

Linden Hills Small Area Plan Steering Committee #1.**January 24, 2013, 6:00 PM Linden Hills Park Building**

Attendees: Constance Pepin, Christy Prediger, Grant Hawthorn, Jean Johnson, Dave Luger, Ann Voda, Rick Anderson,, Ken Stone, Eric Hanson, Jim Scott, Aaron Tag, Larry Lavercombe, Sara Jaehne, Pat Smith, Brian Schafer, Dan Cornejo, Chuck Liddy, Ana Nelson, Bob Kost, Roger Cummings, Caroline Kent.

Discussions:

1. Committee members introduced themselves and offered brief statements regarding their motivations for serving on the committee and goals / interests for the Small Area Plan (SAP). Goals included:

- develop consensus on neighborhood's future
- maintain neighborly/walkable feel
- consultants should challenge conventional wisdom-push beyond comfort zone,
- engage as many residents/businesses owners as possible in the planning process to build consensus and strengthen ownership in the plan
- be proactive in shaping the neighborhood's future rather than reactive
- create a plan that supports greater diversity of ages, incomes, cultures, etc.
- desire strong leadership and guidance from consultants
- seeking a balanced approach to new redevelopment, preservation, neighborhood enhancement
- address need for balance between scale, massing, height of new buildings and their surroundings / neighborhood context

2. SAP is a policy document that upon adoption, will become an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive plan serves as the foundation for planning decisions (zoning needs to be in compliance with policies in Comprehensive Plan). Linden Hill's SAP can bring greater definition and clarity to aspects of change (redevelopment proposals, street and parking improvements, etc.) beyond what is currently expressed in the Comprehensive Plan. This will also provide a user friendly document describing the neighborhood's vision, goals, policies and priorities for shaping its future. This allows residents, business and property owners, potential developers, politicians, etc. to work off the "same page" and potentially reduce instances of developers overreaching and politicians working at cross purposes from the neighborhood.

Linden Hills Overlay District has not been as effective a tool for regulating and shaping neighborhood compatible/sensitive redevelopment proposals as initially expected. While many of its provisions have been subsequently incorporated in the City's Pedestrian Overlay District zoning, the City's zoning regulations do not address the finer points/aspects of contextual, place-based urban design. Conducting a zoning study may be one of the "next steps" outcomes from the SAP process.

3. Questions for online survey were discussed. These will be refined and posted to the project web page for obtaining citizen input and to stimulate critical thinking for the upcoming Issues, Opportunities and Visioning workshop scheduled for Thursday afternoon/evening, February 28th at the Linden Hills Park building.

Draft questions topics suggested include:

- Please finish the sentence: I would like to see _____ in my neighborhood.
- What are your aspirations for the Linden Hills neighborhood?
- What do you think the greatest challenge is for the neighborhood?
- What do you think the greatest opportunity is for the neighborhood?
- How tall do you think new buildings should be?
- What's missing from the neighborhood?
- What's your favorite thing about the neighborhood?
- Do you have specific desires or interests for future development in the neighborhood?
- Do you have specific thoughts / opinions about traveling (walking, cycling, transit, driving, parking) within and through the neighborhood?

Consultants will work with CPED planner, Brian Schafer to refine these topics , add a few others and post as an on-line community survey.

4. Attendees were given a set of three draft project logos to review, select and add notes or suggestions. Consultants will refine the preferred design for use on project related documents.

5. Consultants will begin working on assembling and analyzing back ground information as a part of Task One: coordination, analysis and visioning. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22nd, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Linden Hills Park.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40