NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING WORKSHOP - Summary Minutes

Cafeteria, North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Lane, Eugene, OR

February 7, 2018, 5:00 P.M.

Community Advisory Committee members present: Jon Belcher, Kate Perle, Cameron Ewing, Ed McMahon, Louisa de Heer, Ann Vaughn, Michele O’Leary, Louie Vidmar, Rebecca Sprinson, Rick Duncan, Luke Callahan, Terah Cleveland

Technical Advisory Committee members present: Terri Harding, Jen Knapp, Amanda D’Souza, Althea Sullivan, Philip Richardson, Sarah Mazze, Sasha Luftig, Chris Henry, Matt Rodrigues, Reed Dunbar, Rene Kane, Jeannine Parisi, Chelsea Clinton

Project Management Team and other staff present: Lindsey Eichner, Zach Galloway, Eric Brown, Audrey Stuart, Julie Fischer

Purpose: The Community Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and working groups came together for the first time to begin developing a vision, goals and policies, and an action plan for the River Road and Santa Clara neighborhoods based on the feedback received during the Reaching Out phase of the planning process.

Outcomes: Working groups draft values statements based on the input collected during the Reaching Out phase.

Agenda items:

1. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) orientation
   a. Introductions and discussion of the role of the CAC and draft group agreements.
   b. Q and A with City project manager Zach Galloway.
2. Large group conversation
   a. Introductions of the Community Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and Working Groups.
   b. Community Resource Discussion. A panel of community leaders representing North Eugene High School, Huerto de la Familia, Lane Independent Living Alliance, and Saint Vincent De Paul at Ross Lane shared their work in the neighborhood and how they have interfaced with the Neighborhood Plan project.
3. Group activity representing demographics of River Road and Santa Clara residents.
4. Participants broke out into Working Group of their choice
   a. Each Working Group went through brief introductions and then Technical Advisory Committee members provided a presentation on existing plans, guiding principles or policies, and projects, as listed below:
i. Land Use Working Group: Terri Harding presented the Envision Eugene pillars. Lindsey Eichner presented on land use in Lane County.


b. Working group members were introduced to the Data Summaries showing compiled results of outreach during fall 2017, as well as the interactive web map. (Note: all working group materials, including Data Summaries, are available online under each topic area page).

c. Working group members filled out cards where they completed the phrase “As Neighbors, We Value…” The intent was to distill values gleaned from their neighbors’ responses from fall 2017, and balance those with community-wide initiatives the TAC members had shared earlier. Time was provided for participants to share and discuss the values statements they crafted.

5. Participants reconvened as large group to go over next steps leading up to the next workshop on March 20th.

6. Adjourn

Action Items

• The Community Advisory Committee will work with staff to compile the values statements, which will be shared in advance of the next working group meeting.

Appendix

• Appendix A: Values statements submitted by each working group
Neighborhood Values Identified by Working Groups

Transportation

- Aesthetics - especially on River Rd, murals, plants/trees
- Shade for active transportation users
- Accessibility for alter-abled, including for access to transit
- Safety
- Connectivity between RR and SC
- Active transportation on River Rd, with comfort and perception of safety for 8-80
- Streets clear of debris like gravel, branches, fir cones, etc, especially after storms
- Access to farms and to river and to schools
- Connectivity and access for active transportation and transit
- Safety, connectivity (between places and amongst people) and access are top priorities
  - Maximizing opportunity
- Reliable transportation
- Aesthetics around transportation
- Integrate experience on the ground into planning
- Walkable and bikeable neighborhoods
- Bike and Pedestrian safety, especially to connect to schools and the river paths. We value quiet streets and neighborly connections.
- The ability to bike, walk, and take public transportation to school, work, and for shopping
- I really value QUIET. The surface of River Road (and speed/volume of traffic?) make the corridor extremely noisy-almost impossible to hold a conversation while walking along. For this corridor to be truly "livable" and an attractive place to spend time, something needs to be done to mitigate the noise.

Community

- Disaster resiliency and training
- Recreation (Emerald park, bike path)
- Responsibly enjoying our environment
- Sharing bounty
- Living within our ecological means
  - Local food production, edible landscaping, front yard gardens, depaving, appropriate public property, walkable neighborhood, less automobiles, use CERT, mapping your neighborhood, Neighborhood Watch more creatively to promote preparedness and resilience, create connections between different demographics within the neighborhood
- Food production
- Building community
  - Places to, events, via schools
- Being connected and feeling connected
- Resilience outreach
- Living in place
- Open dialog/chat
- Feeling safe
- Public safety
  - Traffic enforcement, police presence, what police agency to call (City/County)
- We value neighbors working together to enhance the beautiful natural park spaces including native plant restoration projects along the greenway.
- Building community
- A "green footprint" on the land

**Land Use**

- Maintaining large lots while creatively accommodating increased density
- Safe and clean river path
- Equity
- Farmland- farm to table food, community gardens on park land, farmers market, excessive traffic, lights, noise from parks, buffer lands between ag. lands and housing
- Preservation of ag. lands both inside and outside UGB, recognition of the connectedness of our surface storm water system and our more rural character—not just as an aesthetic quality but as functional floodwater infrastructure (naturastructure), appropriate buffering between apartments and single family—appropriate buffering between residential and ag. uses, finding common ground between all folks and improving livability for all residents through personal interaction
- Human and environmental capital, as well as, monetary capital when properties are developed
- Multifamily housing that is integrated into the neighborhood, sensitive multifamily development design standards to achieve density while improving the feel of the neighborhood
- Infill design standards to preserve neighborhood character and livability
- Local markets and gathering spots such as coffee shops within safe walking distances in our neighborhoods
- Promoting livability through “buffering”, not building multistory apartments with high density and no parking in the middle of the existing single family areas, needs to be in code
- A safe and car-free connection to the City core via bikes and mass transit, must include neighborhood bike paths as well as parks along river, connecting the sections of the neighborhood with bike and walking paths (not having to go to River Rd to go one street over)
- Preserving farmlands and promoting/supporting gardening activities in the neighborhood (clean water/chickens), the character of current large lots and homes in RR-SC, open spaces and access to sunlight (design standards), feeling safe and being able to walk the streets and bike without fear, the rural feel of our neighborhoods, a feeling of community, access to parks and natural food store
- Maintaining current character of the neighborhood as semi-rural, with large lots and smaller, modest one-story homes, I value: saving and preserving mid-century architecture—these houses are well-built, and a good size for starter homes, young families, and older people who are downsizing. Their size makes them affordable and they are being replaced by very expensive, large, 3000 sq ft houses that go out to the lot lines, and are out of scale with their neighbors
- Development that contributes to the neighborhood fabric
Opportunity for affordable development and housing

- We value context sensitive housing developments along the main transit corridors. We value the development of housing that is affordable, and suits the needs of different demographics, such as live/work spaces and accessible design.

- The heritage character of River Road meaning architecture that blends with older homes and buildings, diversity in buildings and people

- A greater array of attractive, quality affordable housing options that are dispersed, not concentrated, throughout our neighborhood

- Focusing density along arterial/transit corridors while protecting other residential areas from intrusive and out-of-scale development

Parks and Natural Resources

- Bike paths and sidewalks to parks, connections!

- Youth, seniors, families

- River and shore

- Food security

- People doing things together, community building

- Safe, usable river bank, parks and recreation including RRPD

- Protect and enhance native habitat for birds and pollinators

- Resource use, sand and gravel, protect- recognize use, value

- Connection to schools, parks ↔schools

- Developed recreational activities, safe and accessible

- A consistent and comprehensive commitment to preserve nature and native habitat (especially the river), sensible, low density development that lives in harmony with nature; housing... needed, yes, but with low density; planet health, “green” in multiple senses

- Places to play
  - Kids, families, dogs

- Representation, being heard

- Accessibility

- Planet health
  - Global warming, habitat, pollinators

- Parks and natural resources

- Sustainable funding

- Water table health, storm water

- Soil—protections/maintain

- Safety in recreation, accessibility

- We value our parks and open spaces, especially the river and the river path. We value our park and recreation services. We value neighbors working together to enhance the beautiful natural park spaces including native plant restoration projects along the greenway.

- Access to Willamette River, gardens, trees

- Having parks nearby our homes that are safe and free of contaminants seems important to most respondents. I see a theme that it is important to use our park spaces to promote community where possible. I also think that promoting resiliency by looking into the possibility of adding edible landscaping to our parks where possible should be done. Such programs may even be supported by community involvement.
We value the Willamette River and the area adjacent to it along the riverbank as a park. It is the only place in town available to most of us where we can get away from cars, buildings and walk in a greenway undisturbed by development. This area is already very narrow and limited. Developing it more will diminish its value as a separate from hurried, noisy, crowded areas. Once this is lost it will not be returned for my and anyone else living's lifetime. Homes can be built in many areas but once that land along the river is lost it is lost for good. As the city develops its value will rise as now we look back at the original idea of a bike path and realize that without that will to set aside land for recreation we will be left without one of the treasures of Eugene and a wonderful place for people to play or relax. Don't reduce its size any further. Twenty years from now such a mistake will be more obvious. Try to think long term about the future of the city and this area in particular.

The big, beautiful Willamette River and Greenway corridor as an important natural area, wildlife corridor, provider of ecosystem services, and contributor to our neighborhood character and quality of life

Green, not Gray, parks and streetscapes- that is, with large canopy trees, natural drainage, and ecologically functional landscaping

Existing park and recreation services provided by local park district.

Local parks within walking distance on the west side of River Rd. Remnant orchards and undeveloped parcels have value as potential new public parks or community gardens in this area.

Clean air, clean groundwater/wells, clean river and creeks, good soils

**Economic Development**

- More greenscape, less concrete/tall buildings, access to local professionals, less travel dependency/more gathering/living, bikeable/walkable access to other parts of City/parks/adventure; working, shopping, gathering, eating close to home; good schools; being proud of where I live, making the hood a destination
- Branding garden buy local campaign, “Farm to Table/Permaculture Research and Education Institute,” special area zone for urban ag., integrated housing and commercial developments, “town centers” rather than strip malls, entrepreneurs, innovation (appropriate tech centers), small manufacturing, cooperatives
- Support and enhancing the commercial property and business in SC/RR by helping redevelop commercial property—realizing that commercial areas can support the local hood by helping to reduce VMTs
- A flexible and responsive local (RR/SC) economy that provides diverse services and employment
- Buying things locally and close by (getting there by bike/foot/bus), access to food—both restaurants and groceries, supporting our neighbor’s businesses, having more public gathering/green spaces (mixed use areas), entrepreneurship
- We value local businesses and small scale sustainable economic development.
- Localized economy based on meeting local needs as close to home as possible. Limiting big box and corporate interests extracting resources from our community
- The ability to work from home, particularly access to reliable high-speed internet service.
- Economic development in the form of small businesses
- Developing River Road as an attractive, distinctive commercial corridor where residents like to shop, gather, and visit