

Legacy Lafayette

HONORING OUR HERITAGE, SHAPING THE FUTURE



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Thursday, May 9th, 2019, 6PM – 8PM
Lafayette Senior Center, 103 S. Iowa Avenue

MEETING SUMMARY

Consultant Team Members Present: Britt Palmberg (RICK), Martin Landers (Plan Tools, LLC), Chris Cares (RRC), Martin Landers (Plan Tools, LLC)

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 (on phone)
- John Painter – Present
- 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, including two members of the team that the CAC had not met in person previously (Martin Landers and Chris Cares)
- **Schedule update:** The overall outreach effort is going to ramp up considerably very soon, with the Community Survey to be launched the next few weeks, and the upcoming Legacy Lafayette Launch Party on June 20th. The team will continue to gather community input concerning the overarching vision and goals of the community from now through the end of the summer, through August.

Special Topic Area Groups:

- These groups will be organized into four separate meetings, between now and June 20th, organized around the planning frameworks of
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Strong economy
 - Livable places
 - Connected community and mobility
- These Special Topic Area groups will be around an hour in length and will be held during the evening, to accommodate schedules of people who work during the day
- The overall intent of the Special Topic Area groups is to gain general input on the big picture goals of Lafayette concerning these four planning frameworks. The groups will discuss what has worked well in Lafayette in the past, what has not worked so well, and how Lafayette may approach these topics going forward.
- We will begin each meeting of a Special Topic Area with an overview of the comprehensive planning process and how input at these meetings will feed into the overall planning process.
- The group reviewed a matrix of various stakeholder groups in Lafayette. The matrix identifies the Special Topic Area session to which each group is best suited. However, invites for all Special Topic Group meetings will be sent to all stakeholder groups and these meetings will be publicized through the Legacy Lafayette website and through the City's various publicity channels. In addition, Britt noted that the consultant team is very interested in hearing from CAC members and others in Lafayette concerning additional stakeholder groups that would be good to have invited to the various Special Topic Area meetings. Again, information about the various Special

Topic Area meetings will be publicized to the entire community. The consultant team will just make sure that the various stakeholder groups identified receive an invite to the meetings.

- Britt noted that the consultant team can meet with individuals and groups that cannot attend the Special Topic Area meetings separately, if no one from the various groups can attend a scheduled Special Topic Area meeting.
- Members of the CAC noted that the scheduling of the Special Topic Area meetings should not occur too close together (for example, they shouldn't be held on consecutive nights). It may make sense to schedule one per week, each week, between now and June 20th.
- CAC members noted that the Special Topic Area meetings would be scheduled, ideally, to go to the people where they live. For example, either as a Special Topic Area or as part of the project's overall outreach, meetings could be held with the Boulder Ridge community.
- CAC members noted that it will be important to have topics for discussion at the Special Topic Area meetings that are neither too broad, nor too narrow.
- Britt noted that it would be great for CAC members to reach out to additional stakeholder groups in the community, to make them aware of the upcoming meetings
- Importantly, we will have the Legacy Lafayette Launch Party on June 20th, as well as outreach at various community events through the summer, so these Special Topic Area meetings will not represent the only opportunities to provide input.
- Venues for the Special Topic Area meetings suggested by CAC members:
 - The Collective
 - Elementary schools
 - It would be good to move the venue locations around town, to provide opportunities for people in different areas within Lafayette.
- The CAC discussed how the input at the Special Topic Area meetings will fold into the overall comprehensive planning process.
- CAC members noted that it may make sense to have discussions at each meeting focused on a particular topic area, followed by general discussion concerning the future of Lafayette.
- CAC members noted that it would be good to have some focused questions for each group, in order to keep the conversations at the meetings moving forward efficiently.
- Special Topic Area meeting invitations will go out next week, so please let the consultant team know of any other groups that should be engaged as part of this process.

Discussion of the Legacy Lafayette Launch Party on June 20th:

- Britt discussed that the plan is to hold the Launch Party at the Senior Center facility (including both the inside space as well as the outdoor parking lot), during the 4PM to 8PM timeframe, in conjunction with the Farmers Market held that evening (Thursday night the 20th). The Farmers Market is held on East Simpson, in the block next to the Senior Center.
- The Launch Party will include open house stations, organized the four main planning frameworks,

inside the Senior Center, with more interactive activities in the parking lot (under large tents).

- Interactive activities at the Launch Party:
 - Word cloud exercise, to gain input in real time (and electronically) concerning the key words that inform the Vision for Lafayette.
 - Collage activity. This activity will allow participants to use images and words on a poster board to create their own “vision” of what Lafayette can be in the future.
 - Children’s activity. This could involve a drawing exercise for kids (on maps of Lafayette) to convey what they would like to see in Lafayette in the future.
- By having the Launch Party at the Senior Center that night, food and drink can be provided by the food trucks and vendors associated with the Farmers Market. Coupons or tickets for food could be provided to people who visit the open house area for the Launch Party.
- CAC comments regarding format and activities at the Launch Party:
 - It would be good to explore the possibility of using online applications to create a collage, in order to make that exercise easier for attendees. There are various apps available for this and many are cell phone compatible.
 - The CAC liked the idea of people making their own collages to encourage participation.
 - The collage “board”, for people attending the Launch Party, could be smaller in size, so that attendees would have less area to cover with images, as part of the collage process.
 - Hand-written input on the vision for Lafayette could involve something as simple as having a giant roll of paper and letting people use markers and pens to write notes about the future of Lafayette.
 - The CAC thought it would be useful for people to do the collage activity as a group. Members of the CAC may create and complete some collages beforehand, before the June 20th meeting. Their completed collages may provide good ideas for others attending the launch party. CAC members also noted that an artist could provide graphics or sketches for the vision of Lafayette community members, as opposed to the creation of collages.
- Publicity for Launch Party and the Community Survey: Britt explained that a draft flyer is ready (and displayed it on the screen). Once the Launch Party details are complete, the flyer will go out electronically, through the Legacy Lafayette website as well as the City’s website and the City’s various PR channels. One of the CAC members asked if the flyer could be inserted into water or utility bills sent by the City. Paul Rayl from the City indicated that the city would look into this possibility.

Discussion of Draft Community Survey:

- Chris Cares of RRC introduced the Community Survey and led the group through a review of the draft survey. It is important to note that the Community Survey is intended to obtain big picture input concerning the direction of the City and areas in which the Comprehensive Plan should provide particular focus. The City staff and City Council, along with the consultant team, have gone through several iterations of review and revisions of the draft survey at this point. Therefore,

while input from the CAC at this point is great and highly appreciated, this review needs to be completed fairly quickly in order to get the Community Survey distributed in a timely manner, in order to obtain survey input over the next month.

- The Community Survey will be mailed to 4,500 addresses around the City, and in order to obtain a statistically-valid survey, RRC is hoping for a response rate of 10 to 15 percent, at a minimum. The online version of the Community Survey (included in the statistically valid survey) will include a one-time access code for respondents to use, to provide their input. This access code will prevent people from “stuffing the ballot box”.
- After the distribution of the statistically-valid portion of the Community Survey is completed, the Community Survey will be opened up online, to anyone who wants to provide input on the survey. This general online input on the survey will remain open for input throughout the summer.
- CAC members inquired whether the Community Survey could be available at the library or through the library’s computers. Chris Cares indicated that the project team will look into this as an option.

- Overview of Survey Questions. Highlights of comments from CAC members:
 - It may be difficult to evaluate aesthetics, with regard to the survey question that touches upon aesthetics. Aesthetics are normally “in the eye of the beholder”.
 - It may make sense to ask a question about the importance of preserving open spaces that aren’t developed, for wildlife.
 - It might make sense to take out the option for “other” and just have an open ended question to solicit additional input, instead.
 - The CAC discussed how to ask the questions that pertain to affordable housing, workforce housing, and attainable housing.
 - Chris Cares indicated that the survey would be optimized for input using cell phones, as much as possible.
 - CAC members indicated that it would be good to have an ipad at tables at the Launch Party, on which attendees could take the survey.
 - It would be good to add a question: “How long have you been in Colorado?”
 - A CAC member noted that the City may be unable to ultimately control some aspects of community life mentioned in the survey, such as the aesthetics of individual streets and neighborhoods.
 - The survey should include a separate question concerning Open Space.
 - The survey should make sure there is an “Other” option whenever feasible.
 - The survey should be revised to remove technical, planner terms. An example is the word “connectivity”.
 - It may make sense to add a purpose statement about the community survey, above the survey, in order to provide more background to respondents and to manage expectations.
 - It may make sense to add a question regarding education, and the location of schools.
 - It may make sense to add a question more focused on the topic of diversity.

- It would be good to make sure that respondents to the survey are aware of the Legacy Lafayette website and how to remain involved in the process.
- It may be good to add a question pertaining to community resiliency or threats to Lafayette.
- It might be good to add a question that asks respondents about the biggest threat to Lafayette over the next 20 years.
- The project team will send CAC members a copy of the draft community survey. Chris Cares indicated that the draft survey was not intended to be distributed publicly. In addition, in order to keep the overall schedule of the project on track, CAC members have until the close of business on Monday, May 13th to provide comments and questions.

Discussion of Highlights from Community Assessment

Britt reviewed some highlights from the Community Assessment process. The presentation boards at the Launch Party on June 20th will contain additional information and conclusions from this process.

Highlights:

- The state of Colorado provides population projections at the County level, but not for individual cities and towns. Therefore, a specific population projection is not available for Lafayette. However, the state expects considerable population growth along the Front Range between now and 2040. More of this growth will orient away from the foothills, and to the east of Denver and between the Denver metro and Fort Collins. Communities such as Boulder and Golden have relatively limited lands available for development or redevelopment, and as a result are less likely to see significant population increases.
- A CAC member noted that population estimates from DOLA or the state appear to differ from the numbers provided by the City. The consultant team will investigate this discrepancy.
- The population of Lafayette is relatively affluent. However, a significant proportion of the households in the city report relatively low incomes.
- Lafayette has a significant proportion of homes built between 1970 and 2000, and as these homes age, it will be important to consider strategies to support and encourage home maintenance and rehabilitation over time.
- The City has relatively limited acreage that remains undeveloped. Unless the City elects to support more redevelopment of properties in the City as residential development, the overall growth of the community may be limited over the next 20 years.
- Transportation: A vast majority of people living in Lafayette work in a different community. Conversely, a vast majority of people working in Lafayette do not live in the City. From an employment perspective, the City of Lafayette tends to have jobs in lower-paying fields, and workers at these jobs travel into Lafayette from other, more affordable communities.
- As the City moves forward through the Comprehensive Plan process, it may be important to

consider how to have more employment options in the City, to reduce the need to commute.

- The City has an impressive number and inventory of parks and trails in the community, which supports bike activity. The data from the project team indicates that the City has over 33 miles of trails. However, a CAC member noted that this number may be inaccurate, and an explanation of the calculation of trail length would be good.
- The City's overall Walk Score (which evaluates walkability) is somewhat lower. However, the walk score for the Public Road area is considerably higher. A CAC member noted that the WalkScore data for Lafayette may be a bit inaccurate.
- The City has access via various bus routes to the larger RTD system. However, it lacks direct access to major regional transit routes that follow the US 36 corridor.
- CAC members noted that it may be good to explain the tie or relationship between growth management strategies and housing affordability.
- CAC members asked whether the City had sufficient water to support development.
- CAC members asked if they would have a chance to weigh in concerning the roadway classification system. Britt indicated that they would have an opportunity to provide this input.
- Paul Rayl from the City noted that members of the CAC should consider and think about how Lafayette should address encroachment from Erie into the City of Lafayette's Urban Growth Boundary. This is an issue to keep in mind as the plan continues to evolve.
- The consultant team will send out a copy of the presentation with Community Assessment information to the CAC.