat features, especially for people who didn't feel comfortable speaking in the group.
- There was some concern that the virtual meetings could prevent the community voice from being heard, so the Steering committee started brainstorming alternative ways of reaching out to their neighbors.
- Ideas included: creating a set list of questions, sharing on Nextdoor/Facebook, with RNOs, via Council eblasts and facebook pages

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Steering Committee Working Group
Quality of Life – Human and Built Environment
Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Virtual Teams Meeting
6:00 pm – 7:30