

McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning

Steering Group – Meeting #6

July 25, 2022

5:30 – 7p.m.

Attendees

Steering Group

- Ahndrea Blue
- Alexandra Pilch
- Bonney Carpenter
- Caroline Edmiston
- Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka
- Judy Olsen
- Leon Nettels
- Lynnette Scheidt
- Rick Slater
- Roy Wang
- Sandesh Saldage
- Sophia Agtarap

Staff and guests

- Anneka Olson – Neighborhood Planning
- Kenny Coble – Participatory Budgeting
- Lauren Hoogkamer – Neighborhood Planning
- Matt Kelley – UW Tacoma Action Mapping

Minutes

Program Updates

Participatory Budgeting

Kenny Coble provided an update on plans to begin the participatory budgeting (PB) process for East Tacoma, which will distribute \$1M to community-suggested projects on the Eastside.

The 5-step project includes: designing the process, brainstorming ideas from the community, developing specific proposals, getting community votes, and funding projects.

Discussion:

- Deputy Mayor Ushka shared her ongoing support and enthusiasm for this program
- Sandesh asked about past examples of PB and what had resulted from the process
 - o Kenny said that there was a past Tacoma Creates PB project in South Tacoma/Eastside for \$100,000, and the community voted for community cultural festivals that will be held later this year
- Roy asked about how the voting process works, and the number of projects that can be funded
 - o Kenny clarified that multiple projects are possible, and the final proposals that go forward with a vote is determined by the total cost of each project and the decisions of the community steering group
 - o Voting will be done through homemade ballot boxes around the neighborhood, in schools, and online.
- Alex asked if there is an equivalent to the McKinley Neighborhood Planning group further south in the Eastside/South End (district 4) so that group can participate in the process
 - o Kenny said that the group that is leading PB has reps from all over the Eastside
 - o Alex also said that there has been some confusion from neighbors, so it's important to clarify the difference between both NPP and PB.
 - o Kenny confirmed that there will be ongoing coordination between the PB group and the NPP steering group

Vision Zero update

Anneka shared an update on the Vision Zero speed reduction proposal ordinance, which will be read at City Council tomorrow. This ordinance would slow traffic in the McKinley business district from 30 to 25MPH, and the proposed change is responsive to the community's desire for slowed traffic in the business district.

Family Fun in the Park event recap

Alex provided an update on the Family Fun in the Park event, which was held July 10 at Verlo Playfield. The event was successful at reaching new community members, and reps from the NPP, Action Mapping Project, Health Dept, Eloise's Cooking Pot, Open Space program, and Library were there.

Arts Project Committee Report-back

Lynnette and Anneka shared an update from the Arts project committee, which held its first meeting last month. The group includes both steering group members and new faces, and the group decided their first "quick win" will be to work on a mural project with Spaceworks.

Lynnette also explained that the group was approached with a second opportunity for a mural that has already been designed by a Tacoma artist. Lynnette also explained that she has shared feedback already asking if the mural text could be changed to reference McKinley.

Discussion:

- Rick shared questions about some of the mural details, such as the flowers included
- Alex said that she is in support of the mural because we have a need for more art in the district and this mural is being provided free of charge
- Judy agreed that it would be ideal for the mural to say McKinley or McKinley Hill. Though she realizes that it may not be everyone's style, there's nothing offensive in the mural.
- Leon – likes “home” text and would like to see this stay even if “McKinley” text is added.
- Alex – shared questions about whether the view of water in the mural could be updated so that it shows tideflats/docks (as is visible from McKinley).
- Caroline – noted that the piece wasn't made for McKinley, so her preference is to go with the artist's original intent and not to change it.
- Sandesh – agrees with Caroline.
- Lynnette – asked steering group members to suggest possible locations, and noted that given the tight timeline, we may need to go with the mural the way it is.
- Lauren – suggested that SG members email about location ideas, if they have them
- Anneka – clarified that the process is moving quickly, so the final location will likely need to be the one that is most able to jump on this plan. She also noted that we want to leave some of the larger, more visible locations in the business district for the Spaceworks mural that is still coming.
- Lynnette – Bonney's retaining wall along McKinley Ave is one location that could be considered
 - o Bonney is interested/willing to discuss this location further
- Sophia – what are the plans for long-term maintenance in case of graffiti?
 - o Anneka/Lauren clarified that there will be an agreement drafted between Spaceworks and the property owner.

Action Mapping Program update

Matt Kelley shared an update on the Action Mapping Program, which has engaged 1,000 students in Eastside and South End schools.

The culmination of this work is a series of maps that show areas that are frequently used, avoided, and areas for opportunities.

<https://www.actionmappingproject.com/dashboards/mckinley.html>

Discussion:

- Lynnette – ENACT has an outreach committee and would really like to get information from young people as part of the ENACT work she is doing. She will follow up with Matt.
- Judy – also interested in learning more, and will connect with the Health Department’s built environment’s work
 - o Would like to see NPP fund something that is focused on youth
- Sandesh – he is a data scientist professionally and is excited to see this – and would like to know more about the spot at E 34th – could this be E 32nd?
- Matt – will be at event on September 10 to get more information from the community.

Fall Engagement Planning

Lauren walked through some ideas for fall engagement, including a McKinley Neighborhood Fair on September 10 at Rogers Park, online platform for feedback, and roundtable/focus group planning. She asked the group to share any ideas for the Neighborhood Fair.

Lauren also introduced several “models” for an upcoming Community Booster Grant, which will help to provide direct funding to implement the Neighborhood Plan. The models for the grant include:

- Open call for project proposals (traditional grant model), responsive to neighborhood plan and selected by a selection group from the steering group and subject-matter experts
- Request for qualifications for people to deliver select number of pre-identified specific projects (as defined by steering group)
- Hybrid approach of the two

Discussion:

- Judy – noted that she wants to make sure that the loudest voices don’t get the resources, so she likes the request for qualifications approach, so the subcommittees can predetermine what the projects are
- Alex – said that because the steering group has been working to identify projects, so want to avoid open call approach to make sure we can implement.
- Lynnette – likes the open call approach because she wants to make sure we are connecting with all the neighbors about these opportunities, and that hidden folks with ideas can come forward and propose them.
- Alex – wants to make sure that the selected implementers would be vetted, and that we have a clear process to make sure that people can be successful.
- Sophia – asked about the timeline of how long the call would be open for, and would there be a support process for those who might not be comfortable applying for grants?
 - o Lauren – would leave the application open for a month, and hold an informational workshop.
 - o Sophia – also want to partner with orgs in the community to share out all the information

- Bonney – confirming how the open call process would work – would there still be guidance for the kinds of goals that people are responding to?
 - o Lauren: yes, the group would share the draft list of priorities from the draft plan to be responded to.
- Bonney: To get the word out about the fall event/grant, look at putting up banners and signage in the business district
- Leon – agrees with Lynnette – likes the idea of open call, things could come up that wouldn't have been brought to the attention to the full group, and this is a way to get information out to more folks.
- Caroline – likes that in both cases, the Steering Group would have a final say – the hybrid approach would allow for more approaches and could find multiple ways to be successful.
- Sandes – likes the open process, because of guardrails with the work and priorities we've already created. Knows that we need to be soliciting feedback through the process, and the open grant model would allow for this. He also noted that it would be good to have criteria for assessing the process.
- Roy – likes the hybrid approach
- Alex – feels strongly that the point of the SG is to come up with specific project ideas and still likes the request for qualifications approach, but would be okay with a hybrid approach.

Anneka and Lauren said they would put together a more detailed grant proposal and bring it back to the Steering Group at the August 8 meeting for group discussion.

Action items

Steering group:

- Send any final ideas for mural locations for the Urban ArtWorks mural
- Send any ideas/connections to local resources or organizations for McKinley Neighborhood Festival

Staff:

- Send out link for Action Mapping Project [McKinley data](#) and contact info for Matt Kelley
- Create updated hybrid proposal for community booster grant for discussion at the August 8 meeting
- Coordinate on next steps for the mural with Urban ArtWorks to connect to property owners and finalize mural text