



## MLK Subarea Plan/EIS Working Group

### Meeting Notes

People's Community Center, 1602 South Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA

Wednesday, March 8, 2012 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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#### Attendees

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Alozie                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Chris Morten            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Beckwith (Beckwith Consulting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Rodin                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Boudet (City of Tacoma)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Williams                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Boyd (City of Tacoma)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Noah Yacker (City of Tacoma) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connie Brown                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Zisette               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Crittendon                    |   |

#### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened with introductions and Tom describing the Workshop that will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He described that those in attendance will be divided into groups which will each have the same four topics to brainstorm, spending about fifteen minutes on each topic and having one open topic at the end. There will also be an Open House in May and possibly June. Connie talked about the Workshop being filmed to produce a video showing the process. The video would then be aired on TV Tacoma.

#### Review of Focus Groups

Tom talked about the Focus Group Sessions that were held in February. There were thirteen sessions and only one of those groups had no participants show up. On average there were about five to six people in attendance for each session. Overall, the discussions were good and several issues were repeated. Feedback included a large commitment to the MLK area and a strong desire to have improved linkages to Downtown, possibly with the LINK coming up MLK. There were concerns about the hospitals becoming increasingly insular.

Tom mentioned that the social services group had a very good turnout and expressed a desire to focus on mixes in income and housing. The group that included realtors was worried about properties being held for speculation and there was some frustration about renting spaces and how it can be difficult to contact property owners. High rents were also of concern.

In the Focus Groups, there were also comments that questioned why the City isn't doing more and several people felt that there is an issue of perception for the District. It was suggested that some type of rebranding should be looked at for MLK.



The Transit group expressed its preference to bring LINK up Jefferson rather than Division.

Tom said that he would have a more complete overview of the Focus Group sessions available in the next couple weeks.

### **Planning Commission**

Brian talked about the presentation to the Planning Commission which was an update on the MLK Subarea Plan process to date. The Planning Commission was pleased with the work being done by the Working Group and they highlighted health showed interest in incorporating healthy living/healthy communities into the Plan. Brian described that they also talked about public spaces and wondered as the area becomes denser, what will urban gathering places will look like and, in general, how will that play out with regard to infrastructure. Members of the Commission also talked about the term “Medical Mile” and that they are aware that it is seen negatively by the community.

There will be a presentation to the City Council at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session and Brian asked that Justin or Dawn be there to represent the Working Group.

### **Next Steps**

In preparation for the Workshop, the group plans to meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> to go over the format of the meeting and what will be required of the group members.