

MEETING MINUTES- DRAFT

Attendees: Willard Brown, David Bestock, Michael Taylor-Judd, Ranette Iding, Kim Justice, Nicholas Ames, Lynda Bui, Parie Hines, Dorsal Plants

Absent: Carol Williams, Amanda Kirk, Ivan Cruz. Resigned: Amanda Leonard (via email)

Staff/Guests: David Goldberg, Aileen Balahadia, April Mills, Sharon Lerman

Intro/Welcome

David welcomed everyone to tonight's meetings and reviewed tonight's agenda. Tonight will be the last of the "show and tell" overviews from city staff about current initiatives affecting Delridge. All future meetings will be focused on next steps- what we do with the information we've gathered, how to gather new information and focusing on action ideas.

Food Access

Sharon Lerman from the [Office of Sustainability and Environment](#) shared an overview of the city's overall food policies and programs as laid out in the 5 year Seattle Food Action Plan. OSE is the coordinator of a large interdepartmental team and effort focused on regional policies, Seattle planning and 7 different community based programs. Several handouts were provided to the group and can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/food>.

In Delridge, the [Delridge co-op grocery](#) has been a long standing effort to bring fresh food to the neighborhood. Ranette spoke about the status of the project. This is a volunteer led project that is set up as a mixed stakeholder (shopper, farmer, and employee) co-operative to ensure stable access to fresh foods for Delridge residents. They began small with occasional farm stands and now have a physical location at Brandon/Delridge. (2200 ft total). They focus on bringing in owners who pay an equity share to be part of the co-op. About 330 owners have signed on. They are now still fundraising in order to apply and pay for the permitting necessary to begin the project build out. The build out will take 3 months and after a 1 month stocking and training will be ready for business.

Parie wondered if the city OSE had funds to support such a project especially during this critical launch phase? Sharon suggested possible DON neighborhood match fund as they don't have funds for this. She also talked about supporting other ongoing initiatives, like the mobile food stand, that could support the Delridge co-op by possibly co-locating at opportune times. Funds to support private operations and enterprise is tough. Michael wondered about the city's ability to waive or discount heavy permit fees for projects like this? David said there isn't usually a waiver of fees but often special consideration for community supported projects. Michael wondered about other community grown projects that need further support (ie: city fruit, beekeeping, chickens, garden growing) and Kim asked about the possibility of replicating the Beacon Hill food forest. All ideas are worth considering, especially under the momentum of the ACT. But each project needs substantial community or volunteer (or nonprofit) support to maintain, as the city wouldn't be doing that. There is some interest on the part of SDOT to possible pilot ideas for surplus or open properties they have, like the old surplus substation lot, for food-related activities.

TO DO: As part of the ACT process, David suggested documenting and mapping these food related community projects

Natural Drainage Systems

April Mills from Seattle Public Utilities provided the group with an overview of the importance of the stormwater infrastructure and how its changed over the years as more of the earth's surfaces are built on (concrete) vs. left in more porous condition (soils, greenspace). Stormwater that doesn't properly drained or treated can increase floods and increase pollutants in our waters and to our wildlife. Underground pipes help to control stormwater and drain into the

Lake, Puget Sound and into Longfellow Creek. The pipes can either be separate systems (sewage, storm) or community sewer overflows.

April explained that SPU is interested in focusing in on the area draining into Longfellow Creek because of its ability to focus on water quality that is the best value for the investment. This area happens to have both separate and CSO systems. This plan is to be approved by 3Q 2015 by the EPA, Dept of Ecology and City Council, but April is starting now with educating the public about the options.

The hope is to choose 5 long blocks in this area (not necessarily adjacent though that may be preferred) that meet specific technical requirements. A map of those projected areas was shared. These blocks will include right of way planting strips with appropriate soils and plants to support under drainage and natural filtering, and will hopefully reduce pollution in Longfellow Creek. Additionally these improvements can also support traffic safety by including traffic curb bulbs and 1 sidewalk where there is not one now. Most importantly, April notes this project needs overall community support as inevitably as they bump into adjacent property, there is never 100% support for such work. This project is in addition to other projects currently underway like the Orchard Street CSO work and the 17th Ave natural drainage system. More information can be found at: www.seattle.gov/cso and click on integrated plan, and then natural drainage systems.

Dorsal suggested that one “hot spot” isn’t noted in orange and he wondered why. April will look into this but guesses it may be related to the slope. Lynda wondered how surveyors approached residents. April often subcontracts with community groups (like White Center CDA) to do outreach and they do requires badges and identification. Willard wondered about how to earn approval with so many interest groups and perspectives. April said they do not use a set % approval rate to proceed but use a general rule of thumb and where there is least resistance. Michael suggested that zoning and new growth targets need to be part of the equation when addresses drainage. For example, do new private developments help or hurt natural drainage?

TO DO: April check in on spot behind DESC building at Brandon/Delridge for reasons why it isn’t eligible for NDS.

TO DO: April keep group informed about approval and moving forward with site selection later into 2015.

Partners to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant report

David thanked the group for providing quick support of the PICH grant over email this last month. DPD and SDOT applied jointly to support the Delridge community health planning effort as an extension of this ACT work. Funded by the CDC via King County, the work generally will provide horsepower to 1) support DPD and SDOT in its “nodes” development integrating transportation multi-modes with community planning, 2) update the parks and open space plan for 1999 with a priority to improvements that link to active living and food and 3) support mission aligned community organization to take pieces of the ACT plan and integrate and implement moving forward. Groups like FEEST would take leadership role in convening community, the groups and 2 Summits. This last piece comprises 60% of the total budget

TO DO: David and team will provide updates to the group once award notices are made.

Neighborhood Priorities

The ACT was asked to review the neighborhood plan matrix to note any possible missing pieces or updates needed. David has reviewed and is beginning to put together a larger matrix that includes past plan recommendations, current initiatives already in motion, and other ongoing community priorities. This will be organized into various “buckets” or subject areas and will eventually be the basis for the ACT plan that we’ll seek input on.

TO DO: ACT members: Review neighborhood plan matrix and send comments to David

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Minutes submitted by Aileen Balahadia. Next meeting March 16, 2015