

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Citizen Community

April 3, 2009

Meeting held at the SE Seattle Senior Center

Pam Carter, Planning Outreach Liaison

Chosen area (what we like about the neighborhood)

- Diversity is a plus
- The people — diversity, multiculturalism, different lifestyles, cultures, languages
- Schools — local schools have unique makeup and programs
- New merchants — exciting, more choices

Housing (would like to see)

- More multi-family options such as ADUs (mother-in-law units), no townhouse/4-plexes, must fit the current area, not shoe-horned into single-family, must have good design
- Larger homes
- Lower taxes
- More economic diversity
- Gentrification shouldn't push out current residents

Goods, Services, Shops (would like)

- Like the new shops, they offer more choices
- Cultural resource center — hub for activities, educational opportunities for youth & families
- Full-service supermarket — especially near Othello station, (would like to know why it is moving), very strong feelings about this, city should prohibit sales clause prohibiting new grocery store at this site, is a neighborhood necessity, what can be done now!!
- Clothing store — like Kmart, Wall-Mart, Fred Myer, Target
- Drug store/pharmacy
- Do not want to destroy existing small businesses, especially ethnic stores
- Larger dance studio
- Vocation opportunities such as beauty school
- Keep the small restaurants
- Wholesome foods — PCC, farmers' market, etc.
- More p-patches, support for healthy eating
- Health clinic

Parks & Community Centers

- Concerns over safety in parks, need better lighting
- Need more year-round programs in parks
- Community centers — have an adult focus
- Don't use parks much
- Parks need to be outdoor living spaces with tables, chairs, chess boards
- Walking — people need places to sit & rest

April 3, 2009

- Concerts in parks — maintain/encourage current festivals, schedule regular performances (bi-weekly? Year 'round?)
- Reputation of parks as having drug-dealing

Unique characteristics, Sense of Place

- Area is a valley, it funnels gatherings into one area
- Need more community gatherings — invite celebrity such as Bill Gates, Oprah
- Need a public plaza with programming
- City needs to develop a positive image for SE Seattle

Transportation

- Now take the bus especially when going where parking is limited/expensive as at doctor's office
- Often drive
- ACCESS bus could use extended hours
- Light rail — would take to the airport but can't get to local station, would like park'n ride at the station, need bus routes to the station, not easy to get to the station, luggage difficult to get on to bus to go to airport
- Parking policy around station needs re-examined — businesses need parking & restricted parking hurts them, not enough parking is required for new residential buildings
- Sidewalks — need more, should be wide in the business district
- Othello/MLK — a rare cross-valley connector, activity centers (neighborhood service center, police, community center, library) need connected by a shuttle because of the hills/topography, difficult to walk between sites
- Need wheelchair-friendly routes to parks, including signage for such routes
- Believe light rail will decrease congestion
- Light rail stations are more than 1 mile apart so need to continue MLK bus

Misc.

- Norfolk Business Park — perfect for green technology businesses and could provide jobs for local residents
- City needs to consider effect of redevelopment of Goodwill site on this area, not just the positives & negatives, but the types of effects

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Citizen Community

March 18, 2009

Meeting held at Esperanza Apartments. (senior apartments)

Pam Carter, Planning Outreach Liaison

Participants were given 4 sticky dots to place next to the item or items they felt were most important. They are shown here by this symbol ●

Types of stores we would like to see

- Grocery store ●
- Walmart ●●
- pharmacy / drug store / Walgreens
- repair store — for TVs, etc.
- Post Office ●●●●●
- Furniture store
- small shopping center (many stores in one area)
- movie theater
- fast food — McDonalds, KFC, Pizza Hut
- diner — Sheri's, Denny's, Country Buffet
- gas station
- vegetable stand
- Farmers' Market ●
- optical shop

Services

There are already enough hair salons & barber shops

Parks

- Need more police after 5 pm (after dark)
- John C. Little Park & 37th Ave. Park are well maintained ●●●

Identity, Community Character

- Ballard & Columbia City feel like a community because of things like a movie theater and variety of shops ●●
- problem — streets are not maintained, potholes are a problem
- need sidewalks to feel like a city
- need to feel safe
- a gathering place would need to feel safe
- dumpsters are an eyesore, need to be hidden or other alternative (inside building?) ●
- invite local musicians to play in public areas, stores, senior apartments
- hanging flower baskets
- attractive landscaping — flowers, street trees ●
- attractive planters
- attractive street lighting

March 18, 2009

all this for a village feel (see the 4 items above) ●●●●

community events — festival, picnic, celebrate diversity, cultural exchanges, music in the park/plaza

need trash receptacles on sidewalks, emptied regularly, should be nice-looking

need to establish a culture of no littering, not taking grocery carts — through education & high-level of maintenance ●●

Transportation

need sidewalks, would like to walk to local stores

we walk, take the bus

we will ride the light rail & go downtown to library, doctors, shopping, museum (SAM)

need to be safe riding light rail (even in the evening)

need bike racks at stores

better lighting on street for safe walking

Parking

must make sure there is adequate parking for any new stores, buildings ●●●

concerns about spill-over parking from light rail station

want street parking on 37th Ave. S. preserved ●●●●●

parking is already inadequate ●●●●●●●●●●

need more parking enforcement, especially disabled parking ●

Concern

Will the plan really be implemented?

Misc. (off topic)

Metro Route 160 — I travel from Othello\MLK to Renton for my job at Walmart. Will this route be cut when the light rail begins this summer? How will I get to work?

April 13, 2009

Meeting held at Beacon Tower

Housing

- Need more low-income housing – especially for families & large families
- would like free WiFi in public housing

Current Character of the area (positive aspects)

- El Centro de la Raza, Beacon Hill library
- convenient, good bus service
- older buildings – we like that
- predominately Asian businesses
- large Hispanic and East African communities
- diversity enriches the neighborhood
- negative – unsafe walking

Future of station area (needs)

- ice cream parlor
- moderate/low price supermarket such as Safeway
- pedestrians need
- safe routes, pedestrian connections to destinations
- place to exercise
- such as local gym
- dime store/variety store or dollar store
- clothing store
- drug store
- fast food places
- cluster of stores with parking like University Village
- theater
- rain protection for pedestrians – awnings
- more pedestrian signals near light rail station
- bicycle lanes
- police presence
- Laundromat
- Park
- free wireless (WiFi) in the business district

Transportation

- More east-west streets/pedestrian paths/bicycle paths to enable people to go east down the hill and west across I-5
- pedestrian signal timing needs adjusted to accommodate pedestrians with walkers and people in wheelchairs

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Citizen Community

April 13, 2009

- No Smoking signage in the 2 bus shelters at 14th/Massachussets and need new/correct bus schedules posted
- will ride light rail – if affordable for low income seniors, will there be a monthly pass?
- will visit daughter in Burien (ride to Tukwila station), will bus/walk to station
- need more pedestrian crossing routes near light rail station
- Beacon/Holgate overpass (I-5) is dangerous for bicyclists because westbound the sidewalk terminates in a stairway with no warning
- Columbia Way needs sidewalks on both sides between Beacon and Rainier
- need light rail information, ask Sound Transit for presentation

Parks

- need more parks – small ones in the neighborhoods, with covered area, table
- rain and wind protection are important
- a plaza at El Centro de la Raza would be great
- need off-leash dog park

Sustainability

- dark skies – need to decrease light pollution
- conserve rain water for use in the parks – maybe a lily pond or use water for park irrigation
- solar-powered lights

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Community

April 23, 2009

Meeting held at Courtland Place

Housing

- We live here because — daughters are near, affordable, familiar, close to downtown, was a long-time area resident, was a long-time area worker
- Need to get ride of gang activity, need to be safer outside, need accessibility

Character (now)

- perceived as “less worthy”
- high crime
- enough small eating places, especially Asian

Character (in future we would like)

- street lighting
- beautification, like Columbia City
- more shopping opportunities
- cameras
- businesses that attract foot traffic
- businesses for low-income shoppers/more affordable shopping options — Grocery Outlet,
- Kmart, WallMart, etc.
- “sit down” restaurants (not fast food), diners
- small park, one we can walk to
- plaza with tables, coffee kiosk, food stands
- bookstore

Parks

- need to be more convenient to get to — I need to take a bus now but would like to be able to
- walk to a nearby park
- safety is a concern
- small pocket park
- would like plants under the pedestrian bridge at MLK/Rainier and other amenities at nearby bus stops

Light Rail (will you ride it?)

- Sometimes — might ride it to the airport
- If I have to take a bus to the station, I might as well stay on the bus

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Community

April 23, 2009

Transportation

- Sandwich boards & vehicles block the sidewalks, need better enforcement of current laws
- High traffic volume generated by businesses that replace (or are an addition to) existing low traffic volume businesses — this really impacts pedestrian safety
- Need more lighting
- Need to replace/maintain sidewalks, tree roots are a big problem
- Need a pedestrian crossing on Rainier at Court St. where there are bus stops, but it is difficult to
- cross Rainier safely
- Wet, slippery leaves on the sidewalks are very dangerous and last for many months