

SOUTH DOUGLAS / WEST JUNEAU AREA PLAN
Steering Committee Meeting
Zoom Webinar Format
Wednesday February 15, 2021
MINUTES

Steering Committee Members Present:

- Carole Bookless Rebecca Embler Liz Smith
 Matt Catterson Arnold Liebelt Linda Snow
 Frank Delaney Robert Sewell Joyce Vick
 H. Erik Pederson, Planning Commission Liaison (non-voting)
 Peter Naoroz, Planning Director, Douglas Indian Association Liaison (non-voting)

Staff Members Present:

- Beth McKibben, CDD Senior Planner Scott Ciambor, CDD Planning Manager
 Jill Maclean, CDD Director Dan Bleidorn, CBJ Lands Manager
 Allison Eddins, CDD Planner

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Date Draft Minutes November 10, 2021, South Douglas / West Juneau Steering Committee Meeting**

Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – 10 minutes

None.

IV. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items – 10 minutes

None.

V. Transition of Planning Team Staff

Allison lead off, explaining that she was leaving Juneau and that Beth would be taking over as the Project Manager, and that Scott is the new Planning Manager. The steering committee wished Allison well in her new endeavors and appreciation for the work she had done on the plan.

Arnold noted that it's taken some time to establish relationships, with Alix Pierce and now Allison leaving the committee will need to revisit some past decisions so they can move forward.

Allison explained that this meeting is an opportunity to hear from the steering committee to assist with moving forward. She then:

Reviewed revised visioning meeting doc:

- Review plan element icons: this is how we envision the plan being organized.
- Shows how all the components of plan are connected
- Organizing this way conveys the message to the community, Assembly, future developers.

Discussed making Douglas a more year round location. Supporting homebased opportunities through changes to zoning. Dense, walkable downtown core. Etc.

This plan was the first started with SRRC in place so staff has been developing an equity matrix for this plan. The concept is to run proposed action items through the matrix to:

- Have a better, more equitable plan
- Help the public, steering committee, Planning Commission and Assembly better understand the plan
- Staff has examples of equity matrix. (concept; haven't picked the screening questions yet)

Allison noted the Google document has the draft the vision statement

Focus Areas completed so far:

Cordova, West Juneau

Still to do: Downtown, Commercial Area

- Established boundaries
- Opportunities and constraints
- Information that will lead into Action Items

Next Steps:

Annette Smith, CBJ Docks and Harbors review of projects/plans at the March 15th meeting

Michele Elfers, Parks and Rec Deputy Director will review the Parks Plan, budget and CIP project discussion at the March 29th meeting

Small business owners

- 1 on 1 and report
- Attend committee meeting to discuss plans, changes, business projections, etc.

Larger landowners (THRHA, Hanna, Bicknell, Goldbelt)

Arnold noted there is a general consensus that the steering committee and community appreciate and like the way Douglas is now. They don't want the plan to recommend monumental changes. They want to enhance and keep what we have.

Carole noted that it's been two years since the public consultation. She suggested a refresh, another public meeting to see what people find important.

Robert says Douglas has a precious community vibe. The general idea for the plan is how to enhance it.

There was general discussion of D18 location: would be recommending zoning changes (example: D18 Savviko Park, hockey rink)

Beth asked about "gateway", what is meant in this plan context.

Allison explained, banners, gateway signage at circle to make the distinction once on the island, even discussion of old town.

Carole asked if a representative from the Douglas Indian Association here today? Will Douglas have Tlingit signage?

Allison noted that the equity matrix will help. She also noted that Peter from the Douglas Indian Association was there.

Linda wondered if there should be a sign for the old village site to signify what has happened.

Rebecca asked if there is a schedule for moving the plan forward?

Allison responded meetings are scheduled for March 15th Annette, from Docks and Harbors and March 29th Michele from Parks and Rec.

Linda asked if we can invite a AKDOT representative to revisit to answer questions because there are 2 more years of construction; if more money can they do it in one.

Peter: Asked if we have a project timeline?

Allison outlined the steps and timeframes as follows:

Focus areas

Equity framework

Action Items

Completed by summer mid-summer

Summer for document

Fall public outreach

Planning Commission through the holidays.

Arnold stated it is important to keep things moving along.

Peter asked when are we planning for our action items to be implemented – when to see if it is reasonable to look at shovel ready projects. Nice to have the timeline.

Carole suggested that if Covid is in new phase maybe weekend get together to put this moving forward instead of a series of shorter meetings.

Staff noted they would look into this options.

VI. Committee Comment

Arnold thanked Allison for guiding the group through the process.

Carole thanked Allison for a wonderful job and getting things accomplished even when CBJ didn't mesh with our ideas.

Beth noted being a bit overwhelmed jumping in at this stage, will need a bit of time to ramp up.

Arnold responded that that is actually reassuring.

VII. Scheduling Meetings

Beth will poll the committee for possible meeting dates beyond March 29th

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Next Meeting Date: March 15, 2022, via ZOOM