

## MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Lynda Bui, Amanda Kirk, Ranette Iding, Willard Brown, Michael Taylor-Judd, Parie Hines, Ann Jewett

Absent: Kim Justice, David Bestock

Staff: David Goldberg, Aileen Balahadia

### **Intro/Welcome/Updates**

Welcome Ann officially to the ACT group!

David congratulated the group on submitting the Department of Neighborhoods matching fund grant. It was great to get a few business owners to sit on the committee too. We will find out if we will be awarded in 4-6 weeks and likely we'd begin this business outreach project in Jan 2016.

Willard announced that DNDA's efforts in the near future will focus on two issues particularly: education/STEM access for Delridge schools and food access/food justice projects, along with the

### **ACT Composition**

David said this is good time to possible add/recruit new folks to the ACT, as the planning phase comes to an end and action/implementation begins. Sharing the plan is a good way to garner momentum and volunteers. Some folks are also drawn more to action, rather than planning. There has been a slow attrition of folks: from 15 to 10 and now a group of 7-8 folks. That's been quite normal in past ACT efforts. Breaking into committees is a strategy to use moving forward.

### **Find It Fix It Reflections**

The Delridge Find It Fix It Walk occurred on Oct 3 from 11am-1pm and was reported generally as a very successful, intimate opportunity to engage the Mayor in both group and one on one conversations. This is an opportune time to take advantage of the Mayor's attention and follow up from staff and departments. For example, Willard met with SPU folks, including the director and a point person, to support the wetland project and "green" capital projects. Ranette received verbal support for the Delridge grocery, even with their most recent loan denial setback, and has some follow up with OED and CCD. They were able to tour the Mayor through the future DESC space too. Parking requirements are still a challenge especially in interpreting DPD rules. She also believes more understanding needs to occur about the value/role of co-ops as a successful business model. Michael said he got to spend time with the Mayor talking about the issues of safety and necessary development in the commercial corridor ...speeding, lighting, sidewalks, loitering, and becoming a viable business district. Regarding the small grants available, Michael said Nature conservancy did some pre-beautification work along with tour route/mural. But he wasn't sure what post-walk energy there was to access the funds with such a small amount available.

### **Debrief: Delridge Plan Workshop Tue Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

David and Michael's takeaway from the event was that there was nothing too new that came out of the event, which means we've done a good job to this point capturing community priorities. Attendance was good, POEL attendance was larger than in previous meetings, and it was great to have ACT members involved in facilitating. David shared his handout of the key themes in Community Connections, Parks, Vibrant Neighborhood Destinations, Drainage, Access to Affordable Healthy Food and Strong Communities. (SEE HANDOUT). He also shared the raw data and voting that occurred by each of the 4 areas in several handouts (SEE HANDOUTS).

## **The Next Stage: Writing the Plan**

The next stage of this work is to really begin refining and adding more detail especially from the Healthy Parks and multimodal corridor work. For instance, there will be some direct outreach/surveys from POEL communities to add more depth in Oct/Nov. David will then continue refining the language in the Plan and laying it out in Nov/Dec. Hopefully the final plan will be complete by year end. (SEE HANDOUT for more detail).

He asked the group about what seems to work with the draft format he presented (modeled off the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave plan). This plan has to feel like it's OUR plan that can be adopted by the community. Folks emphasized wanting to see local pictures, action photos and other descriptors that showcase Delridge. Michael wants the executive summary or other pieces to be translated. David suggested the city's guidelines of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Spanish and Somali for Delridge. He also liked the past use of graphics from past outreach events related to the Plan. Aileen suggested use of a graphics heavy poster to share widely. What is the Delridge narrative? Ranette suggested she'd like the plan to acknowledge the history of hard work and deep civic engagement. Lynda really wants the Welcome to Delridge sign to be printed in the Plan, but we all know it needs to be refurbished, enlarged and moved to a better location. David noted that other narrative themes included: green space/open space, education/jobs and food.

From December into the Spring 2016, the stewardship work needs to occur to figure out how the plan turns to ongoing action and accountability. Aileen's work will continue here, together with city partners and organizations/individuals interested in moving pieces of the plan (action teams). We need to engage our Delridge stakeholder list at this point too. In Rainier Beach they've used an annual Town Hall to review how they're moving on the Plan. In the CD they use the ACT as an opportunity to unite the different organizations together, especially since there are so many. Delridges' situation will be slightly different and we need to brainstorm what this is.

**TO DO:** David will send the existing Plan and layout via email so folks can provide more comment.

**TO DO:** David continues writing/refining sections of Plan as detailed.

## **Conversation: City Parcels/Housing?**

Michael brought up a report that showcased that there was a series of city owned properties at Sylvan that are surpluses and could potentially used for community priorities such as affordable housing. He wondered whether this has been discussed. David said it's quite rare to have an opportunity to influence project use and project sale, the way city surplus properties can be. He also said that affordable housing doesn't come up too as high priority, probably because the area remains generally affordable. But the group was quick to point out this is trying to get ahead of a growing housing crisis happening city wide. Michael said that somehow if the community interests could be prioritized in these projects that would be ideal (ie. Green, housing, commercial/mixed development). Lynda sked about the role of the special review district. However, by the time the project is in front of this review, its usually too far down the process to influence its purpose. Michael noted the irony of the city wanting to develop rapid ride and public transit along Delridge, but isn't considering the development potential more fully. Ranette asked about the opportunity to create industry here, especially since retail doesn't provided the highest paid or breadth of jobs to jumpstart economies. She talked about the Delridge grocery interest in food based economies. Aileen mentioned 3 projects occurring that are all community-driven community economic development projects that we can learn from (Rainier Beach- Food Innovation District, Othello- Opportunity Center, and CD- Tech Town). David pointed out these were all born initially out of neighborhood planning work and Delridge could follow down the same path.

**TO DO:** David will look into the location and status of these surplus properties.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Minutes submitted by Aileen Balahadia. Next meeting Monday 16, 2015 from 6-730pm at Youngstown.