

South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Steering Group – Meeting #5

Thursday, July 25, 2024
5:30 – 7 PM, via Zoom

ATTENDEES PRESENT

Council Member Joe Bushnell - District 5
Austin Miller
Ellen Talbo
Heidi Stephens
Ileana Areiza
Kat Raz
Mercy Macharia
Michele Jones
Pennie Smith
Perlita Payne
Ryan Spence

STAFF PRESENT

Alejandra Villeda - Neighborhood Planning
Anneka Olson - Neighborhood Planning
Carl Metz - Design Review Program
Lauren Hoogkamer - Neighborhood Planning
Leander Swan - Neighborhood Planning
Mary Crabtree – Long-Range Planning Division
Susan Johnson - Historic Preservation Office

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
Welcome and Icebreaker	Anneka Olson introduced the guest speakers from the Office of Historic Preservation, Susan Johnson, and from the Design Review Program, Carl Metz (here on referred to as Guest Staff). The Guest Staff were joining to inform community members of the Design Review Board and invite them to apply, and to present on the results and findings of the South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center Historic Properties Survey.
Program Updates/ Housekeeping	In this section, Neighborhood Planning Staff briefly shared the new goal language after some proposed edits at the last meeting pertaining to reducing barriers for small and diverse businesses. Staff confirmed that the new goal language matched the Steering Group’s preferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter: Economic Opportunity and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal: Active Neighborhood Center - Further activate the neighborhood center, reduce barriers for small and diverse businesses and strengthen community capacity to support daily needs, new amenities, and community events for all ages.
<u>Urban Design Program / Board</u> Announcement	Carl introduced the new Urban Design Project Review permit process. This program established an Urban Design Board to review large land use projects. Carl also reminded participants that the applications to the Urban Design Board are still open .

	<p>Steering Group members asked clarifying questions on what type of development in South Tacoma the Urban Design Review Program would review and the maximum size of buildings that could be constructed in the community. Steering Group members also asked about how the Urban Design Project Review Program contributes to the Plan’s goal of an “Active Neighborhood Center,”</p>
<p>Engagement Updates</p>	<p>In this section, Staff summarized that the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan process has reached the Draft Project Ideas phase, which comes with new engagement tools, after having collaborated with the public through the previous phases of drafting priorities and goals with the Steering Group, surveys, interviews, and many live events.</p> <p>The Party Planning Committee also shared updates on their planning for the upcoming summer engagement events, including the decision to do “pop-up events” instead of one large event.</p>
<p>Project Ideas Survey and Interactive Map updates</p>	<p>Leander Swan shared that the new Project Ideas Interactive map had received 11 comments so far with emerging themes being: traffic calming; amenity/service improvements along the Flume Line Trail, and; homelessness.</p> <p>Leander also shared that the Project Ideas Survey had received 8 responses so far with the Plan goals rated “top 3” in importance being: Healthy, Sustainable Environment; Walkability & Connectivity, and; Safe Streets. He encouraged steering group members to help spread the word.</p>
<p>Summer Engagement Planning</p>	<p>Party Planning Committee members presented on their progress noting the following upcoming summer engagement events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Bash at the STAR Center – Friday, August 23 with setup at 5 PM and the event from 6 to 8 PM • Fernseed Pop-Up at Haunted Farmers’ Market – Saturday, August 31 with setup at 10 AM and the event from 11 AM to 2 PM <p>Steering Group members also confirmed an event with The Hive & Co. from 10 AM to 1 PM during the Haunted Farmers’ Market on Saturday, September 28.</p> <p>Party Planning Committee members also described the interactive activities planned for these events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Tacoma “Mad Libs:” Feedback cards that could be added to an interactive mural of sorts—these feedback cards will match the five Plan chapters. • To incentivize participation, attendees that participate in the interactive engagement activities will receive refreshments from a local vendor. • A photobooth opportunity where attendees could take a picture and share their responses to prompts like “South Tacoma needs...” <p>Staff requested community volunteers to sign up at events.</p>

	<p>Alejandra Villeda provided updates on planning for focus groups and future event tabling. The Neighborhood Planning team is still working on setting up youth engagement and is looking to field further engagement at events and pop-ups, at the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council (STNC), and Business District Association. Specific Focus Group ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ludwig Senior Apartments focus group; Park52 other renter groups – (senior/renter perspective) • Centro Rendu; Asia Pacific Cultural Center – (multilingual/cultural communities) • Hosting focus groups in multiple languages (e.g. Spanish speaking businesses) <p>Questions that will be fielded to the Focus Groups were crafted based on the goal language formed in past meetings and workshops with the Steering Group.</p> <p>Steering group members asked if staff could provide sample email language to be shared with networks so they could easily assist with event and focus group promotions.</p>
<p>South Tacoma Historic Property Survey</p>	<p>Susan introduced the Historic Property Survey as a toolbox that the Neighborhood Plan could draw from to meet its goals of “Socially Responsible Development” and “Celebrating History & Identities.” In addition to summarizing the South Tacoma Historic Property Survey Walking Tour that occurred last week, Susan described what historic periods of development were applicable to the South Tacoma Way Mixed-Use Center and noted that there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 building eligible for the National Register of Historic Places • 30 buildings (including the other 17) eligible for the City of Tacoma Historic Register • Possible historic district eligibility for narrow portions of the district <p>Susan also introduced incentives for owners and/or developers to list landmarks, types of nominations, and available historic registers.</p> <p>Steering Group members asked about whether historic listing would impact the tree canopy surrounding historic buildings and/or prevent improvements to tree canopy.</p> <p>Staff responded that historic listing and design review is usually only for the exterior of buildings, and so long as the tree canopy did not modify the structure itself, landmark listings do not prevent improvements to tree canopy.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation Discussion</p>	<p>The Steering Group moved into three Zoom breakout rooms to discuss the following prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should the Neighborhood Plan do to support history and identities in the neighborhood? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage/plaques ○ Individual landmarks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multi-property nomination ○ Historic district ● Are there incentives that are needed to help make nomination of historic properties worthwhile (especially for property owners)? ● What else would you like to see considered that wasn't in this study? <p>Steering Group members also had the opportunity to add and discuss the new Project Ideas Interactive Map.</p> <p>After reconvening, the content discussed in each breakout room was shared with the entire Steering Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gathering spaces that highlight historic stories and themes, also through signage and artistic interpretation ○ Walking tours ○ Historic districts ○ Steering Group members mentioned seeing containers in the parking lot of Visitation Church and were wondering if there is active work happening ● Group 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There should be kiosk(s) for community information ○ Community murals, other interpretive opportunities such as public art or "trash can time machine" (downtown Tacoma example – QR codes on wrapped trash cans) ○ Bronze placards that could help tell information about history (once designated) and QR codes linking to more information ○ Members appreciate South Tacoma's existing "main street" feel, but wonder if a historic district would stifle innovation ● Group 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions about historic districts: impacts, benefits, and process of making a historic district happen ○ Question about the geodesic dome on South 47th Street and whether this could be eligible (not surveyed as it is outside of the Mixed-Use Center) ○ Discussed incentives like special tax valuation and how to increase accessibility (for example, automatic tax incentives; hardware store gift cards to help sponsor home renovations).
Next Steps	<p>Staff reminded the Steering Group that everyone will need to collectively promote the new Project Ideas Survey and Project Ideas Interactive Map.</p> <p>Staff and the Party Planning Committee will continue to plan for the August engagement events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer Bash at the STAR Center – Friday, August 23 with setup at 5 PM and the event from 6 to 8 PM (looking for volunteers)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fernseed Backroom Pop-Up (during the Haunted Farmers’ Market) – Saturday, August 31 with setup at 10 AM and the event from 11 AM to 2 PM (looking for volunteers) • The Hive Co. Pop-Up (during the Haunted Farmers’ Market) – Saturday, September 28 from 11 AM to 1 PM (looking for volunteers) <p>Staff will send out a call-to-action email that contains more details on stock language for Steering Group members to use in promotions and how to collect volunteers.</p> <p>The next Steering Group meeting will be Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 PM, and featuring subject matter experts (SMEs) from the Comprehensive Planning Program, South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD), and the Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Staff asked if this meeting should be virtual or in person, and at least one person said that they prefer virtual.</p> <p>The September Steering Group meeting will feature an SME from Pierce Transit with details TBD, and the October Steering Group meeting will be an in-person Plan Actions Workshop.</p> <p>Steering Group members also voiced that the Neighborhood Planning process should make sure to be doing consistent engagement in both the winter and summer, as the summer can be busy for people and make it harder for them to engage.</p>
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DRAFT Calendar 2024

Month	Steering Group Meeting	Public Event
February		Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-Off Event, February 29
March	Introductions, Goals, and Steering Group Role <i>Neighborhood Planning Team</i>	Spotlight South Tacoma: What’s Happening; What’s Coming in South Tacoma, March 21
April	Framework Discussion: Group Values & Equity	Walking Tour, April 13
May	In-Person Priorities Workshop	None
June	Summer Engagement Discussion Transportation Safety: Road Safety Audit; Vision Zero	One Tacoma Workshops: June 10 and 15
July	History and Identity: Historic Property Survey; Urban Design	Summer: Priorities Engagement Historic Survey Walking Tour, July 18th Launch survey and online map

August	Planning and Environment: <i>Comprehensive Plan – TBD; South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District/Health Impact – TBD</i>	Summer: Priorities Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Bash at the STAR Center – Friday, August 23 with setup at 5 PM • Haunted Farmers’ Market and Fernseed Backroom Pop-Up – Saturday, August 31 from 11 AM to 2 PM
September	Community Safety Team / Pierce Transit TBD	TBD
Fall	Draft Actions; Implementation Discussions <i>Housing Office; Business District Program; Open Space; Arts; Trees/Environmental Services; Participatory Budgeting; Pierce Transit-TBD</i>	Fall: Draft Actions Engagement
Winter	Draft Plan	
Spring 2025	Implementation	