

Burien Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
December 12, 2023, 5:00pm – 6:30pm @ Reville Hall, Navos | Multicare

Committee Members Present:

1. Noah Fay, DESC
2. Ricardo del Fierro, SeaMar
3. Nancy Kick, Burien resident
4. Debra George, Discover Burien
5. Aaron Burkhalter, LEAD

Committee Members Absent:

1. Nina Martinez, Latino Civic Alliance
2. Ravenna Candy, NAVOS

DESC Staff present:

1. Julie Nordgren
2. Akhil Arun
3. Mateo Chavez
4. Maria Jacinto

The meeting started at 5:10 pm.

I. Introductions and agenda

Noah kicked off the meeting with introductions and welcomed Mateo Chavez, DESC's new Community Engagement Coordinator, who will be assisting with this meeting going forward. Noah then proceeded to outline the meeting agenda, encompassing updates on the mural project, the local preference nominating process, information on fund sources, and discussions about opening the meeting to the public in the upcoming year.

II. Mural project update

DESC staff Akhil Arun and Julie Nordgren presented the design concepts for the mural project from two artists, Angelina and Claire, for the committee's review and feedback. Angelina's concepts include a colorful palette with three options: one is a flower-theme inspired by the farmer's market, another by Rialto, and the third featuring a humpback whale symbolizing serenity and stability. The group discussed preferences, leaning towards the flower design due to its connection with the farmer's market theme. Suggestions were made to enhance the flower design by incorporating elements like fruits, vegetables, butterflies, and diverse components representing the community. Claire's concepts focus on the theme of home and urban life, with detailed scenes and symbolism of unity and togetherness. Suggestions were made to incorporate more elements specific to the community. Feedback includes the idea of adding natural scenes, diverse people, and representations of local landmarks. The discussion extended to the placement of the murals on different sides of the building and adding a short description for viewers to understand the mural concepts. The community expressed appreciation for the colorful and vibrant concepts and is looking forward on future updates.

III. Update on local tenant nomination

Noah reported that the local preference nominating process is moving along as planned. He presented the process to the Burien city manager, who approved and suggested a potential presentation to the city council. The nominating committee groups have been identified, and a meeting is scheduled to refine details about case conferencing, fund sources, eligibility, and the overall process. Noah added that coordination with the King County Regional Homeless Authority is positive, and they support the community-led process. He indicated that potential residents need to be in the homeless management information system (HMIS) for visibility to coordinated entry. This process aims to make individuals visible to the coordinated entry system for other housing resources if they are not selected for Burien PSH through our formal process. In terms of the timeline for the local tenant nomination, the plan is to start the process in January, with case conferencing in February, working towards a May opening. Noah acknowledged some of the concerns about the timeline and emphasized transparency about the process. They discussed the

potential risk for people to wait for housing while on the street, and the need to inform them of other opportunities, as well as the importance of case managers balancing multiple options. Noah emphasized the difference between nominating someone for potential housing resources and confirming with them when it becomes more real. Overall, the goal of the process is to have a collaborative, community-based process. Noah and the committee hoped that this process could serve as a template for other communities interested in implementing local preference in future developments. Noah will provide more updates as this process moves forward.

IV. Fund source update

Noah described the funding structure for the Burien PSH project, detailing the operating and service dollars. The funding will come from a mix of sources, creating a unique and complex structure. The operating revenue is generated by charging rent, which is 30% of people's income, but there is always a gap that requires subsidies. Different fund sources contribute to covering this gap, creating a unique mix of fund sources for operating and service dollars. Service dollars fund case management services and other supports beyond on-site. The eligibility criteria for the units involve a formal HUD definition of chronic homelessness, relying on continuum of care dollars (COC), a federal pass-through fund. He added that various additional sources, including special HUD programs and VA supportive housing vouchers, contribute to the funding mix. Noah acknowledged the complexity of managing different funding sources and eligibility criteria for each unit. The process also involves reapplying for funding annually, with performance metrics affecting the community's overall funding. He assured the committee the DESC has a good track record of managing these funds effectively. Questions were raised about the flexibility of funding concerning the tenant mix and whether it changes depending on occupants. Noah stated that The COC dollars are described as an operating subsidy for the building, while vouchers from King County Housing are project-based but tied to the tenant. He agreed to share the detailed list of funding sources with the committee.

V. Committee membership

The committee discussed the prospect of welcoming new members, noting an open slot for a community representative. They explored the possibility of creating terms for members and transitioning individuals as needed. A suggestion was made to allow potential community members interested in joining the committee to attend a meeting, assessing their engagement informally, before initiating a formal process joining the committee. The conversation also touched upon a couple of members who have not been actively participating, prompting plans to reach out to them and encouraged their participation in 2024.

VI. Opening meeting to the public

The committee discussed the timing for opening the meeting to the public in January. There were careful consideration given to the local tenant preference nominating process, specifically addressing concerns related to the confidentiality of certain information that may not be suitable for public disclosure. To address this, the committee floated the idea of presenting project updates to City Hall in January, while proposing to open the meeting to the public in February. Noah expressed interest in presenting to the City Council and will work with Colleen from Burien Human Services Department on scheduling. The committee stressed the importance of fitting into the January timeline and suggested discussing with Colleen the timing.

VII. Next meeting

January 9, 2024 (2nd Tuesday), from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Navos' Revelle Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Prepared by: Maria Jacinto, DESC