

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Lynda Bui, Amanda Kirk, Willard Brown, Michael Taylor-Judd

Absent: Kim Justice, Parie Hines, David Beastock, David Goldberg

Staff/Guests: Ann Jewett, Nancy Slote, Aileen Balahadia

Intro/Welcome/Updates

Folks introduced themselves around the room- and provided neighborhood updates or kudos. Ann Jewett is a relatively new Delridge/Sylvan Way resident who came to the June 6th workshop and was interested in hearing more about how she can be involved with the Plan. Welcome!

Willard announced that DNDA is beginning their refocus on community programs and will soon hire a community and resident liaison who will be housed, with himself, at Croft Place. He also thanked everyone for their verbal support of the surplus property at 23rds Ave SW and DNDA's plans to convert into an urban agricultural farm. They are in the final round of consideration for a tech grant from the National Park Service. A formal letter of support was circulated and signed by members.

Find It Fix It: Aileen was asked by Kerry Wade, DON, to remind folks about the Delridge Find It, Fix It walk on Sat Oct 3rd from 11am-1pm. She is in need of volunteers to help plan the walk as well as turn out a large number of neighbors for the event (Typically 75-100 people). Michael noted that the city's FIFI smart phone app is a great way to instantly report graffiti, sidewalk problems, etc. that then immediately get addressed by proper departments. Also, Michael suggested the fact that this tour is centered around Brandon node already shows Delridge's interest in not just "fixing" things but also in looking at the possibilities and future community development opportunities on site- things like infrastructure development, Stormwater/drainage, green space and pedestrian safety. It's also important that the walk go beyond Delridge Way into the neighborhood. Aileen also reminded the group that there is a \$5K grant that is available post-walk to implement some projects. The group noted it isn't a ton of money to do a larger marketing /streetscape improvement, but wanted to defer to the walking group for ideas that may come up.

TO DO: Aileen will relay to Kerry the group's interest in promoting the event widely as well as Michael's interest to support planning. She will also find out about the parameters of the \$5k- beautification only or possibly other, community-building or organizing projects?

West Seattle/Admiral Branch Library

Nancy Slote visited our group to share some of the overall planning the Seattle Library system is doing around supporting small businesses. As part of a 3 year plan, the Library wants to decentralize the Central Branch's small business services into the neighborhoods- and a librarian (Nancy herself!) will be trained for business assistance. She is here to listen and understands this group is interested in supporting Delridge area businesses. She noted that the Library gets numerous requests from potential and existing entrepreneurs in areas such as business planning, market analysis (Database access!), demographics, finance, operations- and they make many referrals to business partners like SCORE, Ventures, etc. They don't yet work with local Chambers or business groups and that may change given this new focus.

Building our Work ahead

Last month our group broke into small groups and discussed priority areas of work that we ourselves would like to work on. The activities were themed around supporting small business/economic development and other growth issues such

as zoning and design. In an effort to take those ideas into something workable, Aileen distributed a draft work plan. Using the heading of the Plan (Goal #1: Develop Neighborhood Destinations), she broke down the ideas into 2 Goals and their respective strategies.

Goal 1A. Business Development and Recruitment (general). Strategy 1: Activate a community, business and land owner partnership to work with the city Office of Economic Development to create a Small business support, recruitment and development strategy. Strategy 2: Early implementation of business development support projects to gather support and momentum for a larger, more coordinated strategy.

Goal 1E (new). Support community influenced development. Strategy 1: Develop design guidelines and principles that aligned with community/neighborhood vision for health development. Strategy 2: Influence appropriate development

In each strategy, a short work plan of activities/steps was created. See document for update.

The group focused in on the first Goal, 1st Strategy of “Outreach, Research and Surveying”. In order to really proceed with these ideas, we really need to understand what our small business owners need and how much they want to be involved. Without getting out there, we’re not even sure the breadth and depth of the # of businesses on Delridge. There is past work we can look at (the council’s work at Brandon node, DNDA’s past work also at Brandon) and there is an opportunity to talk with natural partners like West Seattle Chamber, Junction and of course, the city OED. Willard thought that a resident survey would also be interesting to do to understand our existing customer base. Michael noted that Pete Spalding is on the West Seattle Chamber and Willard is in communication with Lynn there, so it seems like right timing to partner with the Chamber. A grant from the city DON small and simple might be a good way to undertake this effort. DNDA is a natural sponsor, but they have an existing large fund grant and cannot host another one.

Lance from OED’s business services unit will be present at our next ACT meeting. He mentioned a project he worked on bringing possible developers on a Rainier Valley tour to see possible available lands for development, together with the Rainier Chamber. Complete with nice marketing materials, he thought that kind of thing could be done at Delridge. The group thought it was an interesting idea but also cautioned that a strong community voice and history is needed to complement the effort, and there isn’t that yet for Delridge economic development.

TO DO: Willard will talk to West Seattle Chamber about possible sponsorship of a survey project applying for funds from DON Small and Simple (Due Oct 5th- can we make this deadline?)

TO DO: Aileen will update Parie and ask for her guidance in this phase, given her past work.

TO DO: Aileen update work plan with new additions and ideas.

Delridge Days Summary

Michael reported it was a very successful 10th annual event with thousands of people in attendance, 40 vendors/booths , live music stage, kids/bouncy house area and a stop by with the Mayor. There was specific information being shared regarding the new Healthy Delridge Parks vision, funded recently per David Goldberg. Consultants were on hand surveying community about their top priorities related to Park programs, Community Centers and other place based amenities. In a summary provided by David G, most folks overwhelmingly were concerned about public safety in these outdoors places. Also of high interest- food access (farmers markets, stands), culturally safe outdoor spaces, and specific park amenities lacking. Next up: FEEST is the youth led nonprofit that will be conducting youth led dinners and roundtables to gather more youth ideas and the city’s POEL program will also be supporting similar survey efforts from the Delridge ethnic communities.

Ann wondered how someone new, like herself, would even begin looking to plug into community projects and activities. Web sources like the West Seattle Blog, next door, social media neighborhood groups are a good place to go. Not everyone would know this and an interesting idea about a “Welcome Package” for new residents was suggested.

The Plan: Workshop

The draft action plan will be shared with the community at a workshop set for Tuesday Sept 29th. We are hoping that ACT members will work alongside city staff to promote the plan and seek feedback and prioritization for the strategies listed. Willard was particularly concerned about timing and how much we had to pare down prior to the 29th. Michael was concerned about the date being prior to the FIFI walk- though Aileen noted there is some internal deadline the city was working on. If anything, the Workshop could promote FIFI and info from FIFI could still be incorporated into the Plan. More info to come with more detailed planning at the September meeting.

Given this, we’d like to reschedule the Sept ACT meeting for earlier than the 3rd Monday. The group agreed to Tuesday Sept 15th at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Minutes submitted by Aileen Balahadia. Next meeting Tues Sept 15th, 2015 at Youngstown