

Legacy Lafayette

Legacy Lafayette
Summary of Discussion – Community
Advisory Committee meeting
October 28th, 2019
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Clinica Family Health

Attendees: Paul Rayl (City), Jana Easley (City), Britt Palmberg (RICK), Martin Landers (Plan Tools), Erin Frazier (substituting for Lynn Riedel from LOSAC), Kimberly Dugan, Luke Arrington, Karen Norback, Anthony Viers, Richard Welty, Adam Gianola, Amy & Abby DeBay, Debbie Cook, David Heinrich, Olivia Ameigh, Mark & Tandy Ortiz, Nancy Nixon, Larry LaVerdure, Tim Barnes

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.

Introductory Presentation, Overview of CAC Meeting This Evening:

- Britt Palmberg provided an overview of the purpose for this evening’s meeting. Drawing from all of the information and input gathered to date, the team has been working on a series of concepts for review and input from the community at the upcoming November 18th community meeting for Legacy Lafayette. Tonight, the CAC has an opportunity to present ideas they have for various areas around Lafayette. Britt noted that the city staff is also conducting a similar mapping exercise at this time, and drawing from this input, the consultant team will create concepts for review and input at the November public meeting.
- Britt reviewed some of the key elements desired by the community, drawing from input to date. While there are differing views on other elements of Lafayette’s future, there appears to be alignment on the following points:
 - Enhanced connections for people walking & biking – between neighborhoods, all around City
 - Bike / pedestrian connections across 287 corridor
 - Bridges, other safety improvements
 - More parks and open space, & enhanced facilities
 - More gathering places around community
 - Enhanced transit, including regional connections
- Britt reviewed how the City funds new improvements, as part of its budgeting process. Taxes represent the largest source of funding for improvements, including property tax and sales tax. Beyond that, the City often looks for funding from DRCOG (primarily for transportation improvements), GOCO (for open space improvements), or Boulder County. Britt reviewed the criteria that DRCOG and GOCO, in particular, use to evaluate funding requests. Of note, DRCOG tends to favor funding improvements that connect with “urban centers” around the region. The urban centers tend to be located along primary transit routes. Downtown Louisville is the

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nearest “urban center” to Lafayette, but it is possible that Lafayette could articulate the presence or potential to create an “urban center” or set of centers in the future.

- Review of key elements for planning concepts: Britt reviewed background information about the various elements that the groups around the room at the CAC meeting could consider, for the planning concepts to be created on the maps. These include
 - Community Activity Centers
 - Redevelopment / Infill areas
 - Areas for greenfield development
 - Green connections / open space areas
 - Transportation connections, including
 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
 - Local Shuttle routes or services
 - Transit-on-demand
 - Britt presented an example of a similar “planning framework” concept from the Fort Collins Comprehensive Plan.
- Breakout into Groups
 - The group in attendance (including CAC members and attendees from the community) broke into four groups, gathered around base maps of Lafayette, and worked for the next hour to create their ideas for the key planning concepts or frameworks the community should consider, at this stage in the process.

Takeaways / Report Out from Mapping Exercise:

Representatives from each of the four groups assembled around the room reported out from the mapping exercise. The following are some key takeaways.

- Karen Norback, Richard Welty, Debbie Cook, Erin Frazier:
 - CACs located
 - Between Public Road and 287, and between South Boulder Road and Coal Creek area
 - Around the hospital, and in the “SoLa” area
 - Around the current industrial area along 120th
 - Around the 95th and Arapahoe area
 - The group emphasized the importance of open lands and connections between these lands, and having local shuttle service between different areas around town.
 - Important to connect to regional trails and take advantage of trail opportunities.
 - Important to examine how to connect different places around town.

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- The group thought that the view corridor from the STEM Cider vicinity was great and a potential area for a community hub.
- The group discussed the importance of connections east to west, and west to east. Important to connect from residential into retail areas, as well as recreational centers and the library.
- It is important to consider how to separate traffic from people, moving around the community.
- Adam Gianola, David Heinrich, Kim Dugan, Anthony Viers:
 - The group explored the potential for a Highway 7 bypass around town, to the north. The group thought pursuing this bypass would help encourage the development of hubs of activity along Baseline.
 - The group saw the potential for a CAC near Northwest Parkway and the industrial district just to the north, including the lumber yard. The group thought the lumberyard represented a good opportunity for potential redevelopment.
 - The group discussed having more park areas along Coal Creek, including in the middle of town.
 - The group saw potential for new mixed-use development to the south of the YMCA, and also along south Highway 287 in the vicinity of Northwest Parkway.
 - The group focused on 287 in particular. The group discussed putting a “lid” on part of the 287 corridor as it passes through Lafayette. For example, a lid could be put on 287 in the vicinity of the Emma overpass, creating a park or green space.
 - The group discussed creating community transit “circles” and connectors
 - There is potential to have points along the trail network where food trucks could locate, such as at Waneka Lake or something by the farm just to the north of Waneka. These could represent a series of community access points along the trail system.
 - The group highlighted having distinct gateways at the boundaries of Lafayette (represented by stars on their map), at key entrances, to highlight the sense of community in Lafayette. Public art, for example, could be integrated into these entrances.
- Olivia Ameigh, Larry LaVerdure, Mark Ortiz, Tandy Ortiz:
 - Identified CACs around 95th and Arapahoe, along Public Road in Downtown, between South Boulder and Coal Creek (and between 287 and Public Road), and in the industrial / business park area east of 120th Street.
 - The group discussed making Coal Creek more of a presence in the community, with better connections from neighborhoods into the creek corridor. There could, for

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example, be a trail connection made from the new 400-unit apartment complex down to Coal Creek.

- The group thought that development in the industrial park area could take advantage of views of the Rockies from this area.
- The group discussed having dedicated pedestrian or bicycle pathways around town, along roadways, to improve connectivity. Better connections from Waneka Lake to Downtown and to Coal Creek are particularly important.
- The group likes the idea of “capping” or putting a lid / cover on the 287 corridor.
- A series of pavilions could be developed along the open space corridors as community amenities.
- A new park could be developed along the east side of town, along the existing trail. The group also discussed creating a “rail trail” along the old rail line that runs along the eastern edge of the Old Town area.
- Luke Arrington, Nancy Nixon, Tim Barnes, Amy DeBay, Addy DeBay:
 - Explored the idea of having a commuter rail hub along the western end of the Baseline corridor in Lafayette, where the commuter rail line (that would pass through Downtown Louisville) would extend and cross Baseline (around a half mile west of 95th Street).
 - Explored the idea of moving the RTD park and ride for Lafayette from the downtown area to the Walmart parking lot, to take advantage of the huge size of the Walmart parking lot and its location along 287.
 - Explored the idea of a Highway 7 bypass around the north side of town.
 - Explored the idea of burying Baseline, and reclaiming it for other uses
 - The group thought the area south of the YMCA was a key area for development.
 - Explored opportunities for pedestrian crossings.
- Additional comments from the breakout session:
 - There could be an opportunity to integrate daytime uses with open space amenities (that primarily draw traffic on nights and weekends). These could be integrated into the business park area and employment centers. The example from the Denver area mentioned included:
 - Berms of slopes around playing fields, that create seating areas for playing fields
 - Parking for employees during the day that can switch to parking for playing fields or open space areas during evenings and weekends.
 - Comment that it will be vital to consider how all of the ideas considered for Lafayette take into account water, which is a very limited resource in Colorado, given the growth the state is experiencing. Sustainability should weave throughout the planning effort.

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Wrap Up / Next Steps:

- Britt outlined the general set up for the community meeting on November 18th. The meeting will be organized as an open house, with stations oriented around the four planning frameworks (Strong Economy, Environmental Stewardship, Connected Community, Community Character). There will be a fairly short, 10-minute long opening presentation at the top of the hour (5, 6, and 7 PM), and the total time will run from 5PM to 8PM. There will be diagrams of the various planning concepts for discussion at the meeting, along with other exercises at each station.
- The draft set of community survey questions, provided to the CAC this evening, will be integrated into the handouts for the attendees at the public meeting, and the survey will also be replicated online for input throughout the holiday season. Britt will send out the draft set of survey questions to the group as a word document, and the planning team would welcome any edits, etc. on the questions over the next week or so.