



Steering Advisory Committee Meeting

March 17, 2016 @ 10 AM

SUMMARY NOTES

Updates:

- Staff debriefed the committee on highlighted major takeaways stemming from the March 7-10th Community Charrette.
- The Purple Line project continues to move forward and updates are provided regularly through the project newsletter. The SAC discussed concerns related to updated designs of the Riverdale Park Purple Line station. CKAR sent a letter to the Governor and MTA Transportation Secretary regarding concerns.
- Staff will provide the Town of Riverdale Park with a quarterly project briefing this month.

Plan Elements:

- SAC discussed a desire to see a strong resources identified within the implementation chapter that provides clear guidance to a number of community stakeholder groups engaged throughout the process, particularly civic associations and the SAC itself.
- The committee discussed renaming character areas as currently proposed so they are more inclusive of multiple neighborhoods. It is important to identify specific neighborhoods beyond East Riverdale and Beacon Heights. It should serve to celebrate.
- The implementation matrix should in part be organized by neighborhood possibly so there is more community ownership. A list of resource organizations and key consistencies per character area should be developed.
- Connect with Fred Shaffer regarding the county bike share program; we need to see if Riverdale Park and Beacon Heights Purple Line Station could potentially qualify. Bike sharing, lock lots, room facilities for example should be included with bicycle recommendations.
- SAC needs to have a better sense of current projects (agencies and nonprofits) going on in the sector plan area.
- Provide a summary of stakeholder interviews from agencies to SAC in the future.
- SAC discussed priorities that should be included in the Community Heritage and Culture chapter, such as maintaining the cultural heritage of the area and what makes it special.

- The committee noted that a prioritized discussion in the design element chapter on design and materials of future land uses near the Riverdale Park and Beacon Heights station should be included.
- There is a growing concern about residents being priced out of the area due to the Purple Line project. SAC asked if there will be displacement strategies included in the plan?
- The Cultural Heritage and Design chapters should look at how to characterize the neighborhoods that we want to preserve and identify economic draws to the neighborhood and how to incentivize them in the future.
- The Healthy Communities chapter should discuss food and nutrition issues as well as mental health issues and opportunities.
- The Natural Environment chapter should include residential open space amenities.
- SAC discussed the possible need for structured parking in the area.
- Baltimore-Washington Parkway has little signage for tourism activities.
- How do you access as a visitor, resident or businesses with lack of appropriate signage? This should be addressed in the plan.
- SAC reviewed working draft vision statement and emphasized the following:
 - Capture the spirit of the existing community
 - Appropriate incentives for the area that it make it a value deal
 - Preserve existing affordable housing
 - Prioritize cultural characteristics that can help drive (or serve as an attraction factor) or influence development
 - Vision should address the key question – where am I? Highlight the following: history, way finding, and branding.
 - Where do we want to live? Where do we want to visit?
 - What type of amenities do we want?
 - Vision statement should keep in mind the tourist – what are you doing for an hour in the sector plan area?
 - For Riverdale Park area:
 - Is it connected?
 - Is it safe?
 - Is it culturally infused?
 - Is the area affordable for businesses, visitors and residents?
 - For Beacon Heights Area:
 - Is housing affordable?
 - Is the area designed well for neighborhoods and businesses?
- SAC identified the following goals to have in the future:
 - Walkable
 - Bikable
 - Safe areas
 - Culture – celebration, recognition and influence
 - Unique neighborhoods
 - Preservation of affordable housing

- SAC reinforced a desire to have sector plan with reduced page length than we typically have produced in the past. Staff noted that it would be a considerably leaner plan.