

Project: Advancing Equity in Rezoning
Subject: Task Force Meeting #2
Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022
Meeting Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Meeting Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Strategy With Rox (SWR) welcomed the members and introduced new meeting platform
- Sarah Cawrse presented project timeline, which included reminder of community outreach that has been completed and upcoming community outreach
- City Staff introductions
- SWR called on Task Force members in reverse alphabetical order by first name to introduce themselves by sharing their name, organization, and why they joined the Task Force

Background on Equity

- Jason Harrison (Office of Social Equity & Innovation), Elvis Rubio (Economic Development & Opportunity NEST), and Mike Ramsey (Community Planning and Development) will present the work and initiatives the City is doing related to equity
- Presentation from Jason Harrison, Office of Social Equity & Innovation (OSEI)
 - Equity is both a product and a process
 - Shared timeline on the City's progress on equity practices
 - 120 strategies are currently being worked on to achieve equity in the City
 - All staff are trained in the City's equity strategies
- Presentation from Elvis Rubio, Economic Development & Opportunity Neighborhood Equity & Stabilization (NEST)
 - Mission is to support neighborhoods experiencing significant change in elevating their voice to determine the future of their community by empowering under-resourced and marginalized residents and businesses
 - Work to prevent involuntary displacement and promote the advancement of economic equity and active resident participation
 - Partner with city and community stakeholders to implement culturally-responsive programs, including direct services
 - Support individuals and community organizations
 - Use an equity lens and cultural responsiveness as they identify and implement programs
 - Participate in meetings with internal/external partners to coordinate efforts to prevent involuntary displacement
- Presentation from Mike Ramsey, Community Planning and Development
 - Department has been focusing on inclusion and created the Community Engagement Specialist position
 - Engaging with those who have been historically underrepresented and marginalized through outreach, listening, and highlighting community voice
 - Examples of some different types of engagement include community navigators, youth engagement, Latino/Chicano Historic Context Project
- Presentation from Sarah Cawrse, Community Planning and Development

- Explained the three Blueprint Denver concepts and how they are used to guide implementation actions
- Reviewed how access to opportunity, vulnerability to displacement, housing diversity, and jobs diversity are measured across the city
- An equity analysis is when city staff uses the maps and measurements for access to opportunity, vulnerability to displacement, housing diversity, and jobs diversity to determine the score of a certain property and identify potential solutions if a category scores low
- An equity analysis is done for larger development projects to help guide successful outcomes
- An equity analysis is done for rezonings in the preapplication stage for rezonings in NEST neighborhoods
- Opportunity for questions and answers
 - Rezoning Community Meeting Requirements?
 - NEST will often notify as much as possible in NEST neighborhood to help facilitate conversations
 - Who is Community Planning and Development (CPD) Community Engagement Specialist?
 - Mike Ramsey
 - Renter-occupied data seems skewed based on age and homeownership?
 - Previous data usage and city incentives leveraged this
 - Concerns on the validity of indicators of displacement including age, time, etc.
 - CPD shared [Key Equity Concepts Methodology](#) from Blueprint Denver
 - CPD shared [Blueprint Denver Equity Map](#)
 - CPD shared Blueprint Denver's definition of equity:
 - Equity means everyone, regardless of who they are or where they are from, has the opportunity to thrive. Where there is equity, a person's identity does not determine their outcome. Equality means treating every person the same. Equity acknowledges that treating each person or place exactly the same may not result in fair outcomes. See more about the definition of equity and Denver's commitment to it in Comprehensive Plan 2040.
 - Does equity mean the same thing for the city than it does for Blueprint Denver?
 - It's slightly different
 - OSEI staff shared [their definition of equity](#)
 - Idea to define Equity for this project
 - Separating equity from equality is essential to promoting positive outcomes
 - This project should be a tool to positively impact underserved communities and not used as a tool to continue to exploit communities
 - CPD shared [Blueprint Denver key equity concepts for 2021](#)

Structure of the Task Force and Working Together

- Background information on how Task Force membership selection was shared
- SWR shared 'Gradients of Agreement', which will be used to gauge Task Force sentiment around topics and promote inclusive decision making
- SWR provided high-level overview of the 'Our Commitments to Each Other and Ground Rules' document since it was previously shared with members
 - Request to return a signed document to Sarah Cawrse
- Opportunity to discuss any questions, comments, or proposed changes

Upcoming Community Outreach

- Community Meeting #1 to occur in the next few months
- Task Force members encouraged to reach out to others to be involved in Focus Group discussions

Public Comment

- How do we make affluent neighborhoods carry the burden of new development?
 - Keep equity vs. Equality in mind throughout these discussions
 - Focus is rezoning, not zoning
 - Rezoning can affect development and displacement
 - Race and displacement play huge factors in where gets rezoned
 - The impact on vulnerable communities is part of what we're trying to address in this process
 - New housing should be directed toward established/affluent communities to promote equity in development
 - Councilwoman Sandoval shared [Expanding Housing Affordability](#)
 - TF would like a presentation on this as it culminates
- Concerns around new building codes pushing owners out?
 - CPD will circle back on this concern

Closing

- Opportunity for Task Force members to say what they liked or wish for the next meeting
- Next Task Force Meeting is Wednesday, March 23rd from 3:00-5:00pm