

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Lynda Bui, Willard Brown, Michael Taylor-Judd, Parie Hines, Ann Jewett, David Bestock

Absent: Ranette Iding, Amanda Kirk, Kim Justice

Staff: David Goldberg, Aileen Balahadia

Intro/Welcome/Updates

David mentioned a few people he has recently talked to regarding their interest in various parts of the Delridge plan, including Merica Whitehall, the new ED at Nature Consortium, Jen Calleja, Immigrant/Refugee Commission and Parks board. DNDA is busy with 2 grants to secure the 23/Findlay wetland site. They did receive the large fund grant to do a year of cultural arts programming in 2016. Additionally, they will have their first fundraiser in 5 years on Feb 26, 2016 called Destination Delridge. A question was asked about Gathering of Neighbors (GON). Michael said they are looking at late Feb/early March but are not opposed to waiting until May or to combine with other efforts such as HALA review and/or the Delridge plan action steps. Though no one “owns GON, it’s up to our group to pose a potential focus on North Delridge or have different “tracks” if we’re interested in combining forces.

Beyond the Plan and Moving to Action

David reviewed the basic premise of this Plan and work- that collaboration is key to achieving such goals for Delridge and that the Plan is only sustainable if it lifts up the leadership and capacity of the community to lead. It’s also important for this work to include engagement to really uncover issues and bring a broader community into the conversation.

Aileen then asked the group to think about what the FUNCTION are of a stewardship group—so as to focus here and not just jump to the proper FORM it will take. Ideas include: fiscal sponsorship of grant funds, coordination with partners and the city, communication with community + government + funders, community engagement, action/accomplishing tasks, bringing new partners to the table, make connections, update/maintain plan, link projects and outcomes.

Aileen mentioned there are many ways the FORM of this kind of group could look like- a non profit structure, a coalition of organizations, a steering committee of individuals, mixed groups, an ad hoc group, a 1 time a year only group, etc. Action teams and sub committees could be used to break people/orgs into issue areas they care most about. There is a role for a managing partner to hold all the pieces together but not necessarily do all the implementation. There are pros/cons for each and every neighborhood is different. There is a common issues of staffing and overall capacity however to play such numerous roles.

Lastly, Aileen reminded the group of our generated list of existing community stakeholders and the ability of these groups to play a role here.

Michael asked the question and it was confirmed that we are focusing here on North Delridge- thus many of our existing groups are much larger and would need to focus if they played a stewardship role. David G asked where do people share their thoughts and ideas for the neighborhood- Delridge District Council? Michael thought this is true and its especially good because of the relationship with the city, but this Council is not limited to just N Delridge and there is sometimes leadership struggle/capacity. David B. talked about the 5 pillars at DNDA that include housing, green environment, food, culture/arts and education. They like the idea of being a convener/glue/connector in the community—and they have an ability to grow into this role since their vision is open. But there is great concern about capacity and buy in from the Board. Parie added that she thought DNDA seems to be the primary organization that could lead since it fits the mission,

but its needs support and capacity to do so. Michael thought we could start by posing the question to the DNDA board about having the plan live at DNDA, which is also helpful because DNDA is an office with staff and more capacity than other volunteer led groups. Willard thought we could start with that board conversation too and especially think about funding capacity. He is also a bit worried about capacity given the upcoming DON matching fund grant and the business district outreach work. David G added that the hope would be not for DNDA to embrace all the work themselves, but to see themselves as empowering the community to be active in the Plan- a skilled task in its own right. Aileen added that role of a “neighborhood intermediary” has been well studied and could help DNDA board in their thought process.

David B brought up the model of the Phinney Neighborhood Association as a rental hub/membership organization, although they may not have a larger neighborhood vision as part of their mission. Again Michael brought up the issue of focused v. broad Delridge. Ann thought we need to expand into other areas- and while everyone seemed to agree- most wanted to first stay focused on our work in N Delridge.

David G talked about the POELs upcoming work and wanting to ask them about their ideas for stewardship. What about SWYFS? They are a group we should engage too. Also Aileen thought the folks in White Center could share some of their experience being the steward of the plan (Sili Savusa). Also we should engage Delridge District Council directly to see of their thoughts and interest. David B was interested in getting to know the POELs, especially to be potential community advocates in the future and suggested a meeting with them. Ann wondered how long the City and POELs would be involved in the Plan. The city will continue to be advocates of what’s in the Plan, according to David G, and the POELs are used on a project by project basis to do community engagement. This \$ is not yet secured however. Lynda expressed her thought that a non profit like DNDA might be a bit more trusted in the community.

TO DO: Willard/David- plan for conversation with DNDA board about Plan status update and possible stewardship role to consider.

TO DO: Talk with SWYFS about Plan and their role. Talk with Delridge District Council about Plan and their role.

TO DO: Convene POELs to discuss Delridge plan and future.

TO DO: Invite On Board Othello to future meeting to discuss their impact on development, especially related to business district work to come.

TO DO: Talk with Sili Savusa about White Center CDA experience, especially for DNDA.

Action Plan: Finalizing

David G shared with the group the latest draft of the Delridge plan. He welcomes photos and comments on the plan. He particularly would like quotes from the group answering the question, “Delridge is....”. Please continue reading the Plan to, especially page 16 and beyond. He also wants to highlight some real projects currently going on (locally or maybe even nationally) to inspire folks to action. Ideas? David G will continue incorporating ideas into the Plan with the goal of finalizing by year end. Dec’s meeting we can focus more here.

Lastly, we should consider what an Implementation Summit or convening could look like- Feb/March or later in April/May—in conjunction with a Delridge activity or a separate event?

TO DO: Send Delridge photos for the Plan

TO DO: Answer question, “Delridge is...”

TO DO: David continues writing/refining sections of Plan as detailed.

TO DO: Discuss Implementation summit further

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Minutes submitted by Aileen Balahadia. Next meeting Monday Dec 21, 2015 from 6-730pm at Youngstown.