**MLK Subarea Plan/EIS Working Group
Meeting Notes
People’s Community Center, 1602 South Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA
Thursday, June 14, 2012 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

* **Rev Chris Morton(Associated Misistries)**
* **Justin Leighton(Central Neighborhood Council)**
* **Dawn Rodin(Hilltop Action Coalition)**
* **Eric Crittendon(Hilltop Business District)**
* **Mike Denney(MultiCare)**
* **Dalton Gittens(New Tacoma Neighborhood Council)**
* **Dorian Waller(Tacoma Urban League)**
* **Connie Brown(Affordable Housing Consortium)**
* **Elliott Barnett(City of Tacoma)**

**Justin – call to order and introductions**

**Tom Beckwith – review of open house/ survey (see handout for details**)

 There were 55 attendees at the open house 45 of which completed the survey with one additional survey being done on line. Every demographic was represented in the survey with a surprising polarity of the old and young confirming trend of the area moving towards a young professional influence while the aging population grows as well. Results indicated a very high level of interest in almost all categories.

 Prioritization should be given to special catalytic projects. These are the shorter term / less expensive projects. These projects should be spread amongst different groups and agencies and should have a significant impact on redeveloping the market.THA should be involved with these programs.

The suggestion of Michael Mirra joining the group for discussion towards the end of summer was discussed.

 Assumptions are that hospital employees are not attracted to live in the area, only blue collar support. St.Joe’s and Multicare have both agreed to give housing survey to all employees.

 THA is a necessary partner. Non-Profit development encourages or alleviates concerns for private developers. THA holds positive image while MLKHDA has negative image due to past legal issues and questionable dealings.

 There was discussion about the new apartments on 25th street. The group agreed that although not ideal it looks acceptable and more importantly it is done.” Cool to see something new going on.”

Tom concluded with saying that the open house on Aug 16th will have existing conditions and EIS but no renderings. The October final open house will have the renderings as well as other data gathered and be SEXY! In January there will be deliverables to the planning commission including the subarea plan and EIS as well as an action plan.

**Elliott Barnett- Recreation and Open Spaces and Parks (see handout for details)**

 Area has a large range of needs with diverse demographics. Policy framework has been consistent. We are looking at vegetation parkway from the water up the hill similar to UW Seattle. The UW Tacoma’s grand walkway plans were discussed as well with further discussion on extending that plan into the MLK area as a pedestrian connector. This plan would utilize angles and steps to minimize the impact of the hills.

 The group talked over the ideas behind beltways which utilize what exists in the area and change it for desired use as a opposed to redesigning traditional style parks which require large lots and maybe underutilized because of the changing demographics of the neighborhood The group also discussed the possibility of making beltways that are closed to automobile traffic as a catalyst and suggested large trees be incorporated. The discussion continued to J Street which what suggested should be the next Broadway with complete streets and a green feel.

Tom suggested that urban recreation areas Starbucks also act as catalyst. We need to add amenities and chain restaurants and retail are excellent signs of stability and growth which may further boost private development.

**Doug Fraser- Metro Parks**

Connecting to UWT is important, the more connections the better for the community. He reiterated What Elliot had stated, that less traditional parks and streets as parks and open spaces helped provide important connections. This will be reflected in Metro Parks new design guidelines this fall. It will look at People’s Park, McCarver and Wright’s parks. Other points of interest openly discussed included How to make Stanley Park more inviting, how to utilize Alaskan Street Reservoir, landscaping at People’s Community Center, and that some of these projects may not be able to fixed by tweaking, the changing demographic may suggest a need for more drastic changes in recreational needs.

**Brian Boyd and Josh Jorgenson- interns**

 Discussed upcoming and ongoing projects including work with the McCarver Elementary students, a bicycle and pedestrian count, and an oral history project.

The next meeting will be held on July 12th –suggested guest attendee THA