

SDAT Steering Committee Meeting March 19, 2013

On March 6, 2013 an email notice was sent to members of the 2012-2013 Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) project Steering committee to engage in a debrief process of the final American Institute of Architecture (AIA) report and the I Imagine South Wenatchee process.

Steering Committee Attendees: Robbie Scott, Kristina Stepper, Tom Bassett, Bob Shepard, Robert Culver, Thom Nees, Norma Gallegos, Gustavo Montoya, Julie Kagele, Shiloh Schauer

City Attendees: Steve King, Allison Williams, John Ajax and Will Piro

Location: Wenatchee Community Center

Attachments and Additional Information

1. Agenda
2. I Imagine Chalkboard Comments
3. I Imagine Work Count
4. Byrne Grant

City Staff made a brief presentation reviewing the process and outcomes of the AIA-SDAT program completed with the community of South Wenatchee in October of 2012. A staff Power Point slideshow included the general structure of the SDAT process and reviewed the AIA professional teams final report recommendations. The presentation transitioned into an open conversation with the committee regarding questions, concerns and suggestions about the SDAT process as well as steps for continuing forward with a community vision for South Wenatchee. Means of engaging the public in research work for the South Wenatchee Subarea Plan and City Council's "Let's Talk" initiative were also discussed.

Steering committee comments indicated a strong desire to continue South Wenatchee revitalization efforts and to follow up on the momentum of community involvement generated by the SDAT process. Several members encouraged making a public presentation on the findings of the "I Imagine South Wenatchee" chalkboard activity as well as the SDAT final report. One committee member suggested that a bi-lingual translation of these documents (either verbal or written) in both English and Spanish be provided to reach a broader group of South Wenatchee community members. As discussed, the public presentation will be scheduled to take place in either April or May.

The committee also called for continued efforts to engage the "stakeholders" of South Wenatchee by creating a community-based organization that would continue neighborhood improvement efforts. This discussion stemmed from member concerns about ensuring inclusive public involvement and continued engagement, especially amongst Hispanic and Latino residents. Staff discussed the importance of utilizing the South Wenatchee subarea plan as a tool for creating effective goals and strategies for future development and improvements to the area. Staff described the South Wenatchee subarea plan as a city project intended to provide government the tools to work with the community to encourage development, redevelopment, and overall improve economic and social health in South Wenatchee.

As discussed, this document helps to organize development regulations, infrastructure improvements and ensure ongoing community engagement and input. Two prior sub-area plans were also mentioned and used as examples of prior city planning efforts that systematically addressed issues in specific areas of our city. Staff also recommended that funded research efforts, focusing on a detailed transportation and economic analysis of South Wenatchee, be incorporated into future community outreach and public information initiatives. These two technical analyses will help support the planning effort with information pertinent to the area. Both members and staff suggested that action between city and community organizations should be cohesive and support the primary objective of empowering South Wenatchee residents and stakeholders as civic leaders. Committee members discussed the important features of an organizational model that would create structure for community based development in South Wenatchee in the future.

Potential Next Steps Discussed at Meeting

1. Follow-up with South Wenatchee stakeholders by making the SDAT report and "I imagine South Wenatchee" project available in bi-lingual formats and disseminating materials to a more expansive network. City Staff and Steering Committee members are planning a public presentation of these materials to take place sometime in April or May of 2013.
2. Create a community-based organization that would work in coordination with City of Wenatchee to identify local stakeholders, promote civic engagement and increase community ownership of sustainable development efforts in South Wenatchee.
3. Increase public awareness of current planning and development projects in South Wenatchee through increased exposure. Social media, community bulletin boards, public meetings, social gatherings, community walk-throughs and informational mailers were all suggested as potential outreach methods.
4. Utilize ongoing efforts by the City of Wenatchee including, the South Wenatchee subarea plan, economic and transportation analysis research and City Council's "Let's talk" initiative, to support and strengthen community-based revitalization efforts in South Wenatchee.
5. The economic and transportation analysis mentioned during the meeting is part of a larger South Wenatchee research project funded by the Washington State Commerce Department under the Growth Management Act. This study will gather important economic and transportation information to guide City and community based projects in the future. It will benefit business and property owners by providing them with up to date information about the South Wenatchee marketplace and improvements opportunities for local infrastructure.

The economic analysis will consist of data collected through business and consumer surveys, business and property owner meetings and demographic analysis. City staff plans to visit directly with business owners as well to better understand the market place. Transportation research will examine the potential for enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access as well as evaluate options of potential street aesthetic improvements. These efforts will be conducted in cooperation with the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, South Wenatchee business owners', residents and community leaders.

City of Wenatchee Current Efforts and Projects

1. Community Center Operations – The City is evaluating options for various operation models.
2. George Sellar Bridge Construction – Department of Transportation expects that this project at the end of the bridge will be done the fall of 2013.
3. South Wenatchee Ave Reconstruction – The City is constructing sidewalks along South Wenatchee Avenue between Marr and Viewdale.
4. Pedestrian Crossing – Safety Project – The City received grant funds to install a flashing pedestrian crossing on Mission Street in the vicinity of Benton Street.
5. WVTC Truck Routes Study – The Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council is evaluating appropriate truck routes through the entire City of Wenatchee as well as in East Wenatchee.
6. Transportation Element Technical Analysis – As mentioned above, a technical analysis of transportation needs for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians is being performed for several key locations in South Wenatchee. The analysis is funded by the Department of Commerce.
7. Parkside Sidewalks – Sidewalks will be constructed along the Parkside facility in an effort to continue sidewalk installation in South Wenatchee
8. Neighborhood Matching Grant program development – Community Development Block Grant funds have been budgeted for potential neighborhood improvement projects.
9. Homelessness Plan Finalization – The City in partnership with many social service agencies, the Counties and other Cities is wrapping up an update to the 10 year plan addressing homelessness.
10. Steven's Street Landscaping – the City Council has expressed a desire to make landscaping improvements at the end of Steven's Street facing the Sellar Bridge.
11. PUD LED Street Lights – The PUD is evaluating cost effective ways to implement LED street lighting. Street lighting for security and safety was a top priority derived from resulting AIA process
12. Byrne Grant – City staff in cooperation with many agencies include together for a Drug Free Youth submitted a youth intervention proposal designed to reduce crime in South Wenatchee.