



Focus Group #10: Uptown Neighborhood Leaders Group
August 19, 2020

SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the information and ideas covered in the meeting, organized by topic. The Project Team will use the feedback collected during this session to revise the Plan Framework and inform draft plan recommendations.

ATTENDEES

Colleen Turner -Fourth Ward
Walter Saunders – Friends of Fourth Ward
Joe Hoff – First Ward
Diatra F.
Lynn M.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

We have been living through this “new normal” with the COVID pandemic for months now. What aspects of your daily life have become more important? i.e. sidewalks & public space, etc. What things have you missed?

Colleen

- I’ve lived in 4th ward for 23 year, I’ve recently met neighbors I’ve never seen before
- I’m ready for Alexander Michael to be open

Walter

- This has really helped me understand the value of community
- This time presents new opportunities to reconnect and get stronger

Diatra

- It’s been good being able to get to know people

Walter

- Its exciting to see our city more accessible – this opportunity has shown that

Thinking into the future, what are the missing pieces in our downtown and center city neighborhoods that would make this a better place for all?

Joe

- The farmers market has been great to see
- First Ward could use more 'neighborhood places; retail, parks, greenways, etc.
- It would be nice to have local businesses, that support local communities, and provide local services
- I must travel to other neighborhoods to find things
- I'm looking forward to having increased connectivity in Uptown via greenways and cycle lanes

Walter

- I'd like to see more synergy and connections between the wards; shared lesson and strategic planning collaboratively

Joe

- Uptown has an image of glossy and shiny (corporate)
- We need to make Uptown seem viable for smaller/local businesses to attract the types of places we want to attract
- The Uptown neighborhoods need their own image – to capture the reality of neighborhoods

Do you think that Uptown & other parts of Center City are welcoming, inclusive & equitable places? If not, what could be done to make them more welcoming?

Colleen

- Right now, Center City is not comfortable; we have an affordable housing and homeless challenges
- We need to support these people and get them help

Walter

- All the flaws of Center City are now clear
- We need some real strategic thinking to solve these challenges. Where is the funding? What is the municipality approach toward this?

Joe

- First Ward feels separated from Uptown because of the Levine lots – we feel disconnected
- First Ward Park feels like an empty space
- We need more connections in our area
- Are we rethinking the type of buildings (high rises vs townhomes) coming to this area?

Final Thoughts

Joe

- On a positive note: Since COVID-19 there has been a lot less trash in the neighborhood (last activity and traffic)
- How can we manage that in the future?

Walter

- Sign up for fofw.org to support out annual green deal