

SOUTH DOUGLAS / WEST JUNEAU AREA PLAN
Steering Committee Meeting
Zoom Webinar Format
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Steering Committee Members Present:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carole Bookless | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Embler | <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 – quick review
- V. Begin Drafting a Vision Statement
- VI. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items
- VII. Committee Comment
- VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBD
Options include:
May 18th
June 1st

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

Steering Committee Members Present:

- Carole Bookless
- Matt Catterson
- Frank Delaney
- Rebecca Embler
- Arnold Liebelt
- Robert Sewell
- Liz Smith
- Linda Snow
- Joyce Vick
- H. Erik Pederson, Planning Commission Liaison

Staff Members Present:

- Allison Eddins, CDD Planner

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 5:06 pm
- II. Approval of March 16th Minutes
 - Mr. Pederson noted that his attendance was not noted. Staff will make that correction.
 - Ms. Snow noted that DIA has a Tribal Council and not a Board as the minutes indicate. Staff will make that correction.
 - Minutes approved with suggested changes.
- III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – 10 minutes
- IV. Review Plan Elements – Healthy and Active Community; Culturally and Artistically Rich Community
 - Healthy and Active:
 - Ms. Bookless noted that "Raw Outdoor Adventures" was missing. Extreme sports like mountain biking are really popular and should be noted as something separate from other more leisurely outdoor activities.
 - Mr. Sewell also noted ATV recreation is popular and should also be mentioned.
 - Change "Social interaction and amenities" to "Infrastructure that supports organic social interactions".
 - Mr. Delaney mentioned that some of these bullets seem redundant. Overlap is fine but effort should be made to reduce redundancies.
 - Ms. Embler recommended grouping some of the bullets that have similarities. For example – "A community with recreational choices accessible to all community members" with "access

to the water", "easy neighborhood access to trails", "access to youth and adult recreation programs" and "indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities" would be sub-bullets.

- Mr. Delaney recommended moving "adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure" under "Safe outdoor and indoor recreation".
- Ms. Snow and Ms. Smith felt it should be separate. Adequate can mean more than safety and bike/ped infrastructure are not always for recreation, sometimes they are for transportation.
- In general, the Committee likes the idea of clustering some of the bullets.
- Mr. Delaney recommended changing "year-round public events" to "winter public events" and moving it to Connected Community or having it in both places.
- The Committee would like to see a hierarchy.
- Culturally and Artistically Rich:
- Mr. Delaney mentioned that the bullets are geared toward spaces and events. Support for the artists is a key component for creating an artistically vibrant community.
- We need to find ways to make arts and cultural an intricate part of the community.
- Ms. Bookless noted that studio space is lacking in Douglas. We should also include that we recognize the diversity of our community.
- Ms. Emblar suggested that a "Community that is Culturally and Artistically Rich supports the places and programs that artists need and embraces our diversity."
- Mr. Delaney's recommendation was "Embraces equity, diversity and inclusion".
- The Committee would like to see art as part of renovation and maintenance projects instead of just for new construction.
- Art should be more than just an add-on. Juneau is recognized for its love of art. We could make Douglas a sub-area of that. We need to incorporate art into downtown infrastructure. Are there other ways to influence infrastructure decisions to incorporate more art?
- Ms. Bookless asked if the Committee wanted to consider Design Standards to preserve the character of Downtown Douglas.

V. Begin Drafting Vision Statement

- The Committee was asked to review the Google Doc and give some thought to the Vision Statement.
- This will be the focus of the next meeting.

VI. Equity Matrix Discussion

- Staff explained the concept of the Equity Framework.
- Ms. Snow recommended researching environmental justice. Equalizing amenities and investments in low income areas should be a top priority.
- Ms. Bookless suggested that we should also include people with disabilities in the equity discussion.
- Staff gave an update on the outreach with Douglas Indian Association. We are waiting to hear back from DIA leadership.

VII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 4, 2021

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.
 - Year-round public events

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...
 - Infrastructure that supports organic social interactions
 - Adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that is maintained year-round
 - Safe outdoor and indoor public spaces
 - Has available land for community gardens
 - Access to quiet nature settings
 - 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
 - Indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities
 - Active winter public events

What is a culturally and artistically rich community?

- A community that is culturally and artistically rich...
 - Supports the places and programs needed for art and expression
 - Ex: Juneau makerspace, art in public places, Perseverance Theater
 - Zoning that encourages live/work spaces for artists
 - Provides space for community festivals and events that showcase local artists.
 - Requires public art to be a part of renovation and maintenance infrastructure projects.
 - Embraces equity, diversity and inclusion

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