

West Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #2



Date and Time: Thursday, October 17th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Community Co-Op at 1st (5045 W 1st Ave, Denver, CO 80219)

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Rosemary McDonnell-Horita
Yara Vaneau
Jeanne Granville
Sean Brady
Dannie Dilonno
Dan Shah
Maureen McCanna

Bree Davies
Rosie McDonnell-Horita
Adriana Pena
Chala Mohr
Crystal Reed
Jennifer Piper

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ABSENT)

Jon Koneman
Lisa Saenz
Jessica Dominguez
Kaye Kavanagh
Tamil Maldonado

Ephraim A. Bulow
Korey Whitaker
Jaime Aguilar
Rabbi Tzvi Steinberg

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDE

Ben Chavez, District 3
Tate Carpenter, District 7
Tangier Barnes Wright, District At Large

Naomi Grunditz, District 1
Anita Banuelos, District 7

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

Eugene Howard
Valerie Herrera
Sayre Brennan
Beth Vogelsang, OV
Fernando Abbud, OV

Fran Peñafiel
Becca Dierschow
Anne Kuechenmeister, MBI
Zackary Wallace, Public Works

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Project Manager, Eugene Howard opened the meeting with steering committee and project team introductions. Ground rules were reviewed– respect all voices, communities and opinions, hope to come to consensus.

2. MEETING NOTES APPROVAL

September meeting notes were reviewed and approved by steering committee. Attendance update includes three new members filled vacancies which represent the Barnum West neighborhood.

3. AGENDA FOR THE EVENING

A. Steering Committee Public Kickoff Meeting Impressions (Saturday, October 5, 2019)

- Bree Davies: Impressed by turnout at kickoff meeting, liked the different tables and stations from other City agencies. Liked the ability to drop in and engage at-will.
- Sean Brady: Participation in Photo Voice Project reflected that we should have diverse voices to the table and the Photo Voice project was a good way to get that started.
- RB Fast had a question regarding the diversity of the project team that was raised during the event. She felt the question was not adequately addressed.
- Dannie Dilonno expressed that the steering committee and residents have to take ownership to increase diversity by reaching out, instead of just waiting for diverse residents to show up at meetings.

B. Community Engagement

- Eugene Howard showed the breakdown of current Citywide planning participation compared to overall Denver population demographics. He then compared West area survey demographics to the Denver to highlight where more outreach is needed.
 - Announcement made that the online survey will be open through the end of October (now extended to be open into mid-December, 2019).
- Question: Does Denver have the resources to use technology in communities for surveys?
 - Response: The City has limited resources for large meetings but could supply technology for small meetings or for community office hours.
- Anne Kuechenmeister reviewed the community engagement results from the public kickoff meeting. Steering committee members were asked:
 - What makes community conversations great?
 - Cross-cultural respect and understanding
 - Community representation, community leader involvement, community experts
 - Building connections with others – small groups, good facilitation and time keeping
 - Food at meetings
 - Attending existing community meetings
- Steering committee was also asked for the most ideal or accessible places for future steering committee and public meetings.
 - Suggestions made by SC members
 - Churches – Cajetan’s, St. Rose de Luma, Justice Center on W. Alameda,
 - Restaurants - The Empress, apartment complexes on west side of Villa Park, Barnum Rec Center, middle/high school facilities, The Saigon Bowl, local pho location, The Lookin’ Good, Burns Family Ale

- Ask local businesses to host meetings
- Anne Kuechenmeister asked: “What would ideal engagement look like to you for your community?”
 - Implementation and follow up- show the community how the input effected the process
 - West Denver plan directly references people’s suggestions
 - Show how input drives action and city decision-making
 - Engagement statistics that match neighborhood demographics
 - The neighborhoods would know the process was happening – it wouldn’t be a surprise to anyone
 - Educate residents why this plan important to them
 - Show how this plan makes for a safer community: Lights, greenspaces, etc.
 - Share how the plan drives how decisions are made
 - Encourages people to think about the future of their community and look beyond their immediate experiences
 - Integrating all voices of the community from the beginning
 - The plan is accessible: languages, affordability, accessible from many different points of view
 - An active steering committee that will go back to their community for feedback and input, and brings it back to the group for use and consideration
 - Accountability after the plan is done. Ways to measure progress and the implementation of recommendations
 - Better understanding and appreciation for trade-offs – costs, financing, education and participating in selecting the options
 - Partnerships with DPS and other community organizations throughout the process
 - Meetings led in other languages besides English and Spanish
 - Engaging children and youth

Blueprint Denver Vision Elements Board – Public Kickoff Comments

- Connected, Safe, and Accessible
 - There is a need to understand sidewalk regulations in the west area communities. If you cannot adequately roll your wheelchair, or walk your dogs, then is it considered a sidewalk?
 - Area of opportunity: Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods

Survey Comment Questions

- Can we separate responses by neighborhood?
- What is safe? How will safe be defined through the process?
 - Response: We will have opportunities to dig deeper and further define what this means to community members
- Who has answered the survey, and is there a need to understand differences? For example:
 - Home Owners vs. Renters

C. Focus Topic Exercise: Steering committee members were asked to review and discuss survey responses, kick-off meeting input and identify potential plan topics. Below are the responses from the committee

- Housing and Housing Affordability
- Alameda and Federal – speed limit, safety, working with CDOT, cloverleaf
- Considering corridors as parkways, gathering spaces.
- Tree canopy improvements
- Traffic and Safety crossing Knox and First, and Knox and Perry
- Crossing streets using mobility aids, increased time to cross, removing barriers to public transit
- Multimodal transportation services and infrastructure
- ADA compliance – meeting or exceeding regulations
- ADU zoning – work with WDRC, include affordability requirement
- Neighborhood character and infill development
- Neighborhood beautification, leveraging alleys for mobility
- Increasing tree canopies, more open space, parks, linear parks
- Affordable housing for those who fall in the 0-30% area median income (AMI)
- Community Benefit Agreements with large developments (Stadium District Master Plan/Sun Valley Redevelopment)
- Incentivizing the construction of affordable housing, both rental and for-sale units

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

A. November Steering Committee Meeting

- Thursday, November 21, 2019
Cowell Elementary
4540 W. 10th Avenue
6:00-7:30 PM

B. December Steering Committee Meeting

- Thursday, December 19, 2019
West Colfax BID Offices
3275 West 14th Avenue, Suite 202, Denver, CO 80204
6:00-7:30 PM