



MLK Subarea Plan/EIS Working Group

Meeting Notes

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

Thursday, January 12, 2012 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Attendees

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steen Armstrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Morton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Beckwith (Beckwith Consulting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Levy (City of Tacoma) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lois Bernstein | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Price (Beckwith Consulting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Boudet (City of Tacoma) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Rodin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connie Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> David Shroedel (Beckwith Consulting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Justin Leighton | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Williams |

Welcome and Introductions

Brian Boudet (Project Lead) welcomed meeting participants and led a round of introductions. Brian reviewed the agenda and the purpose of the meeting, as well reiterated an overview of the general purpose of the working group.

The group expressed appreciation for producing a vision which outlines important issues and incorporates input from the group.

Review notes from last meeting

The group concurred with the summary notes presented for the December 8th meeting.

Location of Future Meetings

The group expressed the desire to hold future meetings at a location within the MLK district, not only to be more convenient but to better connect the discussions with the area. Various locations were discussed, including St. Joe's, Allen AME Church, and the People's Community Center. Some expressed concerns about meeting at one of the hospitals, since the "medical mile" concept put forth by the Mayor has concerned some in the community. The group consensus was to try to hold future meetings at People's Community Center and Dawn Rodin (HAC) offered to contact them about availability.

Review 1/5/12 Community Meeting

The community meeting, which was well attended (70-80 people), was discussed, including some of the community concerns and issues that were raised: dead blocks, storefronts, mixed-use development, view protection, education, parking, transportation, and the continuing issue of what "Medical Mile" means to MLK, noting that, even though the term triggers concern, large institutions do provide jobs.



MLK Subarea Plan

It was suggested that meetings be more interesting and exciting with less process. Particular focus was on the illustrations used and the desire to have presentations be more visually interesting and less “scary.” There is also a desire to slow down the process while increasing and improving communication, for worry that there is currently the potential of leaving people behind. Humanize process.

Black Collective is suspicious of the whole process and generally wants to know what’s happening, why it’s happening, and what the committee is doing.

The group needs to find its purpose and invite people with open hands. Right now members of the committee feel like they don’t have enough information.

In response, Tom and City staff explained that the timing is a legal issue tied to the specific funding for the project. Also, the images in the flyers which represent a “full build out” scenario will be changed. The images were intended to represent the general height and bulk that is allowed under current Code but they are not planned development. It was also stated that feedback is great even if it is negative.

Some members were upset from meetings and felt that people were “turned off” and resigned.

A suggestion was made about providing a large clear timeline/flowchart showing opportunities for public input. Other suggestions were made such as using wording like “this is your vision”, and using more relatable language instead of “scoping” or “charette”.

A comment was made that the community has been good in the past at reacting but is not used to being proactive and it tends to makes them defensive

Review draft group charter

There was a discussion about membership in this group, which it is felt should be made of Hilltop business owners and residents. One challenge will be in spurring attendance. What constitutes membership? How can the group avoid a situation where someone comes in part way and disrupts the process? How many members and from what organizations? Based on people showing up, the expectation would be 25 people from 21 organizations. It will be up to the group to evaluate if additional people who come have valid right to join, being cautious of exclusion.

The Group can vote someone in and it was discussed that people interested in becoming members should first sit-in as observers for a few meetings. When voting people in, 50 percent + 1 is not good enough and there should be a consensus, with sideways thumb option followed by a discussion until a consensus is reached .

Tom talked about the process which includes the group making a decision which would be presented to City/developer and then to City Council via the Planning Commission. If committee member are opposed to any part it will go down.



The Group nominated Justin as the chair and Dawn Rodin as the co-chair. The voting system to be used will be thumb-votes with one vote per organization, though it was questioned what makes an organization? It was agreed to bring back one vote per organization for next meeting.

A concern was expressed about ensuring that voting is done fairly, and preventing any organization involved in the Working Group from bringing multiple representative to a meeting where a significant vote might be taken and effectively swaying the vote simply through attendance.

One amendment was introduced for add language in the charter indicating that for the purposes of voting, it is recognized that each organization represented in the Working Group should be afforded one vote. The group, by unanimous vote, adopted the charted with this one amendment.

Scoping Process

Brian and Tom discussed the scoping process and asked for all members of the group to attend and identify themselves. Chelsea described the format of the scoping meeting.

Designs should reflect the history of the area and anticipate the future while retaining the story of the neighborhood. This will be further defined by the group.

Focus Groups and Outreach Surveys

Tom discussed focus groups and surveys and the group discussed a map instead of icon on surveys since people don't know where MLK borders are.

Draft Vision Statement

The group decided to postpone the discussion about the vision statement to the next meeting.

Next meeting

The next Working Group meeting will be held on February 9, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at People's Community Center (if they have availability).