

Project: Advancing Equity in Rezoning
Subject: Task Force Meeting
Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022
Meeting Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Meeting Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes

Meeting Objectives:

- Continue discussion about potential ideas to increase public awareness in the rezoning process

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Staff and Consultant Team introduced themselves
- Task Force members introduce themselves with something fun they plan to do this summer

Project Updates

- Liz Weigle updated the Task Force on Sarah Cawrse's transition from CPD and introduced Brandon Shaver, who will take over as project manager later in the summer
- Timeline is being adjusted as a result of project manager transition

Public Awareness Strategies and Discussion

- Reviewed Denver's current public noticing and peer city research (same content as April Task Force meeting)
- Reviewed Task Force Input from the April meeting
- Task Force Discussion
 - Ideas to improve **HOW** noticing occurs
 - Increase community education on rezonings
 - Simplify language
 - Include pros and cons of rezoning change (some members noted this could be difficult to objectively provide)
 - Increase accessibility using QR codes or direct links to get information faster
 - The City of Aurora has great interactive maps that provide easy-to-access information all in one place
 - Offer information in multiple languages
 - Consider how information is accessible to screen readers
 - Emails should go to more organizations and community members (not just RNO's)
 - Leverage Council district mailing lists, flyers, text messages, social media, etc.
 - Consider additional posting in public/community spaces, i.e. schools
 - It's important to make sure that requirements are clear for applicants (e.g., if there is a requirement to post in public places, how does an applicant know when they have met that requirement?)
 - Noticing should be tailored based on the neighborhood. More efforts/requirements should be put towards vulnerable neighborhoods.

- Members used a poll to indicate which ideas are most important to explore further. The top three ideas were:
 - 1) Information accessibility i.e. QR codes, etc.;
 - 2) Distribute notices in more languages; and
 - 3) Simplify language

- Ideas to improve **WHEN** noticing occurs
 - Improve noticing at pre-application stage
 - Communities should know who or what wants to come into their community. This is the stage where community hears developer intentions. Transparency and equitable access are key.
 - Some members expressed concern about notification at the pre-application stage because there is no proposal yet and most pre-applicants do not move forward with an application.
 - Provide a way to register to receive rezoning notices occurring throughout the city
 - Opt-in to notifications without having to register as an RNO
 - Remain mindful of fees and costs. Additional notifications could create greater disparity for some applicants (e.g., a nonprofit affordable housing developer).
 - Consider additional mailed notice prior to City Council
 - Provide notices/info at other locations/meetings beyond RNO's
 - Notice on public sites i.e. schools, library, religious organizations
 - Leverage meetings of community organizations, religious groups, and PTO's
 - RNO's need support with engagement, outreach, website and should not be the only way of noticing
 - Establish interest – ask communities how much do they want to be noticed
 - Members used a poll to indicate which ideas are most important to explore further. The top three ideas were:
 - 1) Ability to register to receive any rezoning notices;
 - 2) Neighborhood meetings beyond RNO's; and
 - 3) Improve noticing at pre-application stage

- **WHO** of Noticing
 - Differentiate noticing by neighborhood impact - historic and current inequities
 - Prioritize engagement of underrepresented groups
 - Language diversity
 - Tenants (lodging and business)
 - Use of census data tracking
 - Expand noticing for those not active within RNO's
 - Expand noticing radius
 - How do we manage engagement of over-represented groups
 - How do we use public input of those we engage
 - Remain mindful of unintended consequences
 - Residential and business tenants should be noticed
 - Residential tenants should be included in mailed notice
 - Notice to everyone with an address within the neighborhood
 - Consider trauma informed practices by notifying sooner in the process to avoid trauma caused by relocation
 - Members used a poll to indicate which ideas are most important to explore further. The top three ideas were:
 - 1) Prioritize engagement of underrepresented groups
 - 2) Include residential and business tenants in mailed notice; and

3) Notice based on historic inequities of neighborhoods

General Comments

- There were no comments from members of the public.
- Task Force members requested time to review case studies at an upcoming meeting, suggested Aurora's online mapping as a good example for data access for community members, and would like further analysis of Lakewood noticing (simplifying language, video of staff report, ability to add comments, review increased diversity of participation)
- Task Force members would like to talk more about the ability to bring community members to the table as early as possible in a rezoning. Some communities appear to have more influence in discouraging rezonings, while other communities are experiencing a high numbers of rezonings.

Closing Statements

- Next Task Force Meeting is Wednesday, July 27th from 3:00-5:00pm

Note: Agenda topics and timing during the meeting may vary slightly depending on questions, comments, or discussions