

Steering Committee Meeting #2

April 2, 2020 (Go-To-Meeting 6-7pm)

Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members:

Stephen Collins
Daylin Garland
Bev Holiday
Ian Maloney
Gerardo Nucete
Ron Rawe

Neil Connor
Dean Gosney
Joe Klare
Steve Mathisen
Justin Otto
Don Spaulding

Sandra Eismann-Harpen
Amanda Gray
Ken Lewis
Tony Mirarchi
Mike Radwanski
Rosemary Williams

Project Team:

Larisa Sims

Kris Hopkins
Frank Twehues
Shawn Riggs
Danielle Steinhauser

Sara DiLandro
Keyu Yan

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Review of last meeting & homework: Comments from initial stakeholder interviews and feedback during/after last meeting helped us begin to define categories for further discussion. 2015 Comp Plan homework identified which goals/objectives from that Plan are still valid, which activities are completed and which are still ongoing. Result: Seven (7) goal categories for discussion in 2020 Comp Plan Update. (See handout of combined Meeting and Homework comments)

GOAL CATEGORIES

Good Government

- City is easy to do business with, maintain that

Strong/Vibrant Neighborhoods

Meaningful citywide connections (sense of community)

- Maintain historic resources – need to enhance language and make more clear that historic resources are integral to Newport’s identity, future – what attracts people and keeps them here. Balance between kinds of buildings, celebrate different neighborhoods.

Sustainable Environment

Economic Prosperity and Resilience

- Maintain existing businesses. Business retention. See encouraging business growth, want to maintain that. More language about strengthening/maintaining current/existing businesses.
- Better cooperation with neighbors and within region
 - Who/where
 - Cincinnati
 - Other northern KY communities
 - What

- Economic development. Newport has always been perceived as separate, not integrated. Need to behave as if part of the Cincinnati economy. Caution: Cincinnati is a big city, Newport is a small town – different perspectives, mind set. Newport should learn to take hold its own future before partnering with other communities.
- Services (social, emergency, etc.). There is opportunity to partner with neighbors (Bellevue, Dayton) to share resources (example: fire departments, mutual aid).

Healthy Community

Well-Connected Multi-modal Transportation Network

- How will we measure what success will look like? (metrics)

Park Planning / Festival Park – What is Festival Park’s role within Newport’s park network? How should recreational offerings and activities complement other parks? How should it be designed, how does it fit within the larger Riverfront? How can it be better connected with the rest of the City? (See handout of combined Meeting and Homework comments)

- Original design for event space with better access to the waterway – is that still needed?
- More greenspace, would like it softer, less hardscape. Proposed design is largely concrete, prettier, but very similar to what is there now. Shade is badly needed.
- Would like space to be more flexible, able to hold different kinds of events and still function daily as a recreational greenspace. Also easier maintenance.
- Use existing and create more festival space elsewhere
 - Use existing infrastructure, places like shopping center. Monmouth Street other spaces for events
 - Relieve traffic congestion
- Parks should be primarily for recreation, secondarily for festival space
- Park should be one space, different levels make is less attractive, less often visited or useful on a regular/daily basis
- How does Ovation impact the relevance of Festival Park? How does Festival Park fit into the broader view of the riverfront.
- Lack of restrooms (here and in general) is an issue (also lack of funding for restroom maintenance)
- Concern for flooding, significant cost associated
- Do not need to make the space smaller – events there are tight, many attendees wish some were still held at the shopping center

Strategy for Public Engagement - Originally anticipated community forum end of April/early May, now changing focus to online survey and online community forum. Need everyone to take the link and let us know if there should be any changes. Please have changes back to us by 4/9.

- Ideas on how to publicize and increase participation:
 - Targeted online ads (City’s PR advisors, cell phone nets)
 - Other list-serves, neighborhood groups ‘apps/sites
 - Fliers in carry-out bags
 - Handout at current school food program
 - Apartment managers
 - Kroger/shopping centers



- Schools, teachers doing home visits (especially high school teachers, good to get students participating)
- NBA email list & website
- Facebook/social media
- City direct mailing
- VMB
- Church bulletins/web services
- Nextdoor App (not mentioned in meeting, idea from team afterward)
- Concern about reaching “missing voices,” populations that do not typically participate in planning activities – southeast, area south of Newport Shopping Center. Clifton is well established – no list serve, but still talk. Possibly go door to door?
- Survey accessible by different devices, note that on any print materials/other publicity.
- Pandemic, while keeping people home (from talking to one another) may increase survey participation (sheer boredom 😊)

Wrap up

- Reminder about homework, draft online survey responses within next week, finalize quickly and by middle of April get it live.
- First cut goals/objectives & FP comments 2 weeks to respond, send comments to Larissa by 4/16.

Next Meeting: April 30 6 PM

- GoToMeeting Format
- Preliminary Agenda: refine goals/objectives based on comments and start to discuss key focus areas.