

Outreach Team Meeting Agenda and Notes

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2021

Time 6:00-7:30pm

ZOOM Meeting

1. Welcome & Icebreaker

Fourteen members Outreach Team members and six members of the City-County Planning Department were in attendance.

2. What's Next

- Staff gave a quick presentation, discussing the Outreach Team's role during the remainder of the plan, including how we see Outreach Team involvement with the policy working groups, and how we'll work together over the next year.

3. Questions & Discussion

- Policy Working Group Structure
 - What time will the August 30 meeting start?
 - Staff is still working on a start time but will confirm and share with you all soon.
 - If someone signs up for multiple groups, how does it get decided which group that person will be a part of?
 - Staff will try to balance staff and community members and let folks know which groups they'll be on, when the Q&A sessions are, and if they'll be asked to co-facilitate.
 - Let our team know if you need to know if you've filled out the interest form.
 - If you're not on a Policy Working Group, you'll still get a chance to see the draft policies and provide input.
- Outreach Team Engagement Plan
 - There were questions about some of the acronyms in the draft schedule. "PWG" means Policy Working Group and "IND" means individual Policy Working Group meetings. Staff will update this in the schedule.
 - Is the Planning Commission also working independently from the schedule and we'll just be engaging and meeting during retreats or will their involvement be joint meetings that we are involved in?
 - The chart in the presentation was a way we tried to organize the meetings and how it all fits together. We've proposed separate meetings with the Outreach Team and separate meetings with Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission retreats are open to residents and Outreach Team members are welcome to attend. The Policy Working Groups are where Planning Commission, Staff, Outreach Team, and other resident perspectives come together. The idea is that we get input and perspectives from Outreach Team first before Planning

Commission and make sure both groups are engaged before the community wide engagement.

- For each of the working groups, will there be a Planning Commission member present?
 - Yes we're working towards that.
- This upcoming phase will be focused on geography and land uses and try and reach neighborhoods and specifically areas that might experience a lot of change.
- How much weight or influence will we have over these policies? We want to be prioritized in Bragtown because we've been underserved throughout history. How much weight will our input have on the policies and will we be working on these policies to benefit other communities or will we a part of that policy? Will we be guaranteed that our input on policies will be placed high and that we'll truly be part of the policy making?
 - Our team has been committed to this process and are going to continue to work towards equitable engagement. We are going to start with the recommendations from the folks who haven't been involved and prioritized in the past. That doesn't mean we're not planning or working towards the wellbeing of our whole community but we need to start thinking and planning how we distributed resources equitably. For the policy working groups we want to have staff perspectives in conversation with residents so we can take the technical expertise and apply it to the things we heard residents asking for. The roles of folks in the meeting –Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) and Planning—are there to make sure residents voices are leading and empowered in the conversation. We are working on how we can better improve our efforts to creating policies that result in equitable outcomes. We need your feedback throughout the process to build trust and work towards what we say we're trying to do.
- We're going to get residents out to these meetings, they have to be listened to and there has to be results. Things could change with COVID and we should consider a safe place for these meetings.
 - Our plan at this point is to start with these meetings being virtual. Want to make sure we're being safe and adapt to changing situations.
- The staff, Outreach Team, and Ambassadors have worked really hard and the focus has been on the communities have not been served in the past. What about pushback? I've been seeing and reading this pushback from communities that are privileged and feeling discriminated against. How do you deal with that? What kind of influence can any group have over what other group is working on?
 - Elected officials at the joint public hearing on June 15th heard from folks that are pushing back. Staff felt supported and grateful from the response we heard from elected officials and felt like they supported our direction. We're not saying anyone is unwelcome in this process, we

just know that there are some people that know about and have the ability to participate without extra work and extra resources to reach them.

- At the last meeting, we discussed this was going to be more neighborhood focused but not that any neighborhood would have the final say. How do the individual neighborhoods get their voice and how is that reported out to the policy working groups?
 - We have Community Goals and Objectives that we are going to focus on how to make these a reality and look at specific areas in the community that have the potential to change the most. The input we've gotten so far is informing policy. All the policy working groups will start with a packet of information with this input. We'll be engaging across the community in two phases both on the place types with mapped out places, starting with a discussion draft and engaging on draft policies.
- This has to be very focused and bring people back to the subject and can't have people try to change the goals and objectives. There will be people who try to do this.
 - Let us know what specific questions we can try to help provide responses so folks can feel supported in these conversations.
- This is an ongoing process spanning many years – you are doing a lot! This is hard work.

4. Finishing Up

- Notes from this discussion will be posted on the EngageDurham website as well as included in a meeting follow-up email
- We will follow-up with some educational materials that our team has drafted that we hope you may use in sharing information about the Comprehensive Plan. Please let us know if you have feedback about any of these materials – thank you!
- Are there any other announcements the group would like to share?
 - None
- Please let us know if you have any feedback/suggestions on how we can improve our communication with you all and facilitation of meetings.
- Thank you!