

**Name of Group: Neighborhoods**

**Meeting Date: February 23, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 6PM**

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

**Members Present:** Lisa Miller, Dionne Hines, Ashley Robbins, Nikki McDonald, Keagan Sacripanti, Marissa Mortiboy, Chanetha McCabe, Erin Durkin, Rebecca Winders, Michael Stock, Laura Biediger (members absent: Karen Lado, Jess Brandes, Felipe Blue, Tara Parrish, Dian Wilson)

1. Chat Icebreaker and Group Agreements refresher
  - What's on your heart today?
  
2. Update from Staff
  - As a reminder, in our meetings today and in March our goal is to have a draft list of policy ideas and recommendations that we can engage residents around during the next phase of engagement (from the end of April through the end of June).
  - After working through revisions suggested by the group this evening and over the next few days, the Planning staff team is then going to be trying to pull together all of the policies in one format that all of the working groups can see in our March meeting. We know a lot of things that we've talked about in discussion have been around how these different topics are linked. So this will give all groups a chance to understand how other groups are tackling different policy areas. That'll also give us a chance to see where we have overlapping policy ideas across topics that can be combined into one.
  - After our March meetings we will do another round of revisions from Policy Working Group input and then share these drafts out with City and County staff to take a look at before publicizing at the end of April for community input.
  - Community input will be focused on hearing how we can revise policies to better reflect the needs and perspectives of residents and to determine if there are policies missing from our list.
  - Staff is working on determining timing for future working group meetings beyond spring engagement and we will share that soon. The intention is to have

one or two more meetings after spring engagement to share the community feedback we've received with the working groups and allow groups to contribute additional feedback and editing of the draft objectives. This will likely be around July and August.

### 3. Policy Editing Brainstorming

- Meeting purpose: refining and updating policy ideas and recommendations to be shared during community-wide engagement in Spring.
- Policy writing/editing tips:



- Policies are typically one sentence long (maybe two). Try to keep these statements short, clear, and concise.
- Policies are typically action-oriented. Consider using words like enhance, expand, create, remediate, etc.
- Work on incorporating equity meaningfully into each statement.
- Discussion Prompts:
  - How can equity be better reflected in the statements? Who, specifically, should the policy center in terms of demographic identities or geographies?
  - Do we need to expand upon any of these policies to ensure they are getting at our intended outcome?
  - Can any of these policies be combined?
  - What is missing from our list of policies?
  - How can sustainability and health be better reflected in the statements?
  - What are priority policies for this group?
  - What are questions that we have or information we would like to share with other policy working groups?
- Thoughts and reflections on draft policies
  - Overview of how this document is structured
    - Divided into big ideas, then grouped into policy ideas and actions
    - Nine big ideas (most of any group) but significant overlap
    - Overlap between other policy working groups (Community Relationships and Complete Neighborhood left off the list for today for this reason)

- Working group members added comments within the document in addition to discussion
- Suggestion to use plain language, simplify ideas/goals
- Ownership opportunities for low-income people of color and indigenous people - note historical exclusion from housing opportunities (equity; avoiding pushback around idea of preferential treatment)
- Incorporating health as a standard - Partnership for a Healthy Durham Health and Housing committee could help with adding the health aspect to the policies
- Trade-offs in land uses and how land is used for different priorities (open space, building horizontally vs vertically)
- Could combine policies that fit together to narrow down list
- Allow renters to build credit through rental payments
- Do we have a consensus definition of affordable housing? What is cost-burdened? Different levels or types of affordability
  - Distinguishing between geographies (Durham MSA vs city limits) in setting AMI levels
  - Combining housing and transportation costs to determine affordability
- How to incorporate what we like about existing neighborhoods into new neighborhoods
  - Complete neighborhoods objective (across multiple working groups and goals)
  - Need new development to connect to existing/old, no new self-contained developments
- Aging in place, housing for people with disabilities; associated plans (master aging plan) and policies
  - Desire to point to and connect ideas to existing plans and policies from the City and County in the final form

#### 4. Finishing Up

- Staff will send follow-up notes to this group for review before posting publicly to the EngageDurham site.
- Next meeting will be in March (**March 9, 16, or 23?**) [Doodle poll](#)
- What can we work on individually before our next meeting to meet our goal of having a good working list of draft policies by the end of that meeting?
  - Add comments/suggestions on the draft policies list to the [document](#) by the end of the day Monday, February 28;

- Share ideas for engagement on policies with staff
- Is there any information that the group needs to share with another working group? All information will be shared specifically with the Spanish Language Working Group to get their input on policy language.
  - Hope to see equity prioritized in the transportation policy, this is really important for the intersection of transportation and neighborhoods policy
- Any announcements for the group?
  - Laura invited folks to the next Our Community Stories on Friday (February 25) at noon
    - [https://www.durhamcommunityengagement.org/our\\_community\\_stories](https://www.durhamcommunityengagement.org/our_community_stories)
    - past episodes: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLeX6M8cvLwNeBp8p8XJBLf-TFDZeh0Ki>
    - rsvp for Friday's events (and it will put you on our list for 2022) [https://www.durhamcommunityengagement.org/our\\_community\\_stories\\_west\\_end](https://www.durhamcommunityengagement.org/our_community_stories_west_end)
  - Ashley shared information on Lyda Moore Merrick who founded and edited The Negro Braille Magazine (later named The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind), the only national publication dedicated to the needs of blind black persons <https://hayti.org/about-us/lyda-moore-merrick/>
- Please share any thoughts or suggestions for how we can improve future meetings with our team after this meeting if you'd like to share.
- Thank you!