

SOUTH DOUGLAS / WEST JUNEAU AREA PLAN  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Zoom Webinar Format  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Steering Committee Members Present:

- |  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carole Bookless                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Emblar | <input type="checkbox"/> Liz Smith  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Catterson                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Arnold Liebelt | <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Snow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Delaney                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Sewell  | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyce Vick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. Erik Pederson, Planning Commission Liaison |   |                                     |

Staff Members Present:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allison Eddins, CDD Planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Pierce, CDD Planning Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jill Maclean, CDD Director  |   |

Agenda Items

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – 10 minutes
- IV. Review Plan Elements – Healthy and Active Community; Culturally and Artistically Active Community
- V. Discuss changes made to Connected Community, Distinctive Community and Green & Prosperous Community
- VI. Begin Drafting a Vision Statement
- VII. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items
- VIII. Committee Comment
- IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBD

Options include:

May 4th

May 18th

SOUTH DOUGLAS / WEST JUNEAU AREA PLAN  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Zoom Webinar Format  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

Steering Committee Members Present:

- Carole Bookless
- Matt Catterson
- Rebecca Emblar
- Arnold Liebelt
- Robert Sewell
- Liz Smith
- Linda Snow
- Joyce Vick

Steering Committee Members Absent:

- Frank Delaney

Staff Members Present:

- Allison Eddins, CDD Planner
- Alexandra Pierce, CDD Planning Manager

Agenda Items

- I. Call to order
  - Meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - February 16, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – 10 minutes
  - No members of the public were present.
- IV. Roundtable Discussion on Major Themes from Focus Group Meetings
  - Ms. Snow noted that that transportation into Juneau was a major concerns from residents. There was also multiple mentions of a bench road and intersection improvements. Connections into Juneau will be important to remember when discussing transportation.
  - Mr. Sewell noted concerns over traffic speeds through town.
- V. Review Visioning Exercise Document – Input on Plan Elements
  1. A Connected Community:
    - Transit stops in the right locations. St. Ann's for example.
    - Making sure neighborhoods stay connected through public transit.
    - Explore bringing back St. Ann's stop
    - Create subcategories under connected to include transportation, social and technological. The public expressed the desire to have social connections and public places to have those connections.
    - Library isn't changing with the times. It needs to be a community research center.

- I.T. needs to be a part of Connected Community.
  - Library is currently under distinctive. It should be moved to connect or at least the plan needs to recognize the overlap between connected and distinctive.
  - The community needs to be viable into the future. "Forward Looking" or "Future Focused" could be new plan elements.
  - Mr. Catterson had concerns that Connected Community is so broad and has different interpretations.
2. A Green and Prosperous Community
- Ms. Bookless that the two concepts of green and prosperous are two separate things and should not be lumped into one plan element. They water each other down. Mr. Sewell agreed.
  - Other committee members, including Mr. Catterson and Ms. Vick, were more concerns with making sure the content is present in the plan document and were not as concerned with labels.
  - The committee did agree that the plan should define what we mean by "sustainable".
  - This element should include neighborhood gardens. Although there is a lot of overlap. Gardens is mentioned in a Healthy and Active Community.
  - The plan document will have a visual of some kind that shows how much overlap and how connected the plan elements are. There will be overlap links in the online version of the document.
  - Ms. Snow has concerns that the economics, and businesses in general, are not highlighted.
3. A Distinctive Community
- Should include Treadwell Arena, Perseverance Theatre, Sandy Beach/Savikko Park, Louie's, The Island Pub.
  - Move the library to Connected Community and remove from Distinctive Community.
  - Should include topography. It drives so much of the development and neighborhood layout.
  - The fact that Douglas is an island is also a very important part of the identity.
  - This section should harness what's unique and special about Douglas.
  - Douglas has sub-communities within the larger community like the Sandy Beach dog walk crowd, or small neighborhood groups that make it distinct from other neighborhoods in CBJ.
  - Douglas' downtown is geographically separate from Juneau's downtown. This helps to keep it distinctive.
  - Douglas has a very distinct history.
- VI. Creating Equitable Plan – need input of Equity Framework
- The Committee will review the materials provided at this meeting and the group will have a conversation about this at a future meeting.
  - The Committee would like to invite The Douglas Indian Association or a DIA Board Member to act as a liaison to this committee.
  - Staff will reach out to DIA about this and report back to the Committee.
- VII. Vision Statement
- Staff sent a Google Doc for the Committee to use to begin drafting a vision statement.
  - This topic will be revisited at a future meeting.
- VIII. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items
- No members of the public were present.
- IX. Committee Comments
- No additional comments.
- X. Meeting Adjourned at 6:37pm.

Taking what we heard from the public, the following Plan Elements were created:

**Plan Elements – These will essentially be the chapters of the plan.**

- A Connected Community
- A Distinctive Community
- A Sustainable & Future Focused Community
- A Prosperous Community
- A Healthy & Active Community Healthy Community
- A Culturally & Artistically Rich Community

**What is a connected community?**

- A community that is connected through...
- Transportation
  - Reliable Public transit
  - Neighborhoods connected to each other and the rest of Juneau through public transit
  - Non-motorized connections between neighborhoods through bike and pedestrian pathways
  - Safe non-motorized routes between Douglas and the rest of Juneau
  - A greater connection to the waterfront
- Information Technology
  - A library that serves as a technology hub for the community
  - Expanded public WiFi around public places
  - Free or cost reduced WiFi installed at existing and new mixed income/affordable housing development
- Social Interactions
  - Safe and convenient walking and biking options
  - Public spaces that encourage social interactions (Streets comprise roughly 20-30% of the built environment. They could be doing more than just moving people and objects from A to B.)
  - Proper winter maintenance of walking and biking routes, including snow plowing and proper lighting.
  - A harbor that encourages people to linger and interact with one another.

**What is a distinctive community?**

- A community that is distinctive has...
  - Community gathering spaces and places like Sandy Beach/Savikko Park, Perseverance Theatre, The Pubs, post office, Treadwell Ice Arena.
  - Public gathering spaces that are colorful and unique
  - Many of Douglas' gathering spaces are destinations that draw people from all over Juneau.

- The island identity plays a big role in making Douglas distinct and separate from the rest of Juneau.
- Gateways that welcome people into the community
- Spaces for the display of public art
- Minimal design standards that maintain the unique character of the historic Douglas Townsite.
- Douglas' topography creates a linear built environment sandwiched between the water and the mountains.
- Douglas has a unique history that should be acknowledged and shared; the good and the bad.
- A place with people that you won't find anywhere else (a lot of characters in Douglas)
- Douglas has sub-communities that have their own identity – the Sandy Beach dog walkers; neighborhood groups; Mt. Jumbo seniors; anymore?

### **What is a prosperous community?**

- A community is prosperous by...
  - Supporting home-based (live/work) opportunities through zoning and incentives like parking reductions
  - Intentional growth where infrastructure already exists
  - Diverse small-business opportunities through zoning
  - Incentive small-scale commercial/mixed-use development/redevelopment with parking reductions, density bonuses, tax abatements, etc.
  - Encouraging a mixture of new housing development that maintains and enhances the character of existing neighborhoods
  - Planning more winter public events at Savikko Park as a way to bring more people into the downtown core
  - Providing centralized public parking for local businesses (small parking garage)

### **What is a sustainable and future focused community?**

- A community is sustainable and future focused by...
  - Access to renewable energy sources
  - More public EV charging stations
  - Smart growth technologies (call out box of what smart growth is)
  - Safe, convenient and dependable public transit
  - Encouraging dense walkable development in the commercial core (mixed-use downtown core)
  - Requiring or incentivizing bike racks be installed in new development
  - Installation of more public bike racks at public buildings and spaces
  - Incentivize construction of LEED certified buildings
  - How will SE Alaska be impacted by climate change? (More rain, less snow on average? Land accretion?)

### What is a healthy & active community?

- A community that is healthy and active has...
  - Social interaction and amenities
  - Safe outdoor and indoor public spaces
  - A community with recreational choices accessible to all community members
  - Easy neighborhood access to trails
  - Access to the water
  - Access to youth & adult recreation programs
  - Has available land for community gardens
  - Access to quiet nature settings
  - Indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities
  - Adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that is maintained year-round
  - Year-round public events

### What is a culturally and artistically rich community?

- A community that is culturally and artistically rich...
  - Supports the places needed for art and expression
    - Ex: Juneau makerspace, art in public places, Perseverance Theater
  - Celebrates traditions, creativity, and cultural values
  - Supports community festivals, arts, and events
  - Stimulates and encourages small-scale neighborhood events or public art
  - Encourages art and culture programs
  - Celebrates, protects, and acknowledges the culture and history

**Equity:** In 2021, the CBJ Assembly appointed the Systemic Racism Review Committee. This Committee is tasked with, among other things, reviewing zoning and land use ordinances to ensure that we are not inadvertently furthering inequality in our policies and practices. Moving forward, CDD plans will have an equity component.

- Planning for social equity means recognizing planning practices that have had a disparate impact on certain communities and actively working with affected residents to create better community for all.
- CDD is recommending an equity framework similar for the Douglas / West Juneau Plan.
  - The framework will consist of criteria filters that the plan's action items will be run through.
  - The Steering Committee should identify objectives that the criteria aim to achieve.
  - Example Objectives:
    1. Ensure that all residents, no matter their income or background, have access to and feel welcome in our community anchors. (Examples of community anchors are Douglas Library, Treadwell Ice Arena, Perseverance Theatre, Savikko Park and Sandy Beach, as well as neighborhood parks)

2. Prioritize investment in effective transportation that supports transit-dependent and walking/biking dependent residents.
  3. Acknowledge historical land ownership and original place names where they exist.
  4. Acknowledge the history of Alaska Native displacement in Douglas.
  5. Limit further cultural displacement.
- The Steering Committee's first step would be creating and approving objectives for the equity matrix.
  - The second step would be to create criteria filters. These should be questions that the Committee asks themselves when drafting the plan's goals and action items.
  - The criteria questions could be as simple or complex as the Committee deems necessary. Simple question could be "Does this action item further the objectives of the equity matrix?"

Resources to better understand the equity issues and how the goals and action items in this plan can help:

<https://juneau.org/index.php?gf-download=2020%2F08%2FOrd2020-32cam-Creating-Systemic-Racism-Review-Committee-Final.pdf&form-id=22&field-id=11&hash=4d95f1a5e4ea5d2dab7a3d4956ab7e1dd3fe5b8c9c8226367a37b175c81d02ec>

<https://allincities.org/toolkit>

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OPCD/OngoingInitiatives/SeattlesComprehensivePlan/EDIImpPlan042916final.pdf>

#### Working Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
  - a. Brief History of the Area
  - b. The Planning Process
  - c. Planning Context (why this plan is needed and how it relates to other adopted plans)
  - d. Measuring Our Success
  - e. Implementation (Making It Happen) } [Denver Comp. Plan](#) – pgs. 20 & 22
- II. Equity Framework
  - a. What It Is and Why Its Needed
  - b. Framework Objectives
  - c. Equity Filters
- III. Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods (boundary maps, what makes each neighborhood distinct, active photos, architectural photos)
  - a. Downtown Commercial Core & Douglas Harbor
  - b. Douglas Townsite
  - c. West Juneau
  - d. Cordova
- IV. Plan (Vision) Elements – Douglas will be... (Vision Statement)
  - a. A Connected Community

1. Goals
2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- b. A Distinctive Community
  1. Goals
  2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- c. A Sustainable and Future Focused Community
  1. Goals
  2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- d. A Prosperous Community
  1. Goals
  2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- e. A Healthy and Active Community
  1. Goals
  2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- f. A Culturally and Artistically Rich Community
  1. Goals
  2. Action Items with Equity Matrix
- V. Implementation Table and Timelines