

HALA Community Focus Groups

Focus Group Orientation

Monday April 4, 2016

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room



Focus Group Breakout Sessions

Facilitators documented group conversation, summarized here.

Expansion Urban Villages

- What's the starting point?
- What role did for profits play?
 - Committee members
- Affordability levels?
- Retail below - Business structures
- Othello – Big commercial spaces don't work
- Will there be a focus on business zoning?
- Support business environments, too
- Urban villages are all different
- Neighborhoods are unique
- Zone changes only with urban villages, but what about expansions?
- Preserve the housing that we have, too. A lot of existing older housing is affordable
- Mayor taking SF off the table. Could it be brought back onto the table?

HUB Urban Villages

- Will we be spending time with folks in our neighborhoods?
- Think the groups need to be smaller
- Be clear on what the final work product will be (mapping).
- Need more options (e.g. MIL apartment)
- Are we going to use root cause analysis?
- Are we going to divide into small groups?
- How were representative sizes for each UV determined?
- Be careful about the words we use (e.g. "homelessness vs. communities experiencing homelessness")
- How will the 90 minutes be structured (to maximize participation)?
- Concerned about amount of time

Medium Density Urban Villages

- Make information easy to understand
- Fixed dates for meetings and scheduled ahead of time
- Scope of our work – all HALA recommendations or select group related to zone changes?
- Need a set of acronyms and definitions – glossary
- Clarifying question on #3 – HALA or Mayor’s recommendations?
- Include single family
- C1 and C2 – on the table?
- Is the mandate on the table? (MIH)
- Linkage fees and displacement
- Focus group can discuss residential
- Net/new – preserve existing when adding new housing (preservation tax exemption)
- Single family zoning exclusion – need to share opinions w/City
- Study groups would help focus groups’ work
- Accessibility needs to be part of affordability
- Data and analysis - →impact analysis
- Transitioning – temporary with goal to own a home – how do we make this work for people?

Lower Density Urban Villages

- Provide clarity on goals and outcomes for this process
- Need a larger room where everyone can see each other
- Request for a Spanish interpreter
- Request for a schedule of upcoming neighborhood meetings to be available on the Seattle/HALA website
- Consider opportunities for future meetings with combined Focus Groups
- Need for basic information about land use and zoning changes