

Outreach Team Meeting Agenda and Notes

December 1, 2020 6:00 –7:30 PM

ZOOM Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions

12 members of the Outreach Team were present

2. Draft goals/objectives so far – how we've gotten here

Staff gave a brief overview of work to date creating Goals and Objectives for the plan. This is the third OT meeting to have conversations with community around goals and objectives.

3. Draft goals/objectives so far – OT Break Out Group Discussion

Break Out Room Questions:

1. What do we think about these objectives?
2. Do these objectives seem to reflect resident input? Why or why not?
3. Is there anything that didn't seem right to you or that you think we should change?
4. Is it possible to envision how these goals would be applied to our community?

Group 1 – Themes: (1) Equitable Access to Green Space; (2) Healthy and Clean Air; Water and Land; (3) Harmonious and respectful development regulations; (4) Resilient, carbon-neutral, and future oriented communities

Overall comments

- Seems like everyone is concentrated on trees in this part of the country. Trees are getting chopped down all the time. How are we going to make a difference? Are we too late? Are we just making a statement?
- 10 years ago Tuscaloosa Lakewood got an ordinance adopted to prohibit trees being torn down (Neighborhood Protection Overlay). This was a model that planning could lift up and help new neighborhoods understand this process. We have TreesDurham that are out there planting trees in reaction to the Mayor's priority. For us to make this real we have to keep this drumbeat going and put teeth into some of these wishes. There's will to do it.

- I think it's important to note that the Planning Department is already doing a lot of good work in these spaces. Of course what we want more but Durham is doing good with these.
- More examples, visuals, and education should accompany these objectives.
- The concept of partnerships came to mind—protecting Eno—people and organizations are working together to keep the river clean and accessible. DPR, DOST, BPAC, lots of orgs working together. We don't look to one group or agency to make this happen. It's a partnership that spans across all different levels from individuals to big agencies. Getting buy in will play into what we're shooting here for. Say this in the objectives.

Equitable Access to Green Space

- I want to talk about one of the objectives about parks in various neighborhoods. There's a lot more parks than I was aware of. There were certain parts of Durham we weren't allowed to travel to growing up. It's interesting to find that parks even exist in some areas. I like the long term maintenance of the parks are included in the objective. I liked easter egg hunts, walks to Lyon Park, growing up. A few years ago the adults had to go to the parks ahead of the youth to clean up drug needles and trash. Somewhere in this objective if there could be something about equitable maintenance of parks. McDougald Terrace has a nice park but the maintenance is not the same as Forest Hills or any of the parks near the old Herald Sun building that we happened to find. Maintenance of those parks should be the same across the board and the safety should be a part of this too so people will want to go to the park.
- It's raised really well here that its saying that investment should not displace residents—it's not really fleshed out in the background enough.
- In the second sentence—inequitable distribution, the cost of AC, etc. I looked for homes that didn't have a lot of trees because of my asthma. Maybe there could be a little more scientific backing or study shows to this statement and a focus on why that's the case—put a little more valid reasoning behind it.

Healthy and Clean Air, Water, and Land

- Something that struck me was the reference to historical placement of incinerators and cement plants with a goal of rectifying that. Yes that's an unfortunate inequitable distribution of resources. How do you do away with that? The landfill on the edge of Braggtown—you can't just make it go away. Seems like such as daunting task. I don't think we're too late to make things better. There will be more development and where there's going to be more development there's opportunity for making sure future development

incorporates trees, open space, cleaning up problem areas, cleaning up pollution. New development can include open spaces—there needs to be focus on that as Durham progresses.

Harmonious and respectful development regulations

- I don't think it's too late. It's going to be more than planting trees (we need to get the soil correct and fix sidewalks). Sometimes neighborhoods grew up around those industries because it was the only land available to build houses and a lot those industrial uses are disappearing. We'll need to occasional cement factory but going out to Club Blvd and Pettigrew—those industries are moving away. We as a community should be proactive about what we want to see there. Developers could be incentivized, small area plans, regulations. So many communities in this country have turned landfills into community assets. Where are our budgetary priorities? How should we spend our resources? All these objectives are not only good, they're necessary. For better or for worse, Durham has a poor park system compared to other communities. Part of the work of the Outreach Team and Comp Plan is identifying what regulations exist today and what's working and what's not working.

Resilient, carbon-neutral, and future oriented communities

- I think there's not a lot that I know about environmental safety, all I know is trees go down and buildings go up. People don't know a lot about green space and what it really means. The last year we've seen one of the worst hurricane season and people don't know why it's important to have trees and green space. Thinking about the other objectives – housing, transportation networks, flood plains - we're so tight for space. Do they look at that? Or do they look at how much housing is needed for new people? More education about environmental issues is what we need to push more. When I grew up we just talked about not littering. Now we're seeing fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, it's really picking up in the environment.
- This objective is obtuse. It's a mouthful. The sentence could be reworked and something able to be pictured.

Group 2 – Themes: (1) Informed and Involved Community Engagement; (2) Healthy Food Access; (3) Safe and Protected Neighborhoods

General Feedback

- Each of the main themes: include quotation marks around the residents' statements to make it clear that's a direct quote

Informed and Involved Community Engagement

- Does the comp plan only apply to certain sectors or all? Have requested to be involved in conversation with DPR, no outreach to their community; frustrated and feel not valued, but listening to press conference – community wants x, y, z – what community are they speaking of? (around proposed 50 acre park)
- What is written here is good and fine, but how do we make this happen across local government?
- "Government staff" sentence – add to say "local officials and government staff" we need to hold our elected officials accountable in this too
- "staff haven't worked hard enough" - we don't know that's the case but we do know it hasn't been effective in making communities feel that the city is reaching out to them and listening to them
- Add something about an Equity review on all projects? DPR projects and other departments; City and County boards and commissions could also really benefit from equity perspective

Healthy Food Access

- Should include "fresh fruit and vegetables" somewhere and neighborhood markets
- Grocery stores and farmer's markets should be listed – in more rural areas, a lot of grocery stores don't want to be located where there aren't other stores
- Headliner – "all residents have food security" – how we get there is what we're working through here, what's included in the objective
- Increased pressure to convert farmland sentence – worst case scenario – could we feed our people in this pandemic? Can we grow enough local food for our community? Can we get there in these solutions? Let's make sure that's included

Safe and Protected Neighborhoods

- We need neighborhood policing - we used to (years ago) know the officers and they knew residents and residents weren't afraid of the police, less activity in rural areas under current leadership than it used to be; a lot of it is how police officers are trained and how they engage, react in the community

- Maybe instead of “outside” use “outdoors” in the first sentence of the second paragraph
- My neighborhood isn’t safe inside or outside
- Build a community for homeless people? Like cities building tiny home communities – include language to reflect that?
- Need more engagement with youth in community with police, then youth might be more inclined to become officers in the future
- Concerned about young people’s safety
- Relentless gunfire is very concerning
- Cheek Rd is like a drag strip at night and then the shooting starts
- Need to bring opportunities to young people
- Working with the homeless...homeless should now be broadened to say-those who have less resources and cannot be provided a home or acquire a home?
- Speeding is happening because so much shooting is happening in the streets that people don’t want to stop next to another car at a light

4. Draft goals/objectives so far – Full Group Discussion

First Breakout Group

- Environmental group talked a lot about the trees and the impact of trees on the environment and get an understanding that it’s not too late to do something about it. Talked about some of the organizations working together to help save trees. We talked about educating others and ourselves about what the environmental issues are and what they mean and what we can do with that education to ensure that communities are protected from damage or speak up for themselves. We talked about putting a little bit more subject matter or data/information and examples to explain some the scientific terms.
- I don't know if this was discussed but Ellerbe Creek is very polluted. The number one pollutant is sediment from runoff; with all of the development in north east Durham the pollution will increase

Second break out Group

- Talked about safe neighborhoods and what the process could be based on the objective
- Conflict resolution on a bigger scale
- Healthy access to food - identify specific foods and healthy and sustainable foods
- Where it says quotes from residents— the resident quotes need to be in quotation marks to indicate it’s exactly what they said

- What might have been left out, in past food desert discussions, and identifying what's missing, we've usually mentioned pharmacies and drug stores and things that are not attainable in a grocery

5. Finishing up

- Feedback will be incorporated into the draft objectives and notes will be posted on the EngageDurham website as well as included in a meeting follow-up email
- The Social Pinpoint platform will be coming soon and will house all draft objectives that the community can provide feedback on
- Engagement Ambassadors are currently seeking input about all housing topics now and will be utilized throughout the winter to receive input on all of the other objectives
- Our team shared Comprehensive Plan updates with the Planning Commission, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners in November – we will share the meeting video links again in a follow-up email with the notes from tonight's discussion
- Our team will be giving a Comprehensive Plan update to JCCPC on Wednesday December 2, specifically focusing on the housing, development, transportation, and jobs objectives. We will provide a link to view the recording in our follow-up email.
- Are there any other announcements the group would like to share?
 - Transit Plan Survey open until Dec 18
- Thank you!