

# **McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning**

## **Steering Group – Meeting #1 Minutes**

**February 24, 2022**

**5:30 – 6:45p.m.**

### **ATTENDEES**

#### **Steering group members:**

- Ahndrea Blue
- Alexandra Pilch
- Alyssa Torrez
- Angela Clark
- April Stapp
- Bonney Carpenter
- Caroline Edmiston
- Cathy Oden
- Chelsea Talbert
- Kristy Fry
- Leon Nettels
- Lindsay Wills
- Marty Brown
- Nick Bateman
- Roy Wang
- Sandesh Saldage
- Shayla Miles
- Tamara Georgick
- Tara Scheidt

#### **City of Tacoma staff:**

- Lauren Hoogkamer, Neighborhood Planning Program
- Anneka Olson, Neighborhood Planning Program
- Naomi Strom-Avila, Arts Office
- Mary Crabtree, PDS

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Lauren presented on the background of the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning program, and shared information on the role of the steering group and the spring timeline.

Anneka presented on the proposed spring schedule and different working group focus areas, and posed the following questions:

- *What topics are missing from this list?*
- *What other partners should we be talking to?*
- *What other ideas do you have for events in the neighborhood?*

### **Spring Events Calendar Discussion**

- Shayla suggested coordinating with Tacoma Tree Foundation as part of the parks and neighborhood beautification, and to share resources like Grit City tree coupons
  - Lauren said that the program is meeting with Tacoma Tree Foundation and Urban Forestry program at the City of Tacoma
- Tara – PCD can help support tree planting, and PCD has a maintenance program for business districts
- Caroline asked a question about coordination with the Puyallup Tribe, and what the plans are for business district properties on McKinley Hill
- Kristy – question about displacement and history of I-5 construction and how that's reflected in the neighborhood, as well as Tribal displacement
  - Lauren mentioned ongoing partnership with Puyallup Tribe, including for the arts and identity discussion
- Nick – asked about why housing discussion won't start until later in the timeline
  - Lauren said that Home in Tacoma and Gault process will both be aligned with this group
  - Anneka mentioned that there is an opportunity to form working groups earlier in the process
- Tara – interested in seeing there be a conversation between MetroParks and TPS about keeping Gault field as a greenspace
  - Lauren mentioned that this will need to be a discussion with TPS given the RFP process they will be going through, and what will fit on the site. Someone from TPS will come to the next meeting.

### **Arts + Identity Discussion**

Lauren presented on the plan for arts coordination and shared information about where there may be opportunities for arts integration in the neighborhood. The group then discussed the following questions:

- *What gives McKinley a sense of place, what stories do we want to convey?*
- *Where are there opportunities to integrate arts into the neighborhood?*
- *What do we want to learn from neighbors at the March event?*

### **Group discussion:**

- Shayla mentioned the opportunity for arts in traffic roundabouts, which came up at the kickoff meeting
- Alex mentioned that the neighborhood is long and skinny, so signage might be challenging, and integration of other pieces throughout the district would be better

- Shayla requested a copy of the historic report, and suggested that the City share information with the
  - April and Kristy also made comments that there's a need to talk about the Black/working class history of the Hawthorne neighborhood and displacement
- Naomi also talked about where the Arts office can support public art in the neighborhood in the longer-term
- Nick asked about where there are opportunities for mural locations
  - Several people suggested VFW building in the chat; Food Bank also offered their buildings
  - Caroline mentioned that the owner of East-West security offered his building in the kickoff event. She also said she'd like to see more than just murals, including things like permanent statutes.
  - Lauren said that we will continue to share the
- Shayla asked for clarification about what's happening at the March 10 event
  - Lauren clarified how the working groups, History + Identity event, and process will operate going forward. The History + Identity event will include a short presentation on the history of the neighborhood before opening up discussion to the broader community.
- Kristy mentioned the bus shelters are an opportunity for arts integration, as are garbage cans (which are in short supply). She also mentioned the overlook and chain link fence, and the need to activate this area.
  - April suggested this could be interactive for young people
  - Sandesh is also interested in supporting artmaking effort around the overlook
- Shayla asked about an arts report from MPA students at Evergreen
  - Naomi mentioned the work that the Arts office is doing to make sure that artists have connections to community and lived experience
  - Naomi also mentioned community engagement training program for local artists
- Alex also talked about opportunities for a shared discussion – ideas, brainstorming, etc – for the steering group to continue discussing offline
- Caroline and Marty volunteered their interest for the arts steering group