

Legacy Lafayette

Legacy Lafayette
Minutes – Stakeholder Meeting
(Environmental Stewardship Topic)
June 6th, 2019
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Senior Center

Attendees:

Paul Rayl, City of Lafayette; Britt Palmberg, Rick Community Planning; Martin Landers, Plan Tools; Nancy Nixon; Robb Menzies; Ron Spalding; Grant Shift; Chad Parsons; Jamie Harkins, Lafayette City Council.

Note: The summary below may not include every comment made during the meeting. These notes are intended to capture the key takeaways from the stakeholder meeting.

Summary of Discussion Topics

1. **Introductions:** Britt Palmberg of Rick explained that the series of Stakeholder Meetings would be repeated in July and August, including the Environmental Stewardship meeting (the subject of tonight’s meeting). A meeting was held last night on the “Strong Economy” topic and notes will be distributed from last night’s meeting, as well as this meeting. The meetings originally scheduled for next week (concerning the “Connected Community” and “Community Character” topics) will be rescheduled for July or August. In July and August, meetings on each of the four topic areas will be held. He indicated that everyone in attendance at this evening’s meeting would receive information about the meetings, to be held in July and August. Importantly, the meetings will be actively promoted around town, on the project website, the City’s website, and at the Legacy Lafayette Launch Party to be held on June 20th.
2. **Discussion about the planning process and collaboration in Lafayette:**
 - a. It feels like many of the boards and groups in Lafayette meet in “silos” currently.
 - b. Meetings like tonight’s are good opportunities for collaboration. This comprehensive plan opportunity allows for open meetings outside of the structure of formal committee and commission meetings.
 - c. Outreach at community events: Having a booth at Art Night Out or Beer Fest would be good opportunities for gaining public input. The Peach Fest attracts more of a regional crowd, and wouldn’t be as good in gaining local input for the comprehensive plan. There are concerns about not having enough parking at the senior center for public meetings.

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- d. Some concern that an open house event (such as the one that will occur at the Launch Party) won't provide enough opportunities for roundtable discussions similar to those provided at stakeholder meetings.
- e. It would be good to meet people where they are (such as at neighborhood or civic groups) in order to have meaningful conversations
- f. Discussion about the process, after the launch party, on how to discuss development issues and the direction of the community. It would be good for people to have the opportunity to discuss the trade-offs inherent in the planning process and the process of how Lafayette should grow.
- g. There is a feeling that some of the goals in the current comprehensive plan conflict with each other.
- h. There is a feeling among many that too much of the City's focus has been on Old Town and the Public Road corridor, and that the plan should focus just as much on the various neighborhoods in town and all of the areas in Lafayette.
- i. How do we work with each other in Lafayette? It is an overarching topic to be addressed. It may make sense to explore the Chatham House Rules as a way to conduct meetings in Lafayette.
- j. It would be good to meet where people are. And it is important to give people plenty of time so that they can have meaningful conversations.
- k. Need commitment from people in town to help spread the word about meetings.
- l. The overall plan should have meetings that help lead to the formation of consensus, so that the community can move forward.
- m. Meetings should address difficult topics. Nancy mentioned the group "Warm Cookies of the Revolution" ...a group that is formed to talk about difficult things and difficult topics (there is a group in the Denver area)
- n. The CAC can help get the word out about meetings and events

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3. Discussion of energy and sustainability planning in Lafayette

- a. The plan for Lafayette has to give the community a road map for how to achieve its environmental goals.
- b. The LESAC group had an outside consultant. One of the big questions for the community involves the question “What is energy? How does it affect you?”
- c. Lafayette needs a “Call to Action” to address key issues (such as the reduction in carbon). In terms of the “Call to Action” on the environment and climate change topics, the question for Lafayette is..what does it all mean?
- d. Zero energy building codes: How do we reach the climate goals the community has set when we are using old standards?
- e. Funding sources: The Polis administration is freeing up a lot of funding for environmental initiatives. There are many opportunities to secure funding for environmental initiatives.
- f. Solar farms: There are now ways to introduce more types of farming in conjunction with solar farms.
- g. People on the LESAC committee are talking about public walkways, and electric-vehicle-ready garages
- h. The community is very vocal as a strong anti-fracking and pro-prairie dog community and “green” in its outlook. However, this view is not unanimous and other voices are not always heard.
- i. There is a lot of opportunity in clean energy. There is a lot of money in the clean energy space. Many boards and financial institutions have “green funds” now.
- j. There is a real opportunity to plan for the completion of the plan for Lafayette while including consideration for how to change the setup of infrastructure in Lafayette, to be more environmentally friendly.
- k. There are now “micro grants” that help communities capture wasted energy that is present in a community’s infrastructure system.

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- l. Sustainability can be an energizer on the system. The concept of resiliency fits in here and feeds into other elements of the plan.
 - m. Communities, in their planning, can now help low income residents get through heat waves.
 - n. Micro grids can now respond more quickly to natural disasters. Boulder has micro grids in the northeast corner of the city.
 - o. One limitation is that the public utilities (like Xcel) determine how the overall infrastructure system operates. In many ways, larger utilities plan for a community like Lafayette in the same way they would for a small town on the Eastern Plains. However, some of the utilities, like Xcel, are getting pushed more and more by local jurisdictions (like Boulder, or Minneapolis) to help meet climate action goals.
 - p. Having someone from the Planning Commission serve as an adjunct member of the energy group might help in promoting the cross-pollination of ideas.
 - q. Communities cannot reach energy goals without looking at the stock of existing buildings and how they manage energy.
 - r. The more efficient use of energy is the way to go.
 - s. Educating the public about elements of sustainability and energy is important, upfront.
4. Discussion of parks and open space
- a. Not every piece of property needs a trail on it. Leaving some areas as natural is good.
 - b. Internal connectivity within the community is important. There are various trails around the outsides of Lafayette, but it can be difficult to connect within the heart of Lafayette.
 - c. Need to be mindful of all of the things around the edges of Lafayette, in terms of parks and open space.
 - d. There is some conflict between the desires of some to use some of the open space for solar power, and the desire to leave open space natural. It is important to address conflicts between competing environmental interests (such as between open space and renewable energy).
 - e. The open space buffers are crucial to the community.

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- f. The community has separate funds for open space and trails.

5. Discussion of planning for land uses in Lafayette

- a. The community has limited land left. The plan will need to explore the proper balance between developing some of the “opportunity parcels” on the outskirts of the community, and developing infill parcels.
- b. How can Lafayette respect property rights while still meeting the objectives of the community?
- c. There are trade-offs within the plan (for example, encouraging more employment helps the community, but it also can help drive traffic to some extent).
- d. In many ways, Lafayette is dealing with issues that stem from Boulder serving as the jobs generator for the region. We capture the traffic that passes through Lafayette. The other communities in Boulder County are serving as the bedroom communities for Boulder.

6. Other general comments about the comprehensive plan

- a. In order to sustain a community, people have to be able to afford to live in a community. One attendee noted that it took her 14 months to find suitable housing, recently.
- b. In order to enhance the quality of life, Lafayette needs to find ways to get people out of their cars. Public transportation needs to be timely, accurate, reliable, well set up. Bus stops need to be strategically placed.
- c. Accessibility in providing transit is very important. Transit needs to be consistent enough so that people can make appointments. Transit should not be so limited that it is not viable.
- d. More and more adults are older. Accessibility is becoming a big issue.
- e. We need more housing for people who are providing essential services.
- f. Lafayette should plan to be a multi-generational community that promotes affordability.
- g. Lafayette does a good job with the arts and open space, but can do other things better.
- h. One of the attendees indicated that he wanted Lafayette to retain its small town character. A total population of no greater than 38,000 residents would be ideal.