

Legacy Lafayette

Legacy Lafayette
Summary of Discussion – Stakeholder
Meeting (Connected Community Topic)
August 15th, 2019
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
The Collective Community Arts Center

Attendees: Paul Rayl (City), Jana Easley (City), Greg Thompson (City), Britt Palmberg (RICK), Martin Landers (Plan Tools), Guy Higgins, Mary Higgins, Karen Norback, Roger Wilcox, Anthony Viers, Craig Kitzman, Bob Bruegel, John Bollinger, Julie Marshall, Suzanne Crawford, Pirie Jensen, Tim Barnes, Brady Van Matre, Rebecca Schwendler, Anne Borrell, Stephanie Walton, Jamie Harkins, Veronica Sangabriel, Marsha Robichaux, Abraham Lopez, Guillermo Estrada Rivera, Vicky Uhland, Carolyn Cutler, Chey Ness, Elizabeth Lichtenstein

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

Takeaways, Tim Barnes's group:

- Question 1:
 - It is important to bridge the digital divide. Around 14 percent of residents in Boulder County do not have Internet connectivity.
 - Could the City explore having a City-wide Internet service?
 - The group thought the definition of connectivity meant that people can walk easily to services, dog parks, destinations.
 - If there are places without parks, then it may make sense to have infill developments in these locations that involve parks within them, in order to bring people together around parks.
 - Need to extend out invitations to different groups beyond the city's boards and commissions.
- Question 2:
 - Honoring and providing resources for cultural brokers to do a better job is important.
 - Latinx and different cultures in town should have cultural brokers. Need to find brokers to support the needs of the community.
 - Need to create spaces for holding activities, such as those hosted by Suma.
- Question 3: Transportation
 - Moving across 287 is very challenging. It is very frightening because of the speed of traffic along 287
 - Perhaps the city could consider separating cars and bikes, on different streets? Need better delineation to keep bikes safe from cars, and to make it safer for drivers as well.
 - Need to plan for e-scooters

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- The City could consider a circulator bus as opposed to relying on RTD.
- Question 4:
 - Need to consider the challenges of the area east of Old Town

Takeaways from Craig Kitzman's group

- Craig works as a civil engineer in Louisville and has lived in Lafayette for many years.
- Need to explore the idea of constructing underpasses along roads that pass by new developments
- Connectivity along South Boulder Road needs improvement, as well as connectivity to Coal Creek and Waneka Lake
- Need wider sidewalks along South Boulder Road and Baseline Road. There is enough right of way along these streets to accommodate wider sidewalks.
- There is an ordinance on the books that states that the City won't install sidewalks next to private property, and it puts the obligation on property owners to fund the sidewalks. The group would like explore whether this equation can be reversed, with the City paying for sidewalks.
- Want to see sidewalks installed where they serve the common good.
- Baseline needs to be improved from the library east to Public Road. Decades have passed, and the corridor has not been improved, including a sidewalk. CDOT and the City need to get together and complete improvements along Baseline. If you walk along Baseline, near Public Road, trash cans obstruct you along the south side of the street.
- With RTD, there is no way to get to Broomfield or Boulder on Sundays. Transit service needs to be improved.
- The PROST Plan didn't look at connectivity. Need to incorporate this. Need a master trail plan so that developers are obligated to contribute to complete the trail system. Without a plan, we don't have a way to get developers to pay for trails.
- There are significant benefits that can be realized from collaboration between the public and private sectors on various items, such as events (for example). The VFW used to have a pancake breakfast that was a great community get-together. We need events in different parts of the community.
- Lafayette should consider having a "First Night Out". At these events, businesses in a particular part of town could stay open late for a community "open house", where people can come and learn about their businesses and enjoy entertainment. The events would help provide introductions to different parts of town. The City could establish shuttles to different parts of town for these events. For example, Indian Peaks could have its own series of events.

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- A lot of events held here in Lafayette aren't interactive. Attendees just go to the events, and then leave. The "First Night Outs" would be an opportunity for different parts of town to show their wares and services. The Comp Plan can outline how the city could coordinate with other organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, to make these events happen.
- Need fun wayfinding on trails to encourage exploration. The signage and other features along trails and in parks should include architectural details, to make signage more than just functional.
- City needs to explore creating a parking garage in the Downtown area in the future.
- Need to look at parking, underpasses, and connecting neighborhoods on both sides of Public Road.
- Most people don't know what is going on in the community. For example, a number of church activities are open to the public, but people don't know about these activities.

Takeaways from Guy Higgins's Group:

- The term "connected community" is not about transportation, it is about the people of Lafayette.
- Need to take advantage of the differences between people in Lafayette.
- How can the City Council identify ways for residents to take advantage of the differences in the community?
- Festival Plaza is a gathering place in the Old Town area. What other kinds of locations can be created, like this, around town?
- The trail system should have intermediate stops around different places in town so that people can learn about different parts of the city.
- Having a better connected community is a question of leadership, not governance.
- Our events in Lafayette aren't emphasizing interaction between residents.
- How can the City Council help encourage competition so that the different technology companies will compete to have their products or services here in Lafayette, to serve the people?
- How do we let people know that these opportunities for involvement and interaction exist around the City? It comes down to citizens helping to get the word out about events.
- All of this really comes down to the people of Lafayette, not the City staff.

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Takeaways from Anne Borell:

- The group expressed the desire to feel connected to the earth, here in town.
- We really need gardens or water features to help us all calm down, in a very busy world.
- Lafayette could have a “central garden”, for example. We also need wildlife corridors to help bring the energy of nature into the heart of the town.
- Lafayette could have an event to celebrate Day of the Dead to help foster cultural cross-connections.
- Lafayette has a senior center. Perhaps the community should have a youth center. The youth in the community need to have a place to do homework and hang out.
- In terms of transportation, the group liked the idea of bike borrowing stations in town, so you can ride from point A to point B. Salida has “big basket” bikes that everyone rides around town and allows people to ride to the store and carry more items.
- The park areas in Lafayette need help with connectivity.
- The neighborhoods need help with connectivity. The HOA organizations and how they govern communities discourage interaction. We need some new ideas. For example, neighborhoods could have roofs installed at locations where people pick up mail, to encourage interaction.

Additional Comments from John Bollinger:

- We need to create long term plans for Lafayette, looking out 50 to 100 years.
- Need to consider connections to Anthem.
- Need a community center for large gatherings.
- Need parks to encourage informal ball games and other activities.
- The city should consider having developments show fiber connectivity in order to gain approval for development.

Additional Comments from Councilor Stephanie Walton:

- Multi-generational living is important. Seniors value the opportunity to give back to the community. From an economic perspective, we should consider affordability for residents at any age. We need to provide opportunities for people to stay in town as they age.

Additional Comments from Veronica Sangabriel:

- Need a center in Lafayette for seniors to care for and teach the youth in the community.

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Additional Comments from Karen Norback:

- 287 truly divides the community. Lafayette used to have a friendly competition between neighborhoods – fun competitions. We could combine a couple neighborhoods together in these competitions again. These friendly fun competitions help bring people together from different parts of town.
- Connections to history are important. This needs to be emphasized more. Perhaps the city can host information online about the history of a particular business so that people have an idea of where these various businesses originated. This would make for good information sharing.

Additional Comments from Vicky Umland:

- With 287, right now many people have no reason to go to the west side of town. Need to look at having more community gathering places within developments. Lafayette needs more on the west side, in order to give people more reasons to cross the divide (287).

Additional Comments from Craig Kitzman:

- At one point there was talk of having an underpass from the 40 North development to Isabel Farms. We could have a gathering place in this area to serve the areas west of 287. We could also have a trail from Waneka Lake to Heron Lake.

Additional Comments from Anthony Viers:

- Need shade at bus stops. Right now, kids are cooking in the sun when waiting for the bus. Bus stops need to be an actual stop (not just a sign), and we should explore how to make bus stops into gathering places.

Additional Comments from Roger Wilcox:

- The City needs to have events set up on specific dates. Events can be moved around town. It would be good to have events set up at different places around town. A lot of times we go to certain locations (like the Wow museum) because of kids.
- We need to identify certain places where we ask businesses to be open for events so that people can go there at a particular time and learn more about that part of town.

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Other Comments:

- Autistic children are well integrated into the local schools. However, the community does not have any facilities to care for autistic children, to keep them integrated after schooling ends. We need to help people with different abilities. The better integration of autistic adults would tie with the concept of having more multi-generational housing in Lafayette. Camp Hill, on the East Coast, provides a good example.
- Lots of disabled people here do not have access and visibility. We need to value all people. Housing for disabled people is a key issue that the city needs to be on top of.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM COMMENT FORMS

1) What does “connected community” mean to you? What is the role of the Comprehensive Plan in creating a more connected community?

- Incorporate nature through common space that includes gardens and water features
- Broadband for all.
- Preserve wildlife corridors.
- Shade at bus stops
- Have cultural meeting points in various locations of the community.
- Need to face-to-face interactions and Internet equality.
- Street and trails master plan is needed to identify connectivity between neighborhoods and shopping areas.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- It needs to offer current matters of interest to the community and help it act on these interests.
- Communication is vital. Perhaps an app can assist connections.
- Connections between people and between people and place, not physical connections between places (with respect to transportation).
- Creating one or more public spaces for people to get together to talk about things.
- More pocket parks and locations for special events (e.g., bird walks, festival plaza type locations) and advertise, add garbage cans, some grills, etc.
- Being able to easily navigate, access, visit, become familiar with, and participate in all areas and aspects of one’s community. The comprehensive plan should examine physical, economic, educational, and social barriers to connectedness, and build in accessibility, inclusivity, navigability to all planning.

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- Encourage connected transportation, wildlife corridors, connections between people. Connections to our neighbors to increase sales tax. Connections to nature built into all new developments.
- A welcoming community that supports its diverse citizens – today there is NO support for our children or teens who have significant cognitive and physical disabilities to stay here and be a true part of our community. We need our comp plan to say we need co-housing that houses our adults with significant care needs – NOT an institution, but a real “village” co-housing that is integrated, including a CSA, animals, art studios, etc. Our kids don’t drive and could welcome the community into the farm. This would include housing for millennials on low rent, if they are caretakers, and young families too. We need sensory friendly, nature areas as part of this community.
- Recognize all differences among people that keep people apart. List them.
- The comp plan’s role is to ensure distinct voices are heard and cultural brokers are included in planning and problem solving. It should list different communities and recruit cultural brokers for each.
- Recognize multi-generational resources.
- Communicate connectivity themes along with history and business.
- Quality public spaces (including with new developments)
- Alternative transportation that’s good for meeting and good for the environment and public health
- City events are good but maybe not inclusive
- 14 percent of Boulder County has no Internet access. Bridging the digital divide. The program is good but could be better. Consider a City Internet.
- Walking safely and easily (public transit) to services and classes
- Assist those with limited resources
- Dog parks, walking, etc. must be available for any new or existing housing
- Maybe put parks in available space, instead of new housing
- Have additional ways to participate in city activities, more than just the commissions.
- More volunteer opportunities

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2) How can the community work to create better connections between different cultural or demographic groups? What impediments to creating a more connected community currently exist?

- Veronica suggests a cross-cultural event timed and themed on Day of the Dead
- Bad connections go directly from A to B. Good connections would meander from point A to point B in the community, allowing people to see different locations along the way.
- Co-housing and transitional housing for those with physical, mental, or different abilities.
- Economic differences, cultural differences, and religious differences
- Host information about special group gatherings and locations on website
- Add information to the comp plan about housing for people with “different abilities”
- Shop at Hispanic and other ethnically under-represented stores and restaurants
- City website could host special bios of different restaurant owners and long-time families
- Ensure that city communications are translated by competent, professional translators into languages and contexts that will be more easily understood by persons of various cultural and language backgrounds.
- Should the city have bi-lingual staff?
- Need a day to celebrate Latino culture, including community events like Day of the Dead. Close off Public for festivals. Teach new generations how to be active in the community.
- Promote public / private collaboration
- Impediments include language barriers, religion (Friday Art Night Out is not good for the Jewish population), socio-economic disparity, child care, physical ability, family makeup (singles not welcome at family friendly events), resident status
- Bring events (block party, festivals, competitions) directly into various business community (not just Public Road) and into neighborhoods. Provide shuttle services for events. Make the events periodic / consistent / ongoing. Schools are good meeting places too.
- The city needs to do a better job sharing the good it does! Describe the challenge, what happened, how issues were resolved and how the situation was improved.
- Need to create a sense of belonging.
- Suma Director: People don't “see” themselves in the demographics of the staff. Cultural brokers are needed, especially in the Latino community. Need resources (pay) for these cultural brokers. This would allow for under-represented peoples to “take a place at the table”, particularly the Latinx community.
- Create spaces where cultural activities can take place.
- Sustain the programs that are currently in existence, and do a gap study to see what is still needed.

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3) What issues does the City face in creating a more connected community, considering all modes of travel?

- Promote co-housing for the differently-abled
- Codes in Lafayette should promote multi-generational living.
- The plan needs to create long term goals that may seem impossible today.
- Cross cultural inclusion and appreciation
- Perhaps Lafayette should have a “First Night” with shuttles provided to various points of interest and businesses. Costumes might be encouraged or considered. They and their neighboring businesses may be introduced to people from different parts of town.
- Creating roads that facilitate all kinds of travel – Public Road is now terrible for bikes with all of the bump outs.
- 287 splits the city in half, not only physically but also culturally. Need to bridge the gap. How about having community events on the west side so people have a reason to go over there.
- Creative promotions for using bus service.
- East/west connectivity across 287. Traffic on 287 is way too fast between Baseline and Arapahoe.
- Every other street (east/west) may need to be designated for either bikes or cars. Some streets would be better to handle cars.

4) How could the different areas of Lafayette be better connected, considering all modes of travel (such as, but not limited to, driving, biking, walking, transit)?

- Bring in the bike borrowing idea, like Boulder has with “Be Bike”.
- Need more cultural events such as Day of the Dead / International Food Festival, etc.
- Need underpasses
- Need to separate cars and pedestrians as much as possible.
- Need more green / nature connections
- More underpasses and overpasses
- Look at sidewalk connectivity
- How can we flow traffic better within the community?
- Need to connect neighborhoods when they are being developed

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- Sidewalks need to be maintained (with good cement, shoveled, trails need interesting and creative signage, and restrooms strategically placed). Perhaps event locations could be rotated to introduce people to “new areas”.
- Special interest group activities – not city events but city-led facilitation of information about them
- Physical connectivity – put sidewalks in everywhere that they aren’t. Some stretches of Old Town and Public Road (busy places).
- There are a lot of questions about transportation. I think connectivity needs to be a much broader topic in the comp plan than just transportation.
- Underpasses under Baseline and South Boulder Road
- Far east Old Town
- Circulating bus needed
- E-scooters or bikes

5) Are there particular areas in the City that, in particular, need help with connectivity?

- HOAs tend to discourage community relations – especially in the case of designs that have drive-in garages, and then folks never use their front doors. Also, mailboxes are exposed – neighbors do not chat in a neighborly opportunity.
- Pedestrian crossings needed across Baseline, across 287, across 95th Street, across / over / or under ALL major roads
- Seniors and youth, especially with the aging trends that we have.
- Need “stops along the way”, on trails, parks, and shady spots
- Publicize community spaces and events that aren’t only city sponsored.
- Trails and Public Road need help with connectivity.
- West of 287 versus east of 287
- The west side in particular. Encourage them to feel like a part of Lafayette and shop here, rather than in Louisville. Competitions or games between neighborhoods to meet people from all other neighborhoods.
- Lafayette Park needs safer walk and bike connectivity across Baseline to Old Town and across 287 to the west. Kids should be able to take an underpass, perhaps by Isabelle Farmstand or by Affinity and the Library. Combine projects with PROST. Make bike routes to connect neighborhoods to various schools and to other cities.
- Add parking garage for access to Old Town.

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6) What other ideas do you have for the Connected Community topic?

- A youth center for hanging out, doing homework, playing instruments. Will help to include Latinx.
- Need oases along pedestrian connections. Places where people can connect. Share structures and shaded bus stops. Need city support for community groups, through the city's website.
- Celebrate the multi-generational heritage and story
- Be a welcoming community, do not make the community overly advertised and no parking meters
- Private, public, and faith-based opportunities
- Focus more on inter-personal connections, not physical / transportation connections
- How many bikes are actually parked at bike racks? Is adding racks really an effective way to get people riding rather than driving?
- Connections also between people of all ages. Need a community center, rather than just a senior center.
- Create a diversity and inclusion team to create checklists and establish priorities for reviewing all city goals, and efforts and to work on collecting, reporting on, and resolving problems.
- Create ways for the people in the community to problem solve city issues, and not just relay on staff! (after the comp plan)
- Create a strategy for demonstrating transparency in the city, in everything it does.
- Co-housing and housing for disability community.
- It's about people.
- Leverage our diversity. There is value in differences
- Connecting via:
 - Plans for different transportation modes
 - Connections for digital connecting
- Execution is about leadership, not government
- Festivals don't do it
- Getting the word out