

South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #2

April 25, 2024
5:30 – 7:15p.m.

ATTENDEES PRESENT


Council Member Joe Bushnell - District 5

Alicia Klein
Asaph Gaspi
Ellen Talbo
Felicity Waldron
Grace Miller
Ileana Areiza
James Hill
Kat Raz
Melodie Knight
Mercy Macharia
Pennie Smith
Perlita Payne
Ryan Spence

STAFF PRESENT

Angel Pele - Equity and Human Rights
Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning
Madeline Borowski - Neighborhood Planning
Mariama Suwaneh - Equity and Human Rights

MINUTES WITHIN THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
<p>Welcome and Icebreaker</p>	<p>Staff welcomed the guest presenters from the Office of Equity and Human Rights that would be assisting with an equity and trauma-informed approach and framework.</p> <p>The icebreaker was “Where are your three H: Head; Hands; Heart?”</p>
<p>Program Update</p>	<p>Staff announced goals of the meeting as well as the recent and ongoing engagement since the last Steering Group meeting:</p>
<p>Engagement Recap</p>	<div data-bbox="423 1486 1154 1892"> <p style="text-align: center;">RECENT ENGAGEMENT</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pretty Gritty led South Tacoma Walking Tour (April 13) Engagement with Mt. Tacoma students (April 17) Attendance of South Tacoma Business District meeting (April 18) Ongoing meetings with TeamWRK for youth engagement coordination </div>

Plan Name and Map Update

Staff introduced the revised map after comments on the old map at the last Steering Group meeting and also summarized the results of the Steering Group poll on the Plan name, map extent, and overall values.

Revised Map:



Planning area includes:

- South Tacoma Way Business District and Mixed-Use Center
- Surrounding residential areas
- Specific neighborhood areas requested by the community



Staff noted that most people liked “South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan;” some others thought the title should just reflect South Tacoma Way if the focus is on the neighborhood center only.

Staff clarified that the focus area of the plan includes the residential parts of South Tacoma, and showed the revised map that tries to clarify the project area graphically. Staff also noted that the name can be revised later in the process if the group wants to revisit this discussion.

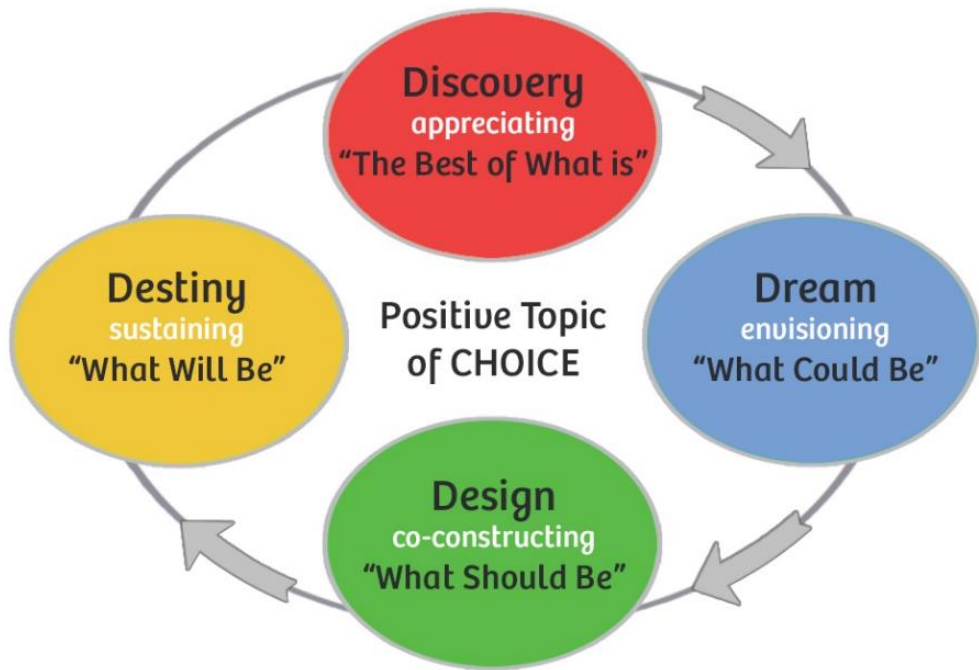
Staff opened the map and project name to discussion, and people agreed that they are comfortable moving forward with the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan name.

Group Discussion: Neighborhood Plan Framework

The Equity Office went over their role at the City and within this Neighborhood Plan project.

Equity Framework

The Equity Office introduced the Appreciative Inquiry Approach:



Next, the Equity Office introduced Tacoma’s Equity Index tool and key demographics and statistics in South Tacoma compared to the broader city to understand disparities.

Steering Group members asked questions about the Equity Index Tool:

- What are some examples of disparity in opportunities that are measured by the Equity Index Tool?
 - Staff gave examples of how the Equity Index compiles different indicators to understand why some parts of Tacoma have higher access to opportunities than others.
- Noting that the Vietnam is the top country of immigration in the selected census tracts for South Tacoma, are there any representatives of the Vietnamese community on the Steering Group?
 - Staff shared that the exact identities of people in the group are unknown, there is representation from the Asia Pacific Cultural Center on the group and there is a Vietnamese Language Ambassador providing support to the project.
- How does representation of Native American and Indigenous people fit into this planning process?
 - Staff shared that there is ongoing consultation with the Puyallup Tribe during the planning process.

Steering Group Norms

Staff brought forward the new draft group norms from polling and feedback at the last Steering Group meeting.

Steering Group discussion/feedback on draft norms:

- Appreciation of the new draft norms, e.g., “Taking Space and Making Space”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in establishing norms on how the group should share media and news with each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff noted that meeting and sharing content outside of the formal meetings, with or without staff present, is completely doable and encouraged, but that there should be awareness of sharing content with the City given the Public Disclosure Rules. The group will discuss this more at the next meeting. • Steering Group members saw similarities between these new norms/values, noting a connection with work at the Tacoma Public Library, and agreed that a trauma-informed approach is very important in this plan.
<p>Neighborhood Plan Values</p>	<p><u>Steering Group thoughts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Steering Group member mentioned that “housing” should be on the list of values in some way. A discussion followed about whether it fit under the current values or should be a separate value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some felt that “affordable housing” should be referenced as part of economic prosperity because otherwise the term “economic prosperity” is too general and also may have a connotation of gentrification. Others felt that housing could fit under the value “equity and opportunity” • Others expressed interest in a value of community connection and belonging as well as a “complete neighborhood” <p>Proposed Neighborhood Plan Values (edits shown in tracked changes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthy <u>environment</u>, safety, and comfort: <i>Healthy air, soil, water and green spaces; safety and comfort for people walking and biking; child-friendly</i> ○ Easy access to amenities: <i>Access to schools, food, jobs, parks, retail, recreation; spaces for fun and reflection</i> ○ Economic prosperity <u>and affordability</u>: <i>Quality jobs; maintaining retail and industrial jobs; support for new and existing industries to evolve; ability to build intergenerational wealth</i> ○ Equity and opportunity: <i>Acknowledging past divestment and negative impacts; <u>resiliency</u>; equitable investment; amplifying structurally excluded voices; policies and programs that provide opportunity to our neighbors; <u>access to housing</u></i> ○ Sense of community and identity (belonging): <i>Inclusive and welcoming neighborhood that celebrates diverse identities; celebration of history and sense of place; <u>ability to remain in the neighborhood</u></i> ○ Transparency and trust: <i>Honor prior efforts in South Tacoma; clarity and openness; transparent decision-making; <u>reconciliation</u>; city follow-through; moving at the speed of trust</i> <p>Next, staff asked: “How can we support an equity, anti-racism, trauma-informed, and reconciliation approach through this Plan? What are the outcomes that you want from this Plan?”</p> <p><u>Steering Group thoughts:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people mentioned interest in learning more about the history and trauma in the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others felt the same, but did not want to dig too much into issues in such a way that people felt they were reliving the trauma • Staff noted that neighborhood history will also be included as part of the final Plan, beginning pre-colonial contact • Other Steering Group members feel that they would appreciate more info on the equity and trauma-informed framework and definitions on what these terms mean, and noted the importance of being aware that we all start from different perspectives and backgrounds. Even a glossary of terms would be helpful. • Another Steering Group member mentioned the possibility of creating reading groups or finding readings to learn about these terms and what the trauma has been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff mentioned that they could send out some content from the Equity Office on these approaches and equity more broadly • Other members appreciated that so far this program’s approach wasn’t only talking about beautification, economic improvements, opportunity but also acknowledging the people that have lived here and history that have happened in this neighborhood. • Steering Group members mentioned thinking about how the Equity Index can be re-traumatizing and who the maps are really centering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “South Tacoma is being asked to be really resilient right now” • The Steering Group discussion also discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about maintaining existing housing affordability, maintaining existing housing stock, keeping wealth in the hands of community members, and addressing gentrification • Resources and challenges for first-time home buyers • Examples of success in maintaining affordable housing in other communities
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Next Steps	Staff went over the next steps and what the next Steering Group would look like.
Engagement Plan	Staff asked if an in-person meeting on May 30 would work for the Steering Group members, and the group agreed that this date will work in lieu of the May 23 meeting.
Contact Info/Social Media	
May Meeting: In-Person	<p>Staff will update the norms and values and present back to the group at the next meeting</p> <p>Staff will send out resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity video and glossary • Link to equity index • Trauma-informed background

DRAFT Calendar 2024

Month	Steering Group Meeting	Public Event
March	Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role <i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i>	Spotlight South Tacoma: What's Happening; What's Coming in South Tacoma, March 21st
April	Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity	Walking Tour, April 13th (complete)
May	Neighborhood Priorities & Engagement Discussion (<i>In-person meeting</i>)	TBD
Summer	Focused Discussion Topics – TBD Ongoing Priorities Discussion	Summer: Priorities Engagement
Fall	Draft Actions	Fall: Draft Actions Engagement
Winter	Draft Plan	
Spring 2025	Implementation	