

# Worksheet

During the group discussion, participants were asked to answer the following questions & turn in this worksheet before leaving. 34 people responded to question 1 and listed their top priorities.

## Q1. Which recommendations would you most like to see move forward in the next 5 years?

(Check top 3)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>4th</b> | 1. Activate existing & planned parks<br><i>(12 responses/15%)</i>     |
| <b>5th</b> | 2. Pocket parks (part of new development)<br><i>(9 responses/12%)</i> |
| <b>6th</b> | 3. UW campus edge<br><i>(7 responses/9%)</i>                          |
| <b>3rd</b> | 4. E/W pedestrian connections<br><i>(13 responses/17%)</i>            |
| <b>2nd</b> | 5. N/S green spine<br><i>(17 responses/ 22%)</i>                      |
| <b>1st</b> | 6. Publicly-owned central square<br><i>(20 responses/ 26%)</i>        |

## Q3. Is there anything we have forgotten or you would like to bring up?

- Coordinate/participate in future YMCA expansion (pool?)
- Solar power for lighting and water features and mobile device charge stations
- Use University Way as N/S green spine. It has excess pavement for “greensward” (north of 50th)
- UDP must “own” management of central (open space) plaza
- European type pedestrian only area on the Ave/42nd/43rd
- Residents without internet are not getting meeting notifications
- More old school grass roots outreach
- How about pedestrian overpasses over 45th and 50th?
- Post office is as valuable or more as public space than a “central square”. We should be concerned at any notion that post office facility might leave the U District. Don’t consider P.O. property for square; across 43rd street on NE corner is far better. Bus routes and connection points need to be considered in design of pedestrian and bike places. Consider where people would gather short-term for waiting to catch buses. Avoid placing major bike routes where lots of buses travel and stop. Allow taller building development but emphasize view sheds and sunlight patterns. Better to leave “pin towers” like Vancouver BC with open space between tall buildings instead of covering blocks with stocky 5-7 story buildings.
- Secure a large public space now! Make sure that no upzone is finalized or allowed before public square space is secured
- It is critical that there is funding identified and programming required to keep any pocket park or central square clean and safe. This has to be identified and agreed upon before the site is chose, built, and opened
- Consider closing down Brooklyn between 43rd and 45th for a central plaza
- Metro is planning a bus route “feeder” system with Sound Transit stations. It plans for buses going to and from the east/Sand Point Way on NE 45th and passengers boarding and alighting at the U District station. It plans for buses from Wallingford/Fremont using the NE 45th street overpass over I5 and leaving/receiving riders at the sound transit station. This plan needs to show bus routes to and from the bus alighting pick up and deposit zones, bus turn-outs, etc. The green spine idea and NE 43rd pedestrian way seems to overlook Metro’s needs and that of Sound Transit riders
- At Meeting #2, at least one group mentioned cutting the Ave down to one lane (south). Keep parking/some pedestrian but much wider/green sidewalks “pocket parks” add retail spaces for carts, cafes
- Use some of the big green spaces next to I-5 for “dog parks”
- I recommend N/S pedestrian connections across 45th.
- If you want to cross near Trader Joes, Brooklyn (or 12th) crossing improvements are still pretty far out of the way as a pedestrian
- Not about better marked stripes, it is about making it feel less like a boundary
- UW students need to be more aware of the happenings in their community. City/Community should access UW leadership and get campus involved. These improvements and developments are things the UW community should care about
- Make the Ave a place to hang out. Close off parking, provide café seating and rain protection
- I know the plan will be fairly broad, but a specific vision for campus parkway would be great. It is currently inhospitable for recreation purposes. I’d suggest pushing the lanes to the center to create a two-way street and have planted promenades on both sides
- Integrating the N/S spine with more waterfront park being planned
- Rebuilding parking lot as a plaza for use when the parking lot is not in use (joint use)
- Study the Ave as a pedestrian/transit mall
- Early victories

# Presentation Notes

As the audience listened to presentations, they rated the proposals according to the Principles/Values & Functions/Activities expressed in earlier Public Workshops.

The following numbers were assigned to give an average rating:

Great, high priority (2); Good, like to see happen (1); Okay, low priority (0); Bad idea (-1)

| PROPOSALS  | AVG                      | COMMENTS  |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Activate existing & planned parks                                 | <b>1.15</b><br>Good idea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love the park and plaza at University Heights</li> <li>• Didn't even know about University playground-how about a wayfinding signage system?</li> <li>• This should happen anyway! Shouldn't need to focus on it for growth of parks. Do like waterfront expansions</li> <li>• It makes sense to finish/improve what has already started and especially resources have already been spend or allocated</li> <li>• Of course it is important, but I am very disappointed with the delay of the park at SE quadrant of University Heights</li> <li>• University Playground utilized, staffed</li> <li>• Improve, maintain, expand U playfield</li> <li>• Need to invest in University Playground</li> </ul>  |
| 2a. Create a series of pocket parks as part of new development       | <b>.86</b><br>Good idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like private plazas, need more development</li> <li>• Should be for north of 45th, not just north of 50th</li> <li>• Good idea, either for new buildings of minimum size or to incentivize increased FAR</li> <li>• Design elements: café seating, wifi, plazas: LOVE</li> <li>• Great examples in your slides. Yes! Make it part of design guidelines soon! There is so much development going on</li> <li>• Good opportunity for early and continuing wins to make the open space better throughout the neighborhood</li> <li>• Would need to be well maintained and activated to avoid illicit activity</li> <li>• Lighting, safety, staffed for clean and safe</li> <li>• More parks</li> </ul>  |
| 2b. Provide pocket spaces to support residential north of NE 50th St | <b>.50</b><br>Okay idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential areas, less necessary</li> <li>• I wasn't clear on what these would look like</li> <li>• Factor in improvements. They will see as part of 5.b. Ave greenway</li> <li>• Are these public or private? How will roof spaces be publically accessed?</li> <li>• Why did we turn it from public to private? We originally identified lots of space as "new public space". I want pocket parks, not private plazas</li> <li>• Would need to be well maintained and activated to avoid illicit activity</li> <li>• Clean and safe?</li> <li>• As long as we keep front yard set back we don't need pocket parks. No buildings on edge of the sidewalks.</li> <li>• Use excess right of way in University Way for this</li> <li>• In conjunction with redevelopment</li> </ul> |
| 3. Improve campus edge along 15th Ave NE                             | <b>1.03</b><br>Good idea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Burke design looks kinda ugly, but good to move it toward 15th</li> <li>• Remove retaining wall, integrate retail to activate dead area</li> <li>• Yes! Soften the edges! Engage UW with U district community</li> <li>• Too little progress despite major talking point for decades. Better edge will make open space along west edge of campus more effective</li> <li>• Something more interesting than a retaining wall, level out the incline more as you head to campus?</li> <li>• Burke Museum only an example?</li> <li>• Let UW pay for this</li> <li>• This looks long overdue and long recognized as necessary</li> </ul>  |
| 4a. Improve streetscape along NE 43rd Street                         | <b>1.3</b><br>Good idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very important!</li> <li>• Slideshows of 43rd-15th should be all the way to Roosevelt</li> <li>• Consult the University Temple, United Methodist Church. Its daycare depends on drop off/pick up by its 43rd ramp</li> <li>• How will this connect with plans for 15th edge?</li> <li>• Looks good</li> <li>• Trash bins in street</li> </ul>  |

# Presentation Notes (con't)

| PROPOSALS   | AVG                | COMMENTS  |
|---|--------------------|---|
| 4b. Add mid-block pass-throughs                                       | 1.14<br>Good idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkable! Safety! Nicer alleys!</li> <li>• Might be good on a couple blocks, but probably not going to happen very widely</li> <li>• Not necessary, but could be done through incentives for higher density during redevelopment</li> <li>• Important to escape traffic noise and have quiet cage-type places to work, study, or play</li> <li>• Activate alleys, that would be great</li> <li>• Factor in improvements.</li> <li>• In select areas with higher projected pedestrian traffic would be a higher priority</li> <li>• How can this be enforced on these private areas?</li> <li>• Would make U district more walkable, but would we have same safety/trash issues as alleys?</li> <li>• Time lights for slower speeds</li> <li>• This is critical--space must be well designed</li> </ul>   |
| 5a. Improve streetscape along Brooklyn Ave NE                         | 1.14<br>Good idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer's market in street is a great idea!</li> <li>• How about closing it to through-traffic permanently? No driveways there</li> <li>• I like the idea of a weekday farmers market</li> <li>• Close down Broadway between 45th and 43rd for plaza</li> <li>• Especially if it has a direct connection to the Central Public Square</li> <li>• Yeah to farmers market and festivals!</li> <li>• Why wouldn't University Way remain the festival street? The current farmers market and street fair are successful</li> <li>• Street is wide north of 50th so cars go fast. Widening sidewalks would help.</li> <li>• Trash bins in street</li> <li>• Think about U district mobility plan first</li> <li>• Take parking spaces for wider sidewalks and raingardens</li> </ul>   |
| 5b. Implement 12th Ave Greenway                                       | .93<br>Good idea   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes!</li> <li>• Need a connection to the Burke</li> <li>• I'm not clear on the plan here but I am strongly in favor of better 45th crossing</li> <li>• Need to integrate with public plaza, like Pine Street by the West Lake Park</li> <li>• Consider bike route on Brooklyn Ave NE as well. Combination of 12th and Brooklyn can be basis of N-S green Spine</li> <li>• Don't do 1/2 way then don't finish</li> <li>• Play street could be fun--needs champion</li> </ul>  |
| 6a. Develop a publicly-owned central square                           | 1.59<br>Great idea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need management! Like the rail sight and the idea of a festival street</li> <li>• Continued on the Ave</li> <li>• Very much depends on the design</li> <li>• So many issues around safety and security--no good local examples where this kind of space is a success</li> <li>• Be bolder!</li> <li>• Best located at, above, or directly adjacent to the light rail station</li> <li>• Can it connect the Ave with Brooklyn or sit in between?</li> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Food service rules? Outdoor food</li> <li>• Keep this as a high priority/connect to Ave via mid block pass thru</li> </ul>   |
| 6b. Locate central square at the intersection of NE 43rd St & the Ave | 1.43<br>Good idea  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active edges</li> <li>• Good spot, Post Office may be most likely</li> <li>• Yes! Such a great way to enter the U District community.</li> <li>• Would want to look at the designs for the different alternatives</li> <li>• If we have to do this, make sure it is on the Ave</li> <li>• Central Square yes-but still want to explore designs that integrate some open public space</li> <li>• Not sure where the central square should be located yet but needs to be large enough to be a real public square--not just an oversized "pocket park"</li> <li>• Better to site this east toward 15th Ave NE. Don't locate a large square at LRT station. This site should be build up</li> <li>• Very important</li> <li>• NE corner preferred (connection light rail and Ave)</li> <li>• Yes!</li> <li>• Location within 500' of U station</li> <li>• Place a police lafe lot office at square/place for "bike cops" to take a break and get repairs</li> </ul> |

# Key Discussion Considerations

## General

- Include UW students in planning process
- Provide more short-term/easy-wins

## Activate parks

- Utilize Campus Parkway for recreational uses

## Streets

- Streets are truly inclusive and used by everyone
- Design median or other improvements on the Ave north of 50th
- Coordinate with Metro and understand potential bus routes on Brooklyn— if possible, restrict/prohibit vehicle traffic
- Pedestrian area/street closure on Ave
- Link lots of open spaces along Brooklyn

## Central square

- Link open space with UW Tower
- Execution and design is critical
- Tie down space for square NOW!