

Legacy Lafayette

HONORING OUR HERITAGE, SHAPING THE FUTURE



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Thursday, April 11th, 2019, 6PM – 8PM

Lafayette Senior Center, 103 S. Iowa Avenue

MEETING SUMMARY

Consultant Team Members Present: Britt Palmberg (RICK), Rob Fitch (RICK), Shelby Sommer (Brendle), Francisco Miraval (Project Vision 21)

Attendance by CAC Members:

- Abby Boyd – Present
- Adam Gianola – Present
- Alfredo Alvarado – Present
- Amy DeBay – Present
- Anthony Viers – Present
- Chad Parsons – Present
- Crystal Launder – Present
- Dave Heinrich – Present
- Debbie Cook – Present
- Guy Higgins – Present (on phone)
- Heidi Mellon – Present
- Isadora Seo bezerra de lima – Present
- **John Painter – Did not attend**
- Jonathan Bent – Present (on phone)
- Karen Norback – Present
- Kim Dugan – Present
- Lauren Motley – Present
- Luke Arrington – Present
- Lynn Riedel – Present
- Olivia Ameigh – Present
- Richard Welty - Present

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Note, the following represents a summary of the key takeaways from the discussions conducted during the CAC meeting. This document does not provide detailed notes of every item discussed during the meeting.

Project Introductions:

- Project Introductions: The consultant team members introduced themselves, as did members of the CAC.
- What is Legacy Lafayette:
 - The consultant team reviewed the key components of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Housing is a key issue, in terms of affordability for a full range of households
 - Sustainability with regards to the Comprehensive Plan will encompass more than just environmental sustainability, but will also address economic and community sustainability
 - Economic development will examine how Lafayette compares to its neighbors and how it can position for the future
 - Transportation will encompass all modes of travel
 - This plan will include the conclusions of the PROST update (scheduled for completion by Fall 2019)
- Discussion of Schedule
 - The overall process will extend around 18 months, to the end of June, 2020. The consultant reviewed the key steps in the plan process.
- Discussion of Comprehensive Plan document
 - Important to begin discussion of how to use the Plan now
 - Overall goal is to create a graphically attractive, highly usable, and likely shorter document than previous versions. The document can be used as a roadmap for a variety of community decisions and can also help to market Lafayette to outside audiences.
 - The Plan should discuss what is special or unique about Lafayette and should also incorporate thinking from the Master Preservation Program.
 - The Plan may recommend a number of follow-up items for the City to complete (such as code revisions)
 - The City Council election in November could change Council's overall thinking on how to finalize the plan next year. However, the plan is intended to be the community's plan, not the "City Council's plan", so the input that the community provides along the way will help in influencing the final directions for the Comprehensive Plan. Toward the end of the project, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold a Worksession to review a draft version of the Plan, and ultimately the Council will adopt the final plan document.

Overview of Community Engagement:

- The consultant reviewed the various tools for community engagement, including the project website at www.legacylafayette.org. The website is the central spot for all project activities and over time it will become populated with a variety of content. An online discussion forum will

launch in May on the website, and links to various areas of content from Legacy Lafayette will be available. The website includes bi-lingual versions of outreach materials in order to ensure that everyone in the city has an opportunity to participate.

- A Community Survey will be launched in May to gather input from throughout the community and the online version of the survey will launch on June 3rd. The online version of the survey will remain online for input throughout the summer, in order to gain as much input via this survey as possible.
- The CAC can help in using social media pages that they (or their groups) are personally associated with (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to spread publicity about the overall planning effort.
- The project website will include online mapping comment features later in the project (when alternative concepts are available for review).

Discussion of Special Interest Group Meetings

The consultant reviewed draft ideas for “special interest group meetings” to be held during May and June, to gather general initial input concerning where Lafayette is now, and how the community should evolve over the next 20 years. General comments from the group included the following:

- It will be important to engage families, from all backgrounds, and to plan around their schedules and to plan activities for kids in order to attract working families.
- Meetings to engage the Latino community should focus on events that are family-oriented and include food, in more of a conversational format. Meetings at churches and held in conjunction with various non-profits would work well. Connecting with Latino business owners would also be great.
- Engaging senior citizens could involve meetings with various senior facilities and communities. It will be important to try to reach those seniors who live in the community but are not active in various facilities or organizations. One person in attendance noted that they thought that Senior Citizens aren’t valued by government in the area.
- The group discussed a good deal about how to engage people in economically disadvantaged groups and how to engage the community in an equitable manner. The group mentioned that many people in Lafayette are just getting by and many people do not have Internet or computer access. Members of the group stressed that a portion of the middle class in Lafayette is slipping into poverty as the cost of living in the region has dramatically escalated. Discussing the overall cost of living and how it is driving some people away and making it harder for future generations to remain is very important.
- It will be important to reach out to the middle and high schools and various school groups to engage youth in the community. It was noted that many youth in the community feel that it is so expensive that they won’t be able to remain in Lafayette as they become adults, and therefore getting involved is pointless. It is important to reach the youth and engage them before this mindset takes hold and to gain input from youth in shaping the future of Lafayette.

- The group discussed various stakeholders and groups to engage, in a variety of categories.
- The group mentioned that the groups could be recast to cover a particular demographic (such as youth or seniors) and then cover the full range of planning topics with that group.
- The group noted that it would be wise to engage with developers in order to understand what may or may not work, as the community looks to shape how it grows and its future character.
- The group noted that a meeting should be held to discuss multi modal mobility.
- It will be important to engage the business community.

- The consultant team will review the input from the CAC and present a refined version of the topic group (or special interest group) meetings for review by the CAC in May, prior to holding these meetings.

Discussion of Launch Party in June and Community Events during the Summer

The consultant reviewed some ideas for the “Launch Party” for Legacy Lafayette on June 20th. The group liked the ideas to create “collages” of what Lafayette would look like in the future, as part of the vision discussion. Some members of the group expressed a desire for an outdoor event, like a street fair or similar outdoor venue, rather than having it at a local school facility such as a cafeteria. The consultant noted that this would serve as just one of many ways to provide initial input on the Vision for Lafayette and to provide input on specific subject areas. Members of the consultant team, as well as members of the CAC, will help provide publicity at various community events this summer. The consultant team will come back with some refined and more specific ideas for the Launch Party at the second CAC meeting in May. While later community meetings will, by necessity, have a bit more structure (to discuss preliminary and final plans) the emphasis will remain on holding meetings that are more fun and engaging and attract the full range of community members.

Overall Comments on Key Goals for the Comprehensive Plan:

- Address affordability and major housing questions
- Help Lafayette regain the sense of community that some believe has been diminished in recent years
- Make sure that the plan incorporates goals of the City established for Energy Sustainability and Greenhouse Gases
- The plan must address economic health, including how to grow businesses and jobs and how to pay for growth (including infrastructure)
- The plan should help to improve inter-community relationships and regional collaboration to address some of the key issues facing the region (including transportation and housing)
- The plan should help to promote a greater level of casual social interactions in Lafayette, and get people out of their silos

- Importantly, the plan should preserve the parks, open spaces, trails, and wildlife corridors that have made Lafayette great
- The plan should outline a vision for Lafayette and how it should realistically change (as opposed to fighting change)
- The plan should identify the qualities of Lafayette today that should be preserved as well as the demographic and cultural shifts impacting the community's future
- The plan should address climate change and the important topic of water supplies
- The plan should provide for community resilience, including how to foster social networks and the ability to respond to shocks and crises
- The plan should provide for historic preservation and a sense of place
- Equity must be an important consideration in the plan
- The plan should focus on architectural and design quality and helping Lafayette to evolve in a way that looks unique.

Thoughts on Process for CAC Meetings:

- The May meeting will be covering a lot of topics. Will this meeting alone be sufficient?
- We should have a place for public comment as part of the agenda for the CAC
- The consultants will send out materials in advance so that CAC members can review them in advance of meetings.

Next Meeting: May 9th, 6 – 8 PM, Senior Center

The May meeting will cover:

- A summary of Existing Conditions in Lafayette (by topic such as housing, economics, etc.).
- A facilitated discussion and finalization of the Community Survey questions to be distributed for the Comprehensive Plan
- A review and finalization of the plan for Special Interest Group meetings
- A review and final input on plans for the Legacy Lafayette Launch Party on June 20th, as well as plans for engagement at Community Events this summer.