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**SE 122nd Ave. Pilot Project
Community Working Group
Meeting Notes
January 14, 2010
Gilbert Heights MS Library 7-9PM**

In Attendance: Mark White, Lauree Carlson, Jean DeMaster, Annette Mattson, Jennifer Will-Thapa, Jill Kuehler, Erin Kendrick, Rhonda Richardson, Sue Gillean, Michelle Lohn, Mollie Ruskin, Pascal Maboko, Jim Braet, Steve White (guest)

Absent: John McDonald, David Berniker, David Edwards, Jose Pinomesa, Sue Stahl, OPAL Representative

Staff in Attendance: Julia Gisler, Barry Manning, Chris Scarzello, Lora Lilliard, Bill Cunningham

Welcome

Barry: Introductions, review agenda

Introduce Steve White, here to represent the Health Partners Working Group and provide some background information. (Note that this project includes a Technical Working Group also)

Study Update

Process and Timeline review, relationship to the Portland Plan and the 9 main topic areas. Description of tasks, announcement of February workshop, request for help with outreach for the workshop, future CWG meetings will be in March and likely May to review final products.

Question: is there going to be a presentation to City Council at the end of the project?
Response: that is yet to be decided, but since we're not expecting to make any code changes, we don't necessarily need to present to council. We can make a presentation to the Planning Commission to describe/recommend next steps.

Question: So does that mean that zoning won't be changed?
Response: There might be some small changes but no large wholesale changes. For example, we likely won't be able to change the R2 zone to lesser densities - that's a larger Portland Plan question/process.

Question: at EPAP we've been talking about main streets - does that intersect with this project?
Response: it does, especially when we talk about the 20-minute neighborhood concept - creating a place where you can get a lot of your services within a short distance.

Question: How do we NOT make any zoning changes if that's what this project determines is necessary?
Response: we can make recommendations for a follow-up project to take that on - this project doesn't have enough time to take that on.

Comment: the main street idea is a good one but it should be noted that the program will not fund main streets within a URA. Clarification on "main street" and "Main Street" program. Brief description of MS Program.

Questions about density, a-overlay, etc. Chris offers to provide a "development 101" session if anyone is interested.

Announcement about Latino focus group on Feb. 8th

Julia: Overview of Health perspective, description of grants received for the project and future work.

Issues raised - sidewalks and lack of connectivity

One thing the HPWG would like to do is meet with the CWG to discuss health issues. Discussions to date have been around access to transit, sidewalk connectivity, and access to healthy food.

Question: is there some outcome required from the grant?

Response: there should be some actions identified at the end of the process - it's on a 4-year timeline, we are currently looking at existing conditions.

Question: how do we relate to that part of the project?

Response: usually there is one group that connects to the community and we're thinking that this group, the CWG, is the link between the HPWG and the community.

Handout a summary of the Neighborhood walks and the discussions we had - we're accepting comments until next week (2/12), if there's anything we missed let us know.

12/8 Workshop Debrief

Staff handed out is a summary from the December workshop, the notes and survey results are included (Barry reviews the notes and survey with group)

Comment: the turnout was disappointing.

Discussion on public outreach. For the first workshop, we sent a postcard to every household in the project area and got about 30 people for the walks (the first 2). For the 3rd walk we used the schools to distribute a flyer, and didn't get much of a turnout.

Barry described the December workshop outreach effort. For the next workshop, we've considered putting a flyer in "This Week" magazine. Any other ideas?

Response: how about lawn signs? Posters? School newsletters?

David Douglas school - Dan McCue - just put out a facebook page and we can e-mail it to our active list. We (DD school) can also personally contact people we know in the area.

Response: Another idea - ask for 10 people from the non-profits you (the city) work with. Steps to Success can do direct mail for less than half of what you paid for the first mailing. Can David Douglas direct e-mail to parents?

Response: East Portland Chamber will post info on their web site. Also, the business association and state representative can contact folks in their districts?

Question: do you think language barriers have something to do with poor turnout?

Response: My experience w/122nd is that there are a lot of immigrants along 122nd that don't know English. Focus on Spanish, Russian, and Vietnamese. Need better contact with IRCO/Africa House. The best contact from Africa House would be Jimmy or Laurant.

Comment: if we had a flyer with a date and just a little bit of information about the workshop, we could post it at Human Solutions and give out flyers too.

Discussion about translation services and where to get help. Africa house has multiple languages available for translation.

Comment: Maybe you can ask to be included on an agenda for a regular meeting for some of the immigrant groups, and can talk for 30 minutes about the project. At IRCO we have a class on Friday afternoon where American culture is taught.

February Workshop

Discussion about the February workshop - the focus is going to be on infill design issues, we'll give a brief overview here so you can let us know if we're on the right track. Bill Cunningham will provide a short presentation, he's worked on these issues a lot.

Bill Cunningham - presentation (PPT attached)

Barry - additional slides we're thinking about including at the workshop: description of state law and design review, design standards issues and whether these kinds of tools will really help design of buildings or not.

Question: where does mixed use fit in with the Portland zoning code?

Response: there is only one zone that forces mixed use, otherwise it's allowed in all commercial zones but not all residential zones, only the highest density residential zones (RH and RX).

Description of the 122nd Ave diagram w/nodes

Additional photos of good/bad examples

Comment: looks like those buildings are only 3 feet apart, doesn't the fire bureau have some say?

Response: we're trying to circle back to the fire bureau on that issue.....

Additional slides with pros (+) and cons (-)

Comment: regarding trees and setbacks - I can't emphasize my concern about tree preservation enough! When we (DD school district) added on to Alice Ott MS, we had to plant trees yet the city let us cut down a bunch of trees. Why doesn't the city require some of all of the trees to be preserved when the trees are so important? They are part of the neighborhood character and add to our livability!!!

(Several other comments about trees through-out the slide show)

Summary: did the slide show capture the design/infill issues? Is there something else that we need to include?

Comment: I'd like to see a little more discussion about setbacks and a healthier living environment. I haven't been to DC but hear that they do it well. It's all about clean air issues....

Comment: I'd like to see discussion on the issues around street improvements - new house with a new street that connects to gravel and dirt on the way out to the main street!

Comment: how about better lighting for pedestrian areas and bus stops? 122nd doesn't have adequate lighting, and the open spaces are not lit at night and are not safe.

Comment: Better design in community spaces and open areas on commercial properties - awnings, stone work, some consistent features

Comment: Can we include discussion about the high-accident intersections along 122nd?

Comment: Is this project only going to focus on residential development along 122nd? The concern is that if 122nd is going to stay residential, the impact on the school district is huge. That kind of development will likely destroy the school - it's over capacity now. We need someone from BPS to be our champion, and we need PDC to build the first mixed-use development to help kick-start community development that isn't all residential.

Comment: Can we find a way to keep the youth group involved?

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next Meetings

A public workshop to discuss Infill Development and Design Issues, as well as Community Amenities and Livability is scheduled for February 23, 2010, 6:30 PM to 9:00 Pm at Ron Russell Middle School, 3955 SE 112th Avenue.

The next meeting of the Community Working Group is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2010, 7-9 PM, location to-be-determined.