

# McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning

## Steering Group – Meeting #4 Minutes

May 23, 2022

5:30 – 7p.m.

### Attendees

#### Steering Group:

- Ahndrea Blue
- Alexandra Pilch
- Caroline Edmiston
- Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka
- Cathy Oden
- Judy Olsen
- Kristy Fry
- LaKecia Farmer
- Leon Nettels
- Lynnette Scheidt
- Rick Slater
- Sandesh Saldage
- Tara Scheidt

#### Staff:

- Alisa O’Hanlon, Metro Parks
- Aneka Olson, Neighborhood Planning
- Aris Efting, City of Tacoma Open Space
- Claire Keller-Scholz, Metro Parks
- Lauren Hoogkamer, Neighborhood Planning
- Mary Anderson, Metro Parks
- Shari Hart, City of Tacoma Community and Economic Development

### Minutes

- **Program Updates – 15 minutes**
  - **Signup for Facilitation/Group Norms discussion**
    - LaKecia shared that she is planning a training session for steering group members who want to learn more about facilitation. This is an

opportunity for those who want to support coordination for Working Groups or within breakout groups.

- **Gault update meeting: June 6 at 5pm**
  - Lauren announced a meeting for June 6 for our Steering Group members to learn more about the responses that Tacoma Public Schools has received to their request for proposals for the Gault School site.
- **Process for new members**
  - The group is in favor of including new members in the steering group.
  - Caroline noted that we don't want the group to get too large, as long as we keep the group a manageable size.
  - Lauren clarified that the focus would be on inviting people who can provide connection to groups who aren't already at the table.
- **Summer event planning**
  - Leon and Anneka provided an update on planning for summer events. The goal is to hold one event focused on open space in July, another topic-focused (TBD) event in August, and a larger event to get feedback on project priorities from the whole community.
  - Tara: noted that the McKinley Street Fair for the whole community is not currently being planned, but there's an opportunity for a smaller, neighborhood-focused event.
  - Ahndrea offered to provide drinks and snacks for any future events
  - Judy noted Health Dept can provide box fans and has connections to groups that can provide garden starts and other resources
  - Kristy noted National Night Out (August 2) could be an opportunity for an event with a safety focus.
- **Housekeeping**
  - Anneka went over action items from last month's meeting and provided a status update.
  - Cathy made a request for access to the presentation after the event.
  - Lauren confirmed that we post minutes of the Steering Group meetings online, along with audio recordings.

- **Project Task Prioritization**

**Items missing from the list (all groups):**

- New low-income and senior housing
- Street repair
- Sidewalk damage/repair (Especially mentioned was the kind done by plant roots)
- Business district placemaking strategy

- Pipeline trail – trash cans

**Priorities (group 1):**

- Trash cans in business district
- Bike corral in business district
- Landscape management (overgrown vegetation in parking strips)
- Red curb painting to limit parking around crosswalks and corners
- Open space activation (locations TBD; Overlook noted)
- Sidewalks along E L Street and connections to school
- Staircase improvement across from Rogers Park
- Slowing at McKinley and Division (suggestion: curb bulb-outs; planting strip improvement/rain garden; blinking yellow light; four-way stop)
- Crosswalk repainting in business district
- New curb/gutter/accessibility ramps (creates danger with people parking on parking strips) (locations TBD)
- Street lighting

**Priorities (group 2):**

- Trees (Wrong kind Planted and causing problems in neighborhood)
- Trash Cans (More and emptied regularly)
- Water fountains
- Bike Racks (Safe type for users)
- A lot of interest in the program Ambassador for the Homeless
- Crosswalk repainting
- Radar Speed Signs
- Traffic calming on McKinley and other places (curb bumb-outs, planting strips)

**Priorities (group 3):**

- Business district placemaking strategy (neighborhood branding, banners, artwork)
- Welcome signage
- Mural
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Permanent art pieces
- Trash cans
- Solutions for blocked sidewalks in business district / Enforcement or other solution to lines of cars/loading trucks taking up space on ROW
- Trash cans on pipeline trail

- **Open Space Presentation**

## **MetroParks Tacoma**

- Alisa O'Hanlon Regala presented on behalf of MetroParks to talk about Metro Parks and their services:
  - MetroParks owns 3 park properties: McKinley Park, Rogers Park, and Verlo Park
  - Standard of service is Trust for Public Land, 10 minutes walk from a public park. McKinley Park is generally covered according to these standards.
- Mary Anderson presented about regular maintenance in
- Claire Keller-Scholz discussed opportunities for interpretation
  - Kristy shared that there are opportunities for interpretive signage outside of parks, including Pipeline Trail and Overlook over the roadway (including Hawthorne neighborhood history) or within McKinley Park
  - Claire noted that there are partnership opportunities
  - Tara asked about whether there will be Twulshootseed language signage within parks
- Mary also shared upcoming opportunities to volunteer in parks, and opportunities to provide input on other parks on the Eastside.

## **City of Tacoma Passive Open Space Program**

- Aris Efting talked about the City's program to manage passive open space throughout the city. In McKinley, these parks are:
  - McKinley Slope
  - M Street
  - Blix open space
- McKinley Slope (along McKinley Way, north of E 32nd St)
  - Restoration started in 2021
  - Installing a split-rail fence later in 2022
  - Two Adopt-a-Spots – need for improvements at the lower area
- M Street Passive Open Space
  - Multiple parcels, some are owned by City, Puyallup Tribe, and private owners who collaborate on pickup
  - Purple bag program is cleaning up enhancements
- Blix: looking for a habitat steward

## **Questions**

- Lynette noted that she has been working to get garbage cans at McKinley Park, and the M Street properties are a great opportunity that could be a more formal park
- Alexandra and Sandesh both provided that they are interested in volunteering at locations

- Leon asked about eliminating parking at the top of McKinley Slope to fix trash problem, and whether a staircase could be activated (slides for kids like at Point Defiance?)
  - o Aris shared that this would require a higher level of need for engineering, but could be a great opportunity to activate the space
- Judy asked about whether the purple bag program is ongoing – Aris confirmed that it is
- Tara noted that she has been working with Puyallup Tribe and Aaron Beckford as well to clean up the M Street parcel

## **Action Items**

### **Steering group action items:**

- Attend the Gault meeting on June 6 at 5pm (virtually)
- Participate in the facilitation training – email us to show your interest
- Volunteer to be part of the event planning team to plan our next event – email us
- Facebook group setup and administration

### **Staff action items/tasks:**

- Follow up with staff for feedback from meeting / coordinate on upcoming event dates
- Send survey and meeting minutes to group
  - o Send Aris and Mary's info and volunteering opportunities
  - o Send info for Metro Parks volunteering meetings
- Send Gault invite /coordinate with TPS
- Schedule facilitation training date with LaKecia
- Schedule next event planning meeting
  - o Coordinate with MetroParks and Open Space staff