

SOUTH DOUGLAS / WEST JUNEAU AREA PLAN
Steering Committee Meeting
Zoom Webinar Format
Tuesday, May 31, 2022

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)
 Kamal Lindoff, Property Manager, Douglas Indian Association Liaison (non-voting)
 Bernadine DeAris, Douglas Indian Association Liaison (non-voting)
 Jim Becker, Docks & Harbors 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

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

a. May 3, 2022 Draft Minutes, South Douglas / West Juneau Steering Committee Meeting

The minutes were approved as corrected by consensus.

III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – 10 minutes

Jim Becker, Docks and Harbor board member will be serving as the Docks and Harbors liaison during the summer when Annette Smith is unable to attend.

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

None.

V. Draft Vision Statement

McKibben reviewed the vision statement overview from page 8 of the packet. All of the recommended actions in the plan should connect and serve to implement the vision statement.

McKibben drafted a fourth option found on page 9 of the packet for committee consideration. She explained that she had used the Plan elements already created and the three draft vision statements and tried to put together a vision statement that is concise and includes affirming, active, language.

“Douglas/West Juneau is a distinctive, equitable, safe, prosperous, connected and artistic community. With access to abundant recreational opportunities, where neighbors interact and connect, it is a community that honors the island’s rich and diverse history and culture while providing opportunities for sustainable, healthy and inclusive growth and restoration”

Liebelt appreciates the approach and paring down the statement and likes the summary of it.

Snow likes it because it is shorter and captures what they have come up with and it is easier to read.

Vick likes it but noticed the transportation piece is missing, but isn’t sure if it is necessary. She likes that it has more substance than the first option.

McKibben noted that the term “connected” gets at the transportation idea.

Catterson agrees that the tone is better and the present/active mode. He asked, what does prosperous mean in this case?

McKibben noted having pulled it from one of the elements.

Catterson said it might not matter but maybe it speaks to material wealth (for some people) but maybe other have other ideas of wealth.

Snow thinks of economic development, an engine in the town when thinking of prosperous.

Vick thinks of the opposite of prosperous, as dying and that we need people to live here to thrive.

Embler echoed Catterson’s comment, but thinks more of sustainable growth for economic development. Otherwise she really likes it.

McKibben asked for clarification on name of area (plan) so that all can be consistent. She noted that in some places it’s called Douglas/West Juneau and others it’s called South Douglas/West Juneau.

Vick said originally she thought it was all of Douglas but planner Eddins said the focus is from downtown to the bridge. There was some general discussion about where “south Douglas” is.

The committee agreed the plan should be called Downtown Douglas/West Juneau Area Plan.

Liebelt asked about approving the vision statement tonight?

McKibben indicated it would be helpful to have it approved to work off going forward. If the Committee is not ready to approve the vision statement and want to wait for more folks she can make it work.

Smith says it's encouraging and that going forward is good.

Sewell would prefer to wait for a full committee before voting.

Snow encouraged voting on the vision statement today. Staff needs something to move further.

McKibben read the wording of the vision statement.

“(Downtown Douglas/West Juneau is a distinctive, equitable, safe, prosperous, connected and artistic community. With access to abundant recreational opportunities, where neighbors interact and connect, it is a community that honors the island’s rich and diverse history and culture while providing opportunities for sustainable, healthy and inclusive growth and restoration”

Motion by Sewell to adopt. Snow seconded. Approved unanimously.

VI. Draft Equity Framework

McKibben explained the draft equity framework found the packet. This will be the first plan in Juneau to use this type of framework. The concept is for it to be used as a tool for completing the Plan and that each recommended action would be “filtered” through the equity framework. There is a possibility that some recommendation won't assist everyone but this helps evaluate these decisions. By asking these questions, it might lead us to reach out for additional resources whether accessibility, cultural, etc.

Snow suggested adding “Who is asking?” She gave an example of professor in Hawaii who stated that 50% of class grade would be on speaking up in class. He missed a cultural filter that more than half of students were of Asian descent – thus culturally not used to participating in this manner and thereby setting them up to fail.

Liebelt likes the concept. He said it forced him to think about unintended unintentional bias and believes that raising the awareness of equity – which is different than equal will be helpful.

Sewell thinks the language is fine and believes there already been some weird actions, like not making DIA a voting member. He thinks this is a cool idea and we should do this.

McKibben asked Snow if she would like the who is asking added as a filter. Snow said no but suggested the framework could account for the fact that sometimes people making decision have a different cultural filter than those receiving the plan.

McKibben shared that when looking at earlier work on the plan it was envisioned that the framework would be incorporated into the implementation table. She has thought about adding a column/portion to show the equity work being done, but has not yet come up with a good way to do that.

Snoq says based on her local experience, some people are not interested in speaking up because in the past they have been flattened when they did speak up. We may have to go the extra mile.

Catterson likes the simple/actionable approach. Perhaps getting to “the who” answers involves asking the why question.

Vick likes the equity framework. Asks about the SRRC and if there tool is similar to this. She would like that there is an option for the Committee to go along with the SRRC tool. On the other hand it can be good to have multiple ways to looks at the same thing.

Ciambor notes that the SRRC has a specific tool that staff fill out and staff will send committee a copy.

Sewell likes the simple approach as well. He suggested the work of evaluating the recommended actions could be an addendum versus creating showing it in the implementation table.

VI. Committee Comment

Snow told the committee about some pending changes in the 1st street neighborhood. The development that was going to be a boat condo has submitted an application for a pot shop. It would be retail only, no ingestion on site.

She also shared that Robert Gentilly who operated Tanner’s passed away.

Sewell provided condolences to all that knew Robert. He stated that the pot shop initial application irks him and he felt the applicants were being coy about intentions for the boat condo. He requested McKibben to work on substance of the Savikko Park/Tanner Marine area. He was concerned about Douglas Depot application as well. He said he is not anti-pot; more pro-plan about developing what we can achieve.

Liebelt said he was offended by some of the comments and as a Committee we need to be careful with words. This is not a proposed drug shop, but a heavily regulated marijuana retail establishment.

Vick says she is glad the Committee voted on mission statement and spend time on the equity framework.

VII. Scheduling Future Meetings

McKibben said she would like time to work on drafting the plan and giving the Committee language to react to. She confirmed the Committee would still like a break during the summer. She proposed meeting in about 6 weeks.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Next Meeting Date:TBD