

## **Lake City urban design advisory group**

Meeting 2 ~ March 12, 2014

Lake City Community Center

5:30 – 7:30 pm

### **Meeting Notes**

**Advisory Group Member Introductions** (see end of document for list of members present/absent)

#### **Welcome & summary of previous meeting**

Brian D. Scott reviewed how the urban design work fits in with the commercial revitalization plan (OIS grant) and multimodal corridor study that will also begin this year. He identified a tentative structure for working groups that will lead these efforts. He reviewed ground rules and responsibilities for the advisory group.

#### **DRAFT project principles discussion**

Brian led the group in a discussion of the draft project principles. Group members quickly identified that a strong vision statement is necessary to tie the principles together and clarify the process for developing the urban design framework.

Lake City is one of a few communities in the City with a highway running through it. People feel differently about the east and west sides.

“A river runs through it.”

The demographics of the neighborhood are shifting.

There’s no there there...we need to create a heart for the neighborhood. People tend to identify with surrounding neighborhoods more than the LC HUV.

Where does (how does) the neighborhood fit into the broader context of Seattle? What’s our place within the region?

#### **We need a unifying identity.**

Need more open space and better pedestrian environments.

The vision I have for Lake City is more like downtown Redmond than Ballard. Ballard visually has no style at all; it’s just 6-story buildings.

Ballard has a vitality, preservation of the historic core...LOTs more people. Redmond paved over a golf course with a (nice) strip mall.

I don’t have strong sense of the identity of Redmond.

We need to create more intergenerational opportunities to get kids and teens involved in the community.

Connectivity is the key – physically and in terms of relationships. How can we get our diverse population connected? We can start by building on what we have.

LCW/SR522 is a key feature and the greatest challenge.

Northgate mall really shifted the focus away from Lake City's business district.

The natural environment, particularly the Thornton Creek watershed is an important part of Lake City's identity.

There's a large percentage of single family zoning.

We lack a central gathering space & should identify a distinctive place. [is there a way we can develop an basic program for what should happen at the old FS39 site?]

We need to strengthen the land use code to help ensure that the right development gets built.

We want to attract people to Lake City. We want this to be a **vital** community.

We've got one of the best dance floors in the city. [there has GOT to be a market for hipsters and square dancing...or there should be]

### **Revised project principles**

- strengthen the business district
- reinforce Lake City's unique sense of place, scale, and character as it grows
- enhance public spaces and natural features
- improve sidewalks and pedestrian connections across Lake City Way, within the Civic Core, and to public schools
- build on existing transit service and identify opportunities for new facilities that make it easier for people to ride transit and bicycles
- provide housing for our diverse population
- improve access to services and activities that nurture healthy, vital communities
- capitalize on the Thornton Creek watershed

### **Brief review of previous plans**

Katie provided a brief summary of the following plans that have been developed over the past 20 years [see pages 13-19 of the slideshow].

- 1992: Urban Villages Visualization Workshop
- 1999: Plan for the Neighborhoods of the Lake City Community aka North District Neighborhoods' Plan
- 2001: Civic Center Master Plan
- 2007: Design Guidelines
- 2009: neighborhood Status Check
- 2012-2013: UW visioning

Additional plans were mentioned including a Gateway Study from the 1970s, a WSDOT corridor in the mid-1990s study that preceded the neighborhood plan. Katie mentioned that WDOT has done a more recent study traffic safety study, which has informed SDOT's Traffic Safety Project and that she's working on getting current traffic counts for the arterials. She indicated that it will be particularly important to coordinate the urban design work with the Multimodal Corridor Study. She was also asked to find out how the neighborhood is being considered within the Parks Legacy Plan

*Additional comments...*

Tolling on SR 520 could have an interesting impact on LCW traffic.

There is [at least some] support for an all way walk (scramble!) at the intersection of LCW & NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Downtown Lake City: existing character of buildings & streets**

#### **Strengths**

- Diversity
- There is a downtown core to start with
- Undeveloped/underdeveloped land
- Affordable
- Boulevards
- Transportation
- Transit
- Mom & pop businesses
- Single family homes
- Topography (bowl)
- Fiber optics in LCW
- Change is coming – Pierre's have 14 acres, but the development opportunity is bigger this
- Mid-century modern theme
- Bootlegger heritage
- Strong market

#### **Challenges**

- Parking
  - Parking – common theme of problems for business districts throughout the city. Private parking typically in buildings and lots, public on the street. There is lots of surface parking not, but it's not really safe or convenient. [indeed it's not]. Sometimes business owners park in front of their stores, taking up spaces where people who actually want to shop at the business could use. [check auto-ownership rates for the area compared to the city as a whole].
  - How can we reduce auto-dependency? [does this need to be a principle? It's certainly a main goal of the Comp Plan]. We need to encourage people to get out of their cars and stay here.

- Would shared parking be helpful?
- Bartell's really was a missed opportunity [what's the status of minimum density requirements?]
- Parking is an issue for the Farmer's Market too [which is in trouble ☹]
- Public safety
- Lacking sidewalks
- Long north-south axis of blocks exacerbates the challenges of LCW. We need more east/west connections.
- Missing trees/trees being replaced with the wrong species
- Signage currently identifies Lake City as a strip
- Impact of traffic on LCW pedestrian environment
- Undesirable businesses
- Find cohesive theme

### Opportunities

- Pedestrian "all-way scramble" at the intersection of 125<sup>th</sup> & LCW
- Public transportation
- Shared parking
- Add green to the urban core
- Mid-block pedestrian passageways
- Boulevards with same species of trees (existing and new)
- Tree ordinance (canopy)
- "C" streets
- Rotating art on LCW
- Pedestrian level plantings
- Guide bulk, scale, and form of buildings
- Need east-west permeability between buildings (mid-block connections)
- Prominent retail spaces
- Divide LCW into sections
- Food trucks (NOTE: this was brought up as a potential way to activate the mini-park during the 2013 NAT process)
- Identify the heritage that we do have
- Will Rogers legacy epitomizes the history of the neighborhood
- Fiber optics in LCW
- Family housing
- "new" landmarks; need to identify **what we want to save.**
- SeaFair Pirates are headquartered here
- There is a market here – look to the success of Elliott Bay Brewery
  
- How can we really encourage family size housing. Could L2/L3 zones require a minimum number of bedrooms?

[also get pictures of LC park-ing day]

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Adjourn

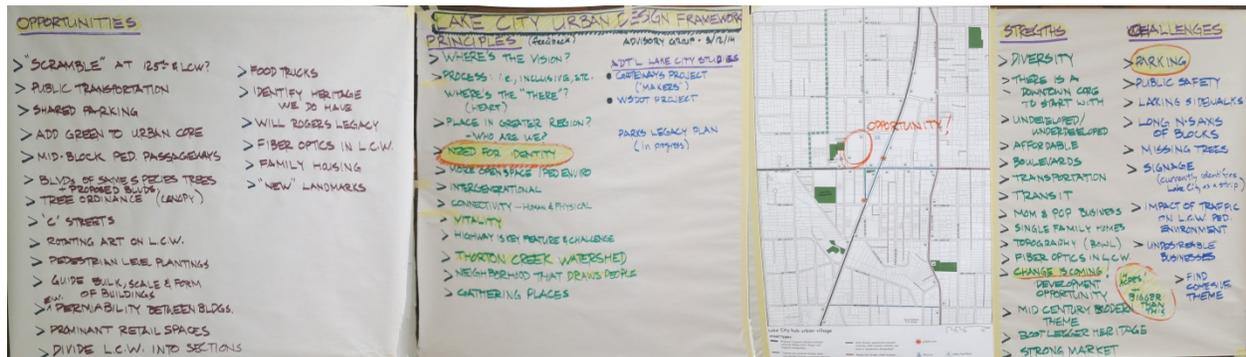
The meet adjourned at 7:30.

## Advisory Group Purpose

The Lake City urban design advisory group is composed of people throughout the North Neighborhoods who will meet throughout 2014. Members of the group will work together to provide ideas and recommendations to:

- (1) The Lake City commercial revitalization steering committee and
- (2) The City regarding future development, particularly on commercial land in-and around the urban village.

Group members will also reach out and collect ideas from people throughout Lake City and the North Neighborhoods.



**Advisory Group Members Present**

Marty Curry, *UW faculty leading student/community design studies for the Pierre family, Lake City neighbor*

Mariela Fletcher, *North Seattle Chamber of Commerce (Board Member), Cedar Park / Meadowbrook resident*

Dan Hickey, *resident Victory Heights/Pinehurst (aka Victoryhurst), LCNA, parent*

Colie Hough-Beck, *Seattle Planning Commission, Landscape Architect & Urban Designer/Planner*

Danielle Loeding, *Olympic Hills Neighborhood Council (Chair), Olympic Hills Elementary School SDAT team*

Mark Mendez, *Lake City resident, LCNA member, 35-year resident, Youth Trainer at Goodwill*

Don Moody, *Pierre family representative*

Dave Morris, *Lake City resident, LCNA, business owner, Douglas Park Cooperative*

Eddie Plana, *UW student visioning work, Lake City Greenways, Lake City neighbor (Shoreline)*

Ray Robinson, *resident (Olympic Hills / Victory Heights), small business owner, consultant for original neighborhood plan*

Sarajane Siegfriedt, *Lake City resident since 1997 and housing advocate*

Annie Stocker, *resident (Olympic Hills / Victory Heights), small business owner (Two Dog Yoga)*

Mark vonWalter, *28-year Cedar Park resident, LCNA member, retired architect*

**Advisory Group Members Absent**

Tim Motzer, *LCNA, South Cedar Park Good Neighbors Association, North District Council, Lake City Neighbors for Environmental Justice, Friends of the Conservatory, resident since 1981*

Amber Trout, *North Seattle Family Center & UW CBE PhD candidate*