

Legacy Lafayette

Legacy Lafayette
Summary of Discussion – Community
Advisory Committee meeting
September 11th, 2019
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Lafayette Public Library

Attendees:

City staff and consultants: Paul Rayl (City), Jana Easley (City), Britt Palmberg (RICK), Martin Landers (Plan Tools)

CAC Members in Attendance: Guy Higgins, Karen Norback, Anthony Viers, Dave Heinrich, Alfredo Alvarado, Debbie Cook, Amy DeBay, Richard Welty, Lauren Motley, Adam Gianola, Jonathan Bent (on phone), Isadora Lima (on phone), Heidi Mallon (on phone)

Additional Attendees from the Community: Michelle Nielsen, Annie Bowell, Nancy Nixon, Bob Bruegel, Ron Spaulding, Alison Fischer

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 meeting.

Review of Community Engagement and Community Assessment:

- Britt Palmberg reviewed the key takeaways from the Launch Party, stakeholder meetings, and the Community Survey, with the group
- Britt Palmberg reviewed the key takeaways from the Community Assessment completed for existing conditions in Lafayette.

Discussion of key themes from information gathered to date (the following reflects takeaways of the open conversation between CAC members at the meeting):

- Definitions: Are we all on the same page; e.g., defining what “traffic congestion” really means. US 287 is designed for x number of vehicles. Think of backup and safety; is that what everybody thinks?
- Taking all these ideas into account, what is the plan? What does that goal mean?
- Issues are identified, e.g., renewable energy. If that’s important we need to put that into a plan.
- Need to identify clear benchmarks; need counsel on what is an appropriate benchmark.
- Comp plan is vision document; for guidance, not meant to drill down into a lot of detail on individual aspects.

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- Policy I 1 7 talks about hybrids in terms of sustainability, it could be made more specific, targeted.
- It's important to remember that this is the community's plan, not the committee's plan or my plan.
- Where are the conflicts and the contradictions?
- Single family detached folks will say they want single family; while others may say they want housing diversity, e.g., housing density
- One of the things that could be teased out of the survey are items that are missing from the community
- RE: ADU's, they are only currently allowed in Old Town. They remain a possibility for other areas, addressing ADU's
- If investors already have a zone, and have relied on that zoning, it could be challenging to change
- With the comp plan, we do look at land that is undeveloped, may no longer make sense to retain particular designations, in the context of current zoning
- One of the things that is missing is affordability; there is conflict w/ the fact that the City profits from property tax increases. People want tiny homes because of affordability, not because they want to live in them.
- Floodplain has not been updated on the current comp plan; may change amount of land available/unavailable
- City should protect the mobile home owners, so that mobile home park owners are responsible for cost of relocating mobile homes. Important to keep residents in town. This is a hard problem, as landowners also have property rights
- Non-retaliation ordinance (regarding mobile homes) adopted by the City reinforces State law.
- Zoning specific to mobile homes would offer more protection for mobile home owners, because landowners would not be able to redevelop site (without rezoning)
- A missing piece of the analysis is a tree plan/survey
- Idea on transportation: Mobility without vehicles; the comp plan offers an opportunity to think differently
- Consider requiring cost comparison, e.g., cost of widening road needs to be compared to cost of purchasing a bus
- Like/dislike taking a bus, due to schedules, routes. Seems to be designed to accommodate students more than other residents. End up taking more time to use the bus than other forms of transportation.

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- Bus system is underfunded; more buses would improve user experience. Need to decide as a community where to put the money.
- Within City's control to create a shuttle system specific to accessing retail centers
- Don't want taxes paying for people passing through town
- No - need to step up and start taking responsibility, paying for solutions with regard to transportation, rather than just saying it is a regional problem
- Not realistic for everyone to ride their bike; another solution is to decrease commuting by increasing office/industrial development (job creation)
- People don't necessarily know Town boundaries, so they may shop in another town without realizing the impact of sales tax leakage. Educate public on shopping local.
- "Great wall of 287" a physical and psychological barrier. This is part of the need for community connections
- Also need to make it attractive for people who are commuting through town to stop and shop
- We lose identity when the community looks like Anywhere USA
- Is there potential to create Character areas in different parts of Lafayette?
Redevelopment opportunities are present in several locations
- Need to address improving internet/cellular connectivity; could be an economic development advantage, increase potential for tech jobs
- How do we encourage competition between ISP's; get serious as treating it as a public utility
- Future is autonomous vehicles; what will that do?
- Smart electric car outlets; need to identify locations for charging stations
- Need to figure out a way to get west to east faster/better. Public Road is our identity, captures travelers.
- Open space is also part of our identity. Spread all over town, w/ trails to "connect community".
- Connect neighborhoods w/ their own identity
- People need options to connect
- Waneka Lake needs to be improved as a gathering place; seniors also need a place to congregate at the lake