

## **Mountain View Neighborhood Plan**

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### **AGENDA**

#### **Resident and Business Focus Group**

**Location:**     **ACLT Offices**

**Date:**           **6:30-8:30pm, May 18, 2009**

#### **Attending**

- Heather Stewart, Agnew::Beck
- Chris Beck, Agnew::Beck
- Jewel Jones, ACLT
- Jessica Bietka, Credit Union 1
- Sunny Mall, MV resident
- Laura Norton Cruz, MV Community Justice & Family Service Center
- Mike Gutierrez, Weed n' Seed
- Don Crandall, MV resident & MV Community Council

#### **Update on progress to date**

- Highway to Highway Project (H2H): Some flyers about the H2H project were distributed; can this group help spread the word?
  - Heather will add something about the H2H project to the website and include in an email update for the Mountain View Neighborhood Planning effort.
- Arts & Culture Center land rezoning: The Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission recently (May 4) approved the rezoning of the old John's RV property from multi-family residential to a commercial designation that will allow the ACLT to build the Art & Culture Center. ACLT still needs to raise the money to build the Center, but this is part of the due diligence that the ACLT must do, so progress is being made.
  - Jewel thanked those community members who came and spoke in support of the rezoning.
  - Jewel will send A::B materials to put on the Mountain View Plan website.
- Online survey responses: The Mountain View Neighborhood Plan website had posted the question, "What would you do to improve Mountain View's reputation?" Three answers were submitted. The group decided to include these among the other ideas that have been offered at meetings and through past planning efforts in the neighborhood over the last 10-15 years.
  - Heather will post a general thank-you message to the website, with some highlights of good things going on in Mountain View.
  - Heather will also email the one respondent who gave a name and contact information to thank and invite that person to be involved in current/future efforts.
- Mountain View Community Justice and Family Service Center project: Laura Norton Cruz and Mike Gutierrez talked about this project (affiliated with Weed and Seed, housed in ACLT).
  - The project is a coalition of agencies that evolved out of anti-gang and juvenile/youth justice efforts. It has two goals: community justice and family services, with the intention that these should be self-driven, empowering, culturally appropriate, results-based.
  - Community justice: have a panel of trained community members who can come up with appropriate consequences for low-level offenses.
  - Family services: coordination based out of Mountain View, but open to all Anchorage residents.

- In the works: drafting a Memorandum of Understanding among 40 different agencies that are sharing resources and asking the Mountain View community to help compile best practices, determine what services are needed and in what languages, and find a primary site for program to operate from (make it a place people want to go). Training for community advisors has begun.
- Made the point for this process that it is important to note that there are communities within communities; e.g., there is not just one Samoan, Hmong, Latino, Alaska Native community.

### **Summer Celebration**

- Report from Summer Celebration Committee – dates, tasks, partners, etc.: Some highlights: Katch Bacheller (Anchorage Museum of Natural History) is helping to secure a tent, Ma'o Tosi (Alaska Pride) is organizing/recruiting entertainment and youth involvement, Michael Evans (Mountain View resident) is getting volunteers, Mac Carey (co-owner, Carey Homes) is working with Credit Union 1 to get food vouchers. Off the Chain (UAA Bike Club) wants to have a booth.
  - The question was raised about whether it is possible to use this celebration to create a mentorship opportunity so that someone from the community can learn and gain experience in event planning/organizing. This might be possible, if there is a volunteer from the community.

### **Neighborhood Plan**

- Review a draft outline of a MV Neighborhood Plan: much of the work for doing a Neighborhood is already done in the past planning efforts. But how to do the rest? Are there people in the community who could do some of this?
  - One big issue: the Mountain View plan's vision conflicts with Mountain View Drive's designation as an arterial in the Official Streets and Highways Plan (this designation carries legal requirements that the Municipality must follow, regardless of what the neighborhood wants). How to reconcile these?
  - Jewel will follow up about the crosswalks, since we haven't heard anything about that in a while.

### **Neighborhood Image**

- Update on image-building campaign: Group decided to make a flyer to announce the Summer Celebration in the community and get more local people involved. It will include:
  - "Things you may not know about Mountain View."
  - Profiles of Mountain View people.
  - Announcement of the celebration and how to get involved – who is already involved and what they are doing.
  - Kids could (with parents permission and an adult accompanying them) help distribute the flyers around the neighborhood. Sunny would like to help with that, can hand out flyers and talk to people.
  - Jessica Bietka can help write content.
  - Jewel will talk to the Boys and Girls Club about getting permission to distribute the flyer at their May 29 Luau.
  - Sunny will try to get a photo and write a profile about her neighbor.
- One image that Anchorage has is that Mountain View kids are rough kids, troublemakers, but that's often untrue. Really, there are many good kids, but they have to do things for themselves and often have to be able to make some money. Is there anything we can do, maybe something similar to the "Kids caught doing something good" series that used to run in the paper?
  - Mountain View Community Council newsletter can highlight some local kids.
  - Sunny wants to help with something like this.

## Neighborhood to Neighborhood

- Heather recently attended a conference in Minneapolis where she met some people who have been doing similar revitalization and community activities in a neighborhood that has a lot in common with Mountain View. The MV focus group is interested in talking with them about their experiences, particularly interested in: mechanisms to get redevelopment going (like tax abatement), housing strategies, marketing approach, how they did/do community outreach and mentoring (community outreach in communities like this is most successful when you have a stipend to pay people to participate).
  - Jewel/Agnew::Beck will look into setting up some kind of meeting or teleconference with the Minneapolis people in the fall. Jewel will see if there is potential funding for it.
  - Sunny offered to help set up a virtual meeting with eLive, if it happens that way.
  - Heather will post information about the Minneapolis group(s) to the Mountain View website and ask the rest of the MV focus group what kind of questions they would want to ask the Minneapolis people.

## Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Highway to Highway Project (H2H)
  - Heather will add something about the H2H project to the website and include in an email update for the Mountain View Neighborhood Planning effort
- Arts & Culture Center land rezoning:
  - Jewel will send A::B materials to put on the Mountain View Plan website.
- Online survey responses
  - Heather will post a general thank-you message to the website, with some highlights of good things going on in Mountain View
  - Heather will also email the one respondent who gave a name and contact information to thank and invite that person to be involved in current/future efforts
- Neighborhood Plan
  - Jewel will follow up on putting in crosswalks, since we haven't heard anything about that in a while.
- Neighborhood Image
  - Mountain View Community Council newsletter can highlight some local kids.
- Flyer to announce the Summer Celebration in the community and get more local people involved. It would include:
  - Sunny would like to help Kids (with parents permission and an adult accompanying them) distribute the flyers around the neighborhood, and hand out flyers and talk to people herself.
  - Jessica Bietka can help write content.
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- Neighborhood to Neighborhood
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