

Proctor Neighborhood Planning

Steering Group – Meeting #12

December 14, 2023

5:30 – 7p.m.

Zoom

ATTENDEES (14)

Alayna Linde
Billy Frederick
Callie Stoker-Graham
Felicity Devlin
Georgette Reuter
Jennifer Egenolf
Jodi Nelson
Karen Bowes
Karl Cunningham
Matt Stevens
Susan Boegli

Staff:

Lauren Hoogkamer
Anneka Olson
Leander Swan

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Icebreaker** – 5 minutes
 - *Favorite holiday movie?*

Lauren congratulated the group on the Proctor Neighborhood Plan being recommended to Council by Planning Commission. The focus will now be helping the steering group move forward with key strategies and goals for implementation.

- **Program Updates** – 10 minutes
 - Proctor Neighborhood Plan Adoption Progress
 - Plan Updates

Lauren went over program updates.

Lauren: Where is the Urban Design Review Program (UDRP) at in their process, Anneka?

Anneka: UDRP is creating a new program that has made it through Planning Commission and will go to City Council some point in next winter/spring.

Anneka: Would Paster Susan like to give an update on the Mason United Methodist Church (UMC) project?

Paster Susan Boegli: Had a wonderful meeting yesterday with 11 City members from different departments. I walked away feeling like the City supports us and that this is a good thing all around. We are starting to look for a non-profit developer. Once we have a developer, we can start tapping into some grant money and hopefully raise a lot of money in the process. We are at a place where we have drawings from SMR Architects, as well as cost projections based on different funding measures/grants and the potential funding gap. We need \$300,000 before the initial developer fee. If anybody knows some grants or contacts we can utilize, please contact me.

Lauren announced the memorial section, in the plan, for Bill Evans. She also went over the Plan's Major Ideas Summary.

Booster Grant – 15 minutes

- Business District Tree Planting
- Open Streets Pilot

Anneka presented on Booster Projects and the Open Streets pilot.

Discussion:

- Karl Cunningham (in chat): What is the green on these maps? (referring to the map on slide 12)
- Anneka: The green is to advance public seating spaces.
- Lauren asks the broader group about what kinds of street activation they would like to see with Festival Streets and Open Streets
- Alayna Linde: The photo of the street in slide 13 is ideal in terms of what an open street pilot could look like because the street is closed to car traffic but open to people meeting, listening to music, eating, dancing sitting, etc.
- Matt Stevens: Shakespeare on the square or on the street would be very neat, maybe including University of Puget Sound (UPS)
- Alayna Linde: A bike rodeo would be neat.
- Felicity Devlin (in chat): Let's call for more ideas—get the community involved.
- Karl Cunningham: Let's bring in people who want to share music, especially kids. Maybe even bring in food trucks, but I don't want to cause friction with local restaurants either.
- Jennifer Egenolf: I could utilize my connections at UPS and I also like the idea of live music and performing arts.
- Bill Frederick (in chat): Yes, that was a lot of fun. The business district partnered with WA elementary school Choir and Mason Middle School band to do Christmas caroling
- Lauren: Should we be going out for discussing more ideas or more contacts for supporting Open Streets, or make a decision to move forward with this list of already identified partners?
- Karl Cunningham: Both
- Karen Bowes: There should be a committee to coordinate these festival streets.
- Lauren: Anyone against a committee that brings in partners?
- Matt Stevens: Committees are good but they may need guidance from the city or the Steering Group itself.
- Lauren: The City will have a staff member on these committees.
- Felicity Devlin: I like the idea of staged events, but I want to be closing the street more for a community square event and a place to meet and mingle—less planned and “staged.”
- Lauren: We can talk about how long the street is closed and how much of that time is programmed and not programmed.
- Anneka: We can test out models that are both programmed and not programmed.
- Callie: N 26th and Proctor is preferable for pilots because it is nearby restaurants and town square.
- Jennifer Egenolf: Having more extended areas from the curb for eating would be nice.
- Lauren: It sounds like we are hearing a lot of support for more organic (unprogrammed) events.
- Alayna Linde: Maybe every other Friday night we could close the street to normalize a schedule so that people become accustomed to just showing up and hanging out.
- Alayna Linde (in chat): I suppose for a pilot it might make sense to test out different days of the week / times, but it would also be cool if they could be kind of programmatic (e.g., Friday evenings).
- Lauren: I think we don't need to make any final decisions, but we will be coming back in January with a summarized version of what we heard from you.
- Billy Frederick: We could time events to be beneficial for businesses in terms of how busy they are by season.
- Georgette Reuter: Let's look at what other cities are doing, Gig Harbor has a Wine Stroll, for example.

Implementation Strategy – 30 minutes - Lauren

- Quick wins

- Priority projects
- Implementation committees

Lauren went over quick wins, small investments, and the implementation strategy section of the plan. The group broke into 3 groups to discuss plans for future implementation priorities and how the steering group wants to be involved in supporting implementation.

Group 1 Break-Out Room Notes

- Crosswalk design, painting should be priorities
- Really likes open streets
 - Likes White Linen idea
- Karl thinks it would be good to have committees, bring in North End Council, volunteers
 - In general pull in more people from the community
 - Will there be city staff on these committees?
- Leander spoke to Walla Walla Plaza experience with closing streets to create streateries and eventually a permanently closed street that featured a fountain and plaza for eating between restaurants on either side. Also spoke on BIAs and their benefits
- Tree canopy because of heat island effect should be a priority
 - Replace diseased streets ASAP
- We should have Lauren speak with the North End Council to bring in more volunteers to set up festival streets
- New 6 story apartments coming in, will developers be giving money back to the community?

Group 2 Break Out Room Notes

- Gathering spaces for community
 - Things that make Proctor a destination - streateries, seating, attracting people in the summer months, serving the farmers' market
 - Wanting a place to hang around in Proctor
 - Wanting Proctor to be a community place
 - Labyrinth with Mason UMC -opportunity - mental health emphasis; new park space?
 - Will Cushman provide an opportunity for future public gathering space?
- Historic nominations - should be prioritized more quickly, Historic Tacoma would be willing to do some of this for free (not a priority for everyone)
- Safety as we encourage street closures and streateries, making street more safe, restriping crosswalks, red curb painting, painted bulb-outs
 - Crossings and ped safety were a community priority, so it would be good to show some progress
- Group agreed that we should form committees that bring in new people

Group 3 Break-Out Room Notes

Priorities

- Cushman Open Streets/gardening event
- Open Streets
- Historic nominations
- Red curb painting
- Historic Tacoma to support nominations?
- Bike parking, especially for events (like Red Hot)
- Where can bike parking go?
- Signage/landscaping/murals

Ideas for steering group and Committee Structure

- Sub committees, per each section or for each topics
- New people/people who dropped off
- Moving SG to every other meetings, committee meetings

- Or SG first half is committees, last half hour is report backs

Report-Out in Larger Group:

Leander: There was a lot of consensus between Georgette and Karl on starting committees to manage these open street events—whether that is setting up stages, tables, and chairs or replacing and maintaining the diseased trees along the street to maintain a tree canopy that will keep the space comfortable. Karl and Georgette also noted that the committees could coordinate with the North End Council to source volunteers and utilize existing networks. We also discussed BIAs and their perks. Georgette had a question about new development in the area paying into funds that go back to the community for future projects.

Billy Frederick: The time frame for the developers providing funds back to the community has lapsed.

Anneka: Just as an FYI, we do have required off-site improvements, depends on what the buildings are and their size, but that can be an opportunity to fund some our projects street safety goals. So that is something to be aware of: future development can help provide funding for street projects. Billy, do you want to report on what you heard in your group?

Georgette Reuter: So now that the plan is leaving the draft stage, what is the role of the steering group?

Lauren: Good question, we will be getting to that next.

Billy Frederick: Several priorities surfaced: historical preservation of significant buildings, bulb-outs and crosswalks, curb painting, and traffic calming. The need for a safe district (mainly in terms of traffic safety). And community gathering space.

Lauren (speaking for her breakout group): I am realizing there was a lot of overlap with what was said in the other two groups. Priorities for the open streets; a Cushman event could include gardening; other priorities were red curb painting, bike parking, signage, landscaping, murals, in terms of structure—sub-committees could bring more diversity. Also looking at scheduling of future Steering Group activities:

- Moving the steering group to every other month so that committees can meet in the interim,
- Or during the first half of the steering group meeting have small groups for the committee to meet, and then a half hour for the committees to report back to the overall steering group on their discussions.

Next Steps – 15 minutes

Lauren shows the next steps for the Steering Group and NPP going forward.

- Steering Group Evaluation
- 2024 meetings

Lauren asks the group if there is anything they would like added to the evaluation form and noting that the form will be anonymous.

Karl Cunningham: It would be good to know about retention of the steering group.

-<MEETING END>-