

## McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning

### Steering Group – Meeting #2

#### MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2022

5:30 – 7p.m.

#### Agenda

- **Introductions** – 10 minutes
  
- **Program Updates** – 10 minutes
  
- **Working Group Plan** – 20 minutes
  - Overview of working group engagement plan (*see below*)
  - **Group discussion**
  
- **Gault School Update – Tacoma Public Schools** – 15 minutes
  - Background on the Gault School site
  - Request for Proposals process and next steps
  
- **Walkability and Traffic Calming – City of Tacoma Public Works** – 30 minutes
  - Vision Zero
  - Neighborhood traffic calming program
  - **Group discussion**
  
- **Next Steps** – 5 minutes

#### Minutes

#### Attendance

*Steering group:*

- Alexandra Pilch
- Alyssa Torrez
- Angela Clark
- Atienne Howard
- Bonney Carpenter
- Caroline Edmiston
- Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka
- Chelsea Talbert
- Judy Olsen
- Kristy Fry
- LaKecia Farmer
- Leon Nettels
- Lindsay Wills
- Lynette Scheidt

- Marty Brown
- Nick Bateman
- Roy Wang
- Shayla Miles
- Tamara Georgick
- Tara Scheidt

*Staff:*

- Anneka Olson, Neighborhood Planning
- Alisa O’Hanlon Regala, Metro Parks
- Brian Boudet, Long Range Planning
- Caroline Herre, Enterprise Community Partners
- Carrie Wilhelme, Public Works
- Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works
- Lauren Hoogkamer, Neighborhood Planning
- Stephen Antupit, Public Works

## **Program Updates**

Lauren provided updates on the program, including:

- Successful Arts + Identity Event on March 10
- Spaceworks will be meeting with the Arts Working Group to continue planning for the mural and other arts and identity enhancements
- Upcoming work:
  - Planning for a Community Walk event
  - Future opportunities to discuss budget requests
  - Planning for future roundtable focus groups, including business owners

The group also discussed an ongoing monthly meeting date of either 4th Mondays or Thursdays. The group preferred Mondays – scheduling TBD.

## **Working Groups**

Anneka provided an overview of the Working Group engagement plan and asked the following questions to the group:

- *Is this the right role for these groups to play? What resources do we need to make these groups successful?*
- *What will keep people engaged in these groups?*
- *Do the subject focus areas and timing of launching these groups make sense?*

Group discussion:

- Tara – How are we getting the word out to the broader community? Are there opportunities for us to make sure we are reaching out to those who might be interested in the process?

- Kristy – There is a chance for burnout when the process lasts a long time and there is a lot of work around detailed action steps, so how can we support people to be part of the process long-term? She also said that it can be hard to choose between topics.
- Deputy Mayor Ushka – There is a challenge, especially post-COVID, to be reconnecting with people. She offered to work with neighbors on leading door-to-door outreach to let people know about the program.
- Tara – There may be some confusion about lack of clarity about mural process, and a need for broader community feedback.
- Marty – Had some confusion about how to volunteer for groups. Also would be interested in having more permanent flyers in the neighborhood to promote engagement in the program.
- Shayla – Stipend could help to keep people engaged, and it could be needs-based. This is important for McKinley Hill especially. Working Groups can also commission surveys and/or do community outreach to gather broader input – there will be a need for opportunities to bring these ideas back to the larger group.

Additional comments from chat:

- Connecting with non-English speaking groups
- Group is interested in developing flyers to distribute around the neighborhood/at the community kiosk
- Finding achievable goals for the working groups along the process will help keep people coming back

Anneka and Lauren said that the program will:

- Develop flyers that can be shared by neighbors
- Schedule time at the next meeting to discuss opportunities for community engagement
- Ensure a system for Working Groups to report back to the Steering Group, and to continue to get feedback from the broader community
- Send out a survey asking questions about compensation, participation in working groups, and more

## **Gault School Update**

Presentation from Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools (TPS), regarding the future of Gault School.

- TPS has been working on solutions for the Gault site since pool closed in 2018
- There are some limitations as to what can be done on the site
- Beginning demolition of the non-historic structure in April
- RFP will launch that would require buyer to reuse historic structure and have feasible funding
- If viable RFPs are received, there will be opportunities for public input and it will be put to a vote by the TPS board

Group discussion:

- Marty – Asked if there are minimum cost projections for getting the building back to usable space, and whether plantings can be saved at the site?
  - Alicia said that TPS has done some assessment and an appraisal that estimates that this would be \$6-8M for bringing the main building to a state of readiness for development. Alicia said that she wasn't sure that there are existing plants but would be happy to work directly with Marty on this.
- Nick – Is there still an earmark in the current biennium?
  - Alicia clarified that this is no longer a TPS project - it would be transferred to another owner to redevelop. Want to make sure the property is taken care of for the future.
- Roy – Asked about redrawing opportunity zone funding to incentivize redevelopment
  - Alicia said that there is a tool (Development Regulation Agreement) that could potentially allow a developer to have more flexibility around the reuse of the historic site.
  - DM Ushka – Adjustments to zoning would need to be reintegrated into the comprehensive plan, and would need to go through the normal process.

Comments in the chat referenced opportunities to keep Gault Field. Alicia said that this is a dual site RFP, and that this would depend on what comes out of the RFP process and whether viable proposals are received and how this would address tradeoffs between green space and the historic building. There have been past discussions with MetroParks, but this is not currently in a priority area for MetroParks because there is adequate open space in other parts of the neighborhood, so it's not clear that this is something that can be actionable for the group.

## **Walkability and Traffic Calming**

Presentation from Carrie Wilhelme and Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, including:

- How the McKinley Hill neighborhood plan will be used by Public Works, and opportunities to incorporate into other planning documents to guide future investments
- Vision Zero
  - Vision Zero is showing that lowering the traffic calming in residential and neighborhood business districts would work in McKinley
  - There might be an opportunity to make small traffic calming improvements within the business district
- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
  - Complaint-based system; data-driven approach
  - Radar gun program – speed study or collision evaluation
  - 'Toolbox' for making improvements – including more intensive (roundabouts, diverters, traffic humps, bulb-outs) and lower-cost interventions (street trees, street painting)

Questions/comments from chat:

- Interest in speed reduction/traffic calming on E 34th and E McKinley; East L Street Hill
- Concern around people not stopping at crosswalks on McKinley; interest in a camera
- Question about I-5 State Impact dollars
- Interest in a median for south end of business district

Questions:

- Alexandra: Question about relative costs of diverters versus speed humps; concern that painted bike lanes don't always keep people safe
- Kristy Fry:
  - o Is very interested in this topic because she lives on East L street, which is a very steep slope, and there's no accommodation for ped/bike in that location. There's a need for alternate routes during foul weather and lights.
  - o Flashing lights at Blix, at 38th and along McKinley aren't always respected by drivers. Would be interested in seeing narrowing of streets to accommodate people biking.
  - o Also asked about I-5 impact fees from WSDOT – Deputy Mayor Ushka plans to reach out about this.
- Lynette asked about getting a sidewalk on L Street, and an opportunity to add a mohawk on McKinley Ave and at 34th and McKinley to slow cars down. She also talked about the importance of safety and making these improvements.

Additional discussion:

- Tara asked about getting a flyer for the Community Walk event, and wanting to be sure that everyone's voice matters and that people know about how to be involved.
  - o Lauren said that the Neighborhood Planning program will develop both a flyer for the Community Walk (and all events going forward) for the program as a whole, and will continue to engage other groups. She also mentioned an opportunity to hold roundtable focus groups to connect with other people
- DM Ushka – Recognize that the process has been moving quickly, and that people may need more information about the process. There may be some people who don't follow the process, but we need to make sure there are enough tools to broaden this.