

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING



Public Meeting Summary

Plan/Project: Bellevue Small Area and Neighborhood Investment Fund Plan

Meeting Date & Time: February 18, 2009 6:30-8:30pm

Location: P.R. Harris Educational Center, 4600 Livingston Road, SE

DC Government Attendees: Geraldine Gardner, Associate Director, Neighborhood Planning, Evelyn Kasongo, Ward 8 Neighborhood Planner, Gizachew Andargeh, Ward 7 Neighborhood Planner, Stephen Rice, Community Planner

AGENDA:

- Welcome/Introductions (Evelyn Kasongo, OP) 6:30 – 6:35 PM
- Meeting logistics (Monica Ray, Designed Services) 6:35 – 6:40 PM
- Recap of 2/11 meeting (Evelyn Kasongo, OP) 6:40 – 6:50 PM
- Q & A 6:50 – 7:00 PM
- Break-out groups 7:00 – 8:00 PM
- Report Back 8:00 – 8:20 PM
- Next steps (Evelyn Kasongo, OP) 8:20– 8:25 PM
- Meeting adjournment (Monica Ray, Designed Services) 8:25 – 8:30 PM

SUMMARY:

The Office of Planning held its second public meeting on February 18, 2009 at P.R. Harris Educational Center located at 4600 Livingston Road, SE. The meeting took place from 6:30-8:30pm. A review of the February 11th presentation was conducted for those participants who were not present at that meeting.

Similar to the February 11 meeting, meeting participants were asked to break out into groups and

complete a worksheet which expanded upon the visioning exercise conducted at the February 11 meeting. Upon completion of the exercise, results were then used to further refine the goals and associated strategies for the Bellevue neighborhood. Participants were then given 3 dots and asked to prioritize their top three goals or strategies. Results from the break out groups can be found below.

GROUP 1

Bellevue will be...

- Strong market place
- Variety, welcoming, adequate, quality large grocery store
- Walk able neighborhood
- Safety (lighting)
- Family-oriented
- Reading time at library
- Improving recreational spaces (basketball courts)

Bellevue will have...

- Recreational programming for kids/adolescents
- A resource guide to promote various activities for youth newsletter
- Successful schools for successful students / parental involvement
- Community enrichments
- Affordable housing
- Working families
- Green jobs
- Greater coordination/comm. b/w community & social services (fire/ems)
- Business curb appeal (signage)

Bellevue will look ...

- More desirable & inviting
- Tree maintenance overgrowth; flowering bushes
- Thriving
- Public space improvements
- Bury the utility lines

Goal #1: Enhance Bellevue commercial areas to attract and retain neighborhood-serving retail (4 DOTS)
Strategies

- Encourage enhanced marketing to attract new/diverse neighborhood-serving retail
- Provide technical assistance and support to existing small businesses
- Partner with area CDC's to create new and improve existing business districts (2 DOTS)

Other Ideas: Promotion of vision statements to business owners as a reason to do business in Bellevue.

Goal #2: Increase home ownership and housing choices and encourage new mixed-use, mixed-income development (2 DOTS)

Strategies

- Improve promotion and education about existing programs that aid in rental and homeownership housing preservation.
- Create new mixed-income housing opportunities through infill develop of vacant or underutilized lots.

Other Ideas: N/A

Goal #3: Improve the quality of infrastructure both aesthetically & functionally (2 DOTS)

Strategies

- Explore opportunities for sustainable materials/measures (e.g. impervious road materials limiting water runoff) (1 DOT)
- Work with DDOT to explore methods of pedestrian safety measures (e.g. rumble strips, speed humps, etc).

Other Ideas: N/A

Goal #4: Support vocational job training, life skills, and career development services, especially for area youth and at-risk populations (4 DOTS)

Strategies

- Create new or expand existing adult education and basic skills courses
- Expand resources to address school truancy issues
- Link area youth to jobs and mentoring opportunities through Ward 8 non-profits and religious institutions (2 DOTS)

Other Ideas: N/A

Goal #5: Promote public safety (2 DOTS)

Strategies:

- Support and enhance existing neighborhood programs that maximize interaction between MPD officers and neighborhood residents. (1 DOT)
- Work with MPD to implement foot patrol and public safety Policing Plans
- Fund programs and services to achieve safer neighborhoods (e.g. better street lighting, neighborhood watch groups, etc).

Other Ideas: Promotion of safety is a priority for all previous goals to work.

GROUP 2

Bellevue will be....

- Desirable; people want to live here with opportunities for all families/elderly
- Safe, police services/psa, boundaries-satellite locations, pedestrian safety, traffic safety; well-lit
- Productive opportunities for residents to pursue employment, education, enrichment
- Child-friendly, recreation facility, parks, enrichment, schools

- Physically connected, information exchange, web/emails/internet access
- Walk able with retail choices
- Meet daily needs in the neighborhood
- Not a throw away district

Bellevue will have...

- Choices for retail, recreation, socializing, places to go
- Resources for residents, children engaged parents
- Communication networks-information-sharing about resources, opportunities
- Empowered and engaged adults and youth
- Medical facilities, dentist/doctors/ healthy food options- grocery, fresh foods at corner markets
- More mixed-income housing
- Meet existing residents needs
- Establishing identity-library name; corrected deeds

Bellevue will look like...

- Attractive; lights; vibrancy
- A respected neighborhood
- A safe, clean neighborhood
- Cohesive, consistent streetscape, facades
- "Green" with trees and parks

Goal #1: Enhance Bellevue commercial areas to attract and retain neighborhood-serving retail (2 DOTS)
Strategies

- Encourage enhanced marketing to attract new/diverse neighborhood serving retail (3 DOTS)
- Provide technical assistance and, façade programs and support to existing small businesses (Introduction and follow through by working with business resource centers)
- Partner with area CDC's to create new and improve existing business districts and markets

Other Ideas: Promotion of vision statements to business owners as a reason to do business in Bellevue.

Goal #2: Increase home ownership and housing choices and encourage new mixed-use, mixed-income development (1 DOT)

Strategies

- Improve promotion and education about existing programs that aid in rental and homeownership housing preservation.
- Create new mixed-income housing opportunities through infill develop of vacant or underutilized lots. (2 DOTS)

Other Ideas: Assist existing residents transition to homeownership

Goal #3: Improve the quality of transportation/ infrastructure both aesthetically and functionally
Strategies

- Explore opportunities for sustainable materials/measures (e.g. impervious road materials)

limiting water runoff) (1 DOT)

- Work with DDOT to explore methods of pedestrian safety measures (e.g. rumble strips, speed humps, etc) buses/signage

Other Ideas: Fire Hydrants, better response from WASA

Goal #4: Support vocational job training, life skills, and career development services, especially for area youth and at-risk populations (6 DOTS)

Strategies

- Create new or expand existing adult education and basic skills courses and entrepreneurship
- Expand resources to address school truancy issues
- Link area youth to jobs and mentoring opportunities through Ward 8 non-profits and religious institutions (2 DOTS)

Other Ideas: Connect with business community prior to implementing programs (2 DOTS)

Goal #5: Promote public safety (2 DOTS)

Strategies:

- Support and enhance existing neighborhood programs that maximize interaction between MPD Officers and neighborhood residents.
- Work with MPD to implement foot patrol and public safety Policing Plans
- Fund programs and services to achieve safer neighborhoods (e.g. better street lighting, neighborhood watch groups, etc) (8 DOTS)

Other Ideas: Establishment of a police station within the neighborhood

NEXT STEPS:

The Office of Planning will use the information compiled to develop a draft Neighborhood Investment Fund plan. Feedback from the meeting will also be used to establish cursory recommendations for the small area plan, which will be furthered at the March 14, 2009 community-wide design workshop. The workshop will be held at the P.R. Harris Educational Center from 9:30am-1:00pm.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

25

OP Project Manager: Evelyn Kasongo

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