

McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning

Steering Group – Meeting #8

September 26, 2022

5:30 – 7p.m.

Attendees

Steering Group:

Ahndrea Blue

Alex Pilch

Bonney Carpenter

Leon Nettels

Lindsay Wills

Lynnette Scheidt

Rick Slater

Roy Wang

Sandesh Sadalge

Sophia Agtarap

Tara Scheidt

Staff:

Kurtis Kingsolver, Deputy City Manager

Anneka Olson, Neighborhood Planning

Charlotte Hevly, Neighborhood Planning

Lauren Hoogkamer, Neighborhood Planning

Minutes

- **Program Updates** – 15 minutes
 - **McKinley Neighborhood Fair/Outreach Update**

Lauren opened the meeting and invited Steering Group Members to share a Neighborhood Fair recap.

Lynnette, Lindsay, and Tara shared their reflections on the event:

- Lynnette shared that it was great to be able to direct people to different City services and departments to share their thoughts, and that supporting a safe, clean, and attractive neighborhood was the focus of many conversations. She also shared that the Steering Group seems to have been successful in getting newer neighbors involved and interested in advocating for McKinley.
- Lindsay shared that she had a conversation with neighbors about ADUs and how the City can support them in the permitting process, and Lauren added that City staff working on ADU policy were at the event and had conversations with attendees.
- Tara received questions at the event about how Neighborhood Planning is connected to Gault and didn't always know how to give an answer. She tried to connect them to the Neighborhood Planning Program and encouraged them to be involved in the separate Gault processes.

Rick asked about the mural location and artist and Lauren clarified that would be discussed in more detail at the Arts Committee meeting on September 28.

Lauren shared the amount of feedback the Plan received from the Fair and the Social Pinpoint, including 65 online comments and 190 votes on the Community Booster Project. Lauren told committee about ongoing outreach: the Dia de los Muertos event and cocreated materials, the Food Bank focus group, and outreach to Vietnamese- and Khmer-speakers.

○ **Update from City Manager's Office/Public Works**

Deputy City Manger Kurtis Kingsolver shared that he had met with Deputy Mayor Ushka to discuss how to fund and implement the McKinley Neighborhood Plan action items. He proposed pulling out projects in the McKinley Business District and design one large-scale capital project, like what was done in Lincoln. The exact timeline for funding isn't set, but he hopes to continue work that the community has done and the planning process. The next steps would be to pair up with the City's engineering team, as well as support from Makers, so they can begin design next year. The ideal timeline would be to have design done for the next budget cycle (either by fall 2023 or fall 2024). A first step is to estimate cost (whole or phased) for the whole project, in order to pitch the project to Council.

Deputy City Manger Kingsolver is attending this meeting to ask the Steering Group how they feel about this approach. His opinion is a piecemeal approach would be more difficult. However, this approach means that actions outside of the Business District will be separate and may be funded in future budget cycles. He clarified that he is proposing a project that focuses on the district itself with safety improvements, curb bulb outs, amenities, etc. He compared it to a project in Hilltop: curb to building face with goals to beautify and increase safety and not including repaving of the street or utilities.

Deputy City Manager Kingsolver wants to design the project first in order to request funds for it. The first step is to request funds for the design, which could be \$200,000-\$300,000 depending on the estimate. Once the project is tangible through the design process, it is easier to secure grant and other funding.

He asked for questions from the Group:

- Tara asked if this process should be paired with the Gault redevelopment, potentially including a roundabout off of Division. DCM Kingsolver agreed that the alignment of the timelines make sense.
- Lynnette shared that safety and traffic calming are important to consider for the project. She shared that the L St sidewalks are an issue with the opening of the bridge and the community garden nearby and a specific road issue in the area. DCM Kingsolver offered to talk offline about the road issue separately. He clarified that L St is going to be a standalone project with a separate process and would require a lot of resources.
- Lynnette complimented the Vision Zero program for their work so far, and the Deputy City Manager added that specific projects like theirs are great to envision and better define what the improvements are in order to implement.
- Lynnette supports this approach to be strategic about funding. DCM Kingsolver clarified that the project would be difficult to fully fund with grants, but it has good potential for partial funding. He believes they can develop a great project based on the work that's been done by the Steering Group.

- Rick asked a clarifying question about the timeline for the project, and how that compares to the timeline for Gault. DCM Kingsolver agreed that working in tandem with the Gault redevelopment makes sense and that the McKinley Plan is a good opportunity to guide that work along. DCM Kingsolver clarified that there will be a conversation this time next year about cost and funding. If funded next year, the project could be built in mid 2024-2025, which might work well with the Gault timeline. If not funded, the timeline would move back a year.
- Rick asked a clarifying question about the plans for Gault included closing a street, and Tara confirmed that in the developer's plans, L St becomes a festival street for the block that goes through the Gault site.
- Sandesh asked for more details on the planning and funding process, and DCM Kingsolver confirmed that by pursuing one larger project, many items could be implemented sooner. Sandesh asked how long similar projects take. DCM Kingsolver restated that this would mean holding off on smaller projects to do one full street improvement, including landscaping, trash, etc., all at one time. The intention is for the construction inconvenience to be limited and for the whole project to be more cohesive. He estimated that, depending on scale, the project could take one year to design (this year) and one year to construct (2024).
- Lindsay asked about short-term implementation of other projects, and the likelihood of getting funding for the large capital project.
- DCM Kingsolver clarified that the "quick wins" can still happen because they're not heavy dollars, and that the projects removed from the funding requests this year would be put back in the larger project. He stated that funding this is a priority.
- Sandesh asked what else the Steering Group could do to advocate for the project, and DCM Kingsolver suggested that next year would be the time to champion it.
- Tara and Lauren clarified which projects will be funded in this cycle.
- Lynnette supported this idea for a welcoming and safe business district. She added that the neighborhood has a list and is willing to volunteer to support implementation.
- **Arts Committee Update**
 - **HOME mural**
 - **Spaceworks mural**

Sandesh and Lynnette gave an update on the painting party for the HOME mural. They both shared that the upcoming Arts Committee meeting will include a discussion about locations and interviews for the artist for the next mural.

- **Community Booster Project – 15 minutes**
 - **Share winning project**
 - **Discuss next steps**

Anneka explained the results of the Community Booster Project voting: the intersection improvement and street mural at E Division Ln and McKinley and suggested next steps.

Action items: Form walkability committee, plan an in-person site visit, work with Makers on design, and collaborate with Arts committee for artwork.

- Rick asked a question about the crosswalks at Division and McKinley and Anneka clarified that the crosswalk would be repainted as a part of this project.
- Lauren clarified that the artist bid will go out through Arts office, who would then convene a panel and make a selection after receiving requirements from the Steering Group.
- **McKinley Steering Group – 15 minutes**
 - **Future meeting calendar and Draft Plan timeline**
 - **Project committee – Walkability and Open Space**

Anneka gave an overview of the timeline for the Open Space and Walkability committees as well as what they might focus on, and asked for questions from the group:

- Lynnette, Anneka, and Lauren discussed a potential ADA-compliant ramp on 34th St stairs and whether this should be included in the Plan. Lauren offered to follow up on this item with internal partners.
- The steering group is supportive of launching these two committees in the coming months.

Lauren sent the link for expressing interest in project committees.

Action items: decide on Open Space project at October meeting, continue to recruit for new Project Committee members.

The group discussed the meeting schedule:

- Rick suggested taking November and December off while the budget process continues.
- Lynnette suggested that the group doesn't want to let things get idle and might take December off but still keep the ball rolling with a 30-minute check-in in November to keep momentum going.
- Lauren suggested scheduling an early November check-in and a celebration for after Plan is published.

Action item: update meeting calendar for November and December.

- **Draft McKinley Neighborhood Plan – 35 minutes**
 - **Social Pinpoint and Neighborhood Fair Feedback:**
 - **Overview: what did we hear?**
 - **Break into small groups and discuss for each section:**
 - ***Did the rest of the community identify anything missing from the plan?***
 - ***Is there more detail shared by community that we need to document in the plan?***
 - ***Did anything surprise you / what other updates should we make?***

Charlotte gave an overview of the survey data, and the group broke out into three smaller conversations to discuss different sections of the Plan (see below).

- **Upcoming Dates – 5 minutes**
 - **Arts Committee meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 4:30-5:30pm**
 - **Next Steering Group meeting – Monday, October 24**
 - **Dia de los Muertos – Saturday, October 29**

The group reconvened after their conversations but did not report out to the larger group due to timing.

Lauren thanked the group and closed the meeting with reminders about upcoming dates.

Actions items: confirm winter meeting schedule, share the draft Neighborhood Plan with Steering Group.

GROUP 1 Anneka

Social Pinpoint and Neighborhood Fair Feedback: Transportation

- Overview: what did we hear?
- Break into small groups and discuss for each section:
 - *Did the rest of the community identify anything missing from the plan?*
 - *Is there more detail shared by community that we need to document in the plan?*
 - *Did anything surprise you / what other updates should we make?*

- Lynnette: we know some of these projects will take longer than we want them to, even E Division and McKinley
 - Crosswalk repainting is still a priority – three stripe mystery?
- Roy: Gault – who will be responsible for sidewalk maintenance / rebuilding?
 - Traffic calming on Division is a big priority, including maybe Division and McKinley?
 - Sidewalks around Gault
- Lynnette: ADA accessible curb ramps
- Sophia: City's obligation to ADA compliance – how does this process work?
 - Document ADA needs / locations in plan – align with bike/ped needs
- Lynnette: Eastside still has some gravel streets – needs to be addressed
 - Safety video

GROUP 2 Charlotte

Social Pinpoint and Neighborhood Fair Feedback: Open Space

- Overview: what did we hear?
- Break into small groups and discuss for each section:
 - *Did the rest of the community identify anything missing from the plan?*
 - *Is there more detail shared by community that we need to document in the plan?*
 - *Did anything surprise you / what other updates should we make?*

Rick, Bonney, and Sandesh agreed that changes to Gault should be considered in the Plan. The loss of a swimming pool and open space means that there are fewer open space resources available to residents.

- Sandesh suggested that open space will be a bigger need after Gault's redevelopment and would like the Open Space committee to focus on several locations and new spaces to make up for loss of Gault.
- Rick added that a water facility could be added to Rogers or McKinley parks.
- Bonney agreed that a spray park in McKinley Park near the Dome would work well, increase safety, and take advantage of a large, underutilized space.

Rick, Sandesh and Bonney agreed that McKinley Overlook should be a priority: making it safer and addressing parking, crime, littering, and car repair.

- Rick suggested that the Pipeline trail is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to McKinley, so maybe it could be incorporated into other projects like on I St and create better connections to parks.
- Sandesh, Rick, and Bonney agreed that nighttime in the park is an issue, which could be addressed by lighting.

GROUP 3 Lauren

Social Pinpoint and Neighborhood Fair Feedback: Business District Vitality

- Overview: what did we hear?
- Break into small groups and discuss for each section:
 - *Did the rest of the community identify anything missing from the plan?*
 - *Is there more detail shared by community that we need to document in the plan?*
 - *Did anything surprise you / what other updates should we make?*

Tara and Alex: We need tree canopy coverage and resources to maintain the trees until they reach maturity.