

**Downtown District meeting minutes**  
**Quarter 2, Consolidated (City/Community)**  
April 27, 2017, 12:30-2pm, Spokane Public Library

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Here to talk about the District model, jumping in today on a combined (City/Community) Quarter 2 meeting. What is Spokane Matters? Spokane Matters is a pilot program whereby City staff and Community stakeholders work together across a District to address issues and challenges. The purpose of this pilot is to better integrate and coordinate initiatives across City departments and various Community stakeholders so as to most effectively address District-specific needs in a comprehensive manner. Today's meeting provides an opportunity to review existing work and determine next steps. We will be meeting Quarterly moving forward- see final dates at end of minutes.

We are going to start doing interviews and surveys in order to evaluate the efficacy of this pilot. Abbey Martin will be reaching out to you for your feedback and asking for your help in evaluating our work together thus far. Please look out for that solicitation of feedback and engage to the best of your ability!

**Overview of existing projects/Update from City teams:**

**1. 24/7 Homeless Shelter**  
**Dawn Kinder, CHHS:**

Team has been meeting, introduced all participants, asking the question "What do we do with the housing crisis for men, women, children and families?" While we've had productive conversations about what it might look like, we have also experienced a bit of fatigue because there is a lot of work happening on this issue. Different groups have been talking and grants are being followed up on. The recommendation we're making is that this group will be reaching out to the different committees and groups meeting and working on this issue, and then Dawn will continue to be the point person and report back to this group to provide updates and engage this group further. The other thing that has come up is that we don't need to be specifically focusing on the downtown area, so we're working with the population in need about addressing their needs.

**Discussion:**

Are we looking into other pots of funding- like a private group, similar to the model we saw in Boise?

We're certainly looking into it.

**Facilitator: Barriers?**

The first is that this initiative is touching on other existing work, so determining how to use this group to augment existing work is important, as opposed to duplicating existing work. Second barrier is funding and public/private coordination.

Mayor added to barrier citation and included “visualization” of the homelessness and housing issue...Who, What, etc. are the puzzle pieces within this issue. Solidifying that information has been tricky and complicated to relay to the public. Mayor echoes Council President’s citing of utilizing other City’s models, like Boise and Salt Lake City. Have we asked them how they put the financing together? Separately, we need to come to some conclusions about how we get the public to see and understand homelessness. For example, there is an impression is that House of Charity is closing. How do we correct that?

**Facilitator clarifies:**

Does everyone agree with this group coordinating with the other existing work groups and then reporting that work back here? Agreed.

**Next steps:**

- 1) Expanding to include additional people/stakeholders in working meetings;
- 2) Developing a Communication strategy;
- 3) Engaging the community;
- 4) Coming up with a timeline for immediate issues;
- 5) Exploring funding models and possibilities;
- 6) Contact Team Leader, Dawn Kinder, CHHS, to join this team: [dkinder@spokanecity.org](mailto:dkinder@spokanecity.org)

**2. Project expansion of District 2 work, safety by I-90: Lighting issues; group wants to expand from solely area by Lewis and Clark**

**Jonathan Mallahan, ONS:**

Funding costs for the area near Lewis and Clark High School comes to 41k, based on other blocks, it would be about 150k. We’re looking at expanding even further to include railway viaduct throughout downtown. We’re just going to treat it like a huge tunnel. You light 10 times normal lighting needs with a tunnel. A work group will be looking into different types of lighting, and we’re going to engage with WSDOT and other partners. This project is also going to be more expensive because new conduits are needed. We’re going to be convening to engage additional stakeholders and we’re expanding our initial area. DSP has been looking at railway related issues and is happy to coordinate efforts with this team.

**Facilitator: Barriers?**

Andy Schenk, Streets, stated that to make it faster, they can replace existing lighting with LEDs. However, if they have to add new lighting it’s a longer process, so we’re working in phases. This

is a phase 1, which will help getting LEDs in there. Adding more lighting will just take longer. For a good comparison of the phase 1 work, look at the Jefferson parking lot at night which has LEDs. Mayor asked should we just focus on Browne, so as to not push it out too far and to be able to address a problem area more effectively?

Marybeth Smith, Principal at Lewis and Clark High School, thanked the group for their work and expressed that they've received great feedback. Additionally, explained that the campus is completely open to the Downtown, resulting in two teachers being mugged and four students assaulted this year. Additionally, vehicle prowling has increased. Families are very concerned.

**Next steps:**

- 1) Opportunity to expand the safety project to look specifically at this area around the school;
- 2) Get police reports to WSDOT and determine whether they have money to put towards this work?
- 3) SPD recommends also looking at the timing of the safety incidents;
- 4) Follow up with DSP, AVISTA, and letters from the City Council and the Mayor for funding support;
- 5) Contact Team Leader, Jonathan Mallahan, ONS, to join this team:  
jmallahan@spokanecity.org

**3. Communication plan for Downtown Construction, Kris Becker, Development Services Center:**

Overview of existing projects and prospective projects. Have been working on three messages for construction, namely: It's all about the River. In the process of hiring a Construction Ombudsman who will reach out and take complaints, we are also utilizing 311 staff, Julie Happy, Communications, has developed a matrix of key project liaisons, we are doing weekly media outreach for large project impacts, and we are doing daily social media updates. We have Contractor Project Liaisons who communicate upcoming work impacts each week. The City Business Liaison for business needs takes questions or concerns, and we have Open for Business outreach and brochure that DSP and downtown partners can utilize. They are also coming out with FAQs, a project information sheet, a parking revision map that highlights free two hour parking. This document is being finalized and available soon.

**Facilitator: Barriers?**

We've backfilled some communication pieces and that's really making a difference. In coordinating and communicating better internally, we've made strides.

Julie Happy, Communications clarified that they are mailing to property owners and DSP has been really helpful with using their Ambassadors to distribute in person. Lisa Key, Planning, asked whether these communication resources and tools are also being distributed to private

construction projects Downtown, since there is often the perception that all construction challenges are City related.

Kris Becker, DSC, explained that they are doing outreach and similar efforts to private projects and are encourage them to use the same tactics although they can't require it.

**Next steps:**

- 1) Some materials ready now and some will be readily available soon;
- 2) DSP is willing to continue partnering in this work;
- 3) Project is concluding.

**Review of short/long-term concerns:**

Let's start by reviewing our concerns. Facilitator reviews short-term concerns- group agrees that this summary captured their conversation. Community stakeholders did not have additional contributions.

Facilitator reviews the long-term concerns- group respectfully request that we broaden the safety piece beyond just lighting and consider perceptions of safety too. Additionally would like to add beyond just "streets" and to be thinking about *COMPLETE* streets like sidewalks and amenities. Could be something as simple as Streets and Pedestrian Plans. Community agrees. DSP also said that Parking and Perception of Parking could be added.

**Review of Map and what is considered to be the Downtown District:**

**Discussion:**

Should Kendall Yards should be strictly considered part of the West Central Neighborhood and not considered part of Downtown because we want it to connect with that neighborhood and focus on integration within that neighborhood?

Include the area of East Central with the I-90 exit as part of downtown instead of just East Central;

Kendall Yards said perhaps splitting their area from Maple to Monroe as part of the Downtown District might make sense since this area is more commercial as opposed to residential;

Lisa Key, Planning, suggested the University District is all or nothing;

Are we including up to 9<sup>th</sup> and then up to Boone as Downtown? Hamilton to Maple?

DSP agrees to incorporate Kendall Yards, East from Maple and also supports Mayor's comments, about cutting off "triangle" and going through to 9<sup>th</sup>, including Sprague;

Should we be making a specific map or going with a general circle of an area that can adapt to include projects in the Downtown area? Group straw polls for an abstract circle that can be adaptive to project selection within the general Downtown area.

**New project selection based on agreed upon themes from short/long-term concerns:**

Three current projects, one is about to conclude, what would the group like to do?  
Mayor says we really need to focus on construction. Does anyone want to be on that team?  
DSP agrees, Planning agrees.

**Project:** Group will look at how to address construction within the Downtown over the next 5 years.

**Team Leader:** Katherine Miller, Integrated Capital Management, was nominated to lead team. Contact [kemiller@spokanecity.org](mailto:kemiller@spokanecity.org) or Eric Lester, ICM, at [elester@spokanecity.org](mailto:elester@spokanecity.org) if you'd like to be involved.

**Team:** Lisa Key, Planning, will co-lead. Mark Richard, DSP; Construction Ombudsman; Andy Schenk, Streets; Berry Ellison, Riverfront Park; also please reach out to Marybeth Smith, LCHS, for a Spokane Public Schools contact to be involved so that the safety piece is incorporated into this new work.

**Benchmark:** GIS animation of the next five years as it pertains to the Downtown and construction. Overlay when and what/who is impacted, utilizing different variables. Include City projects, State projects and Federal projects. Include a SWAT analysis so that we can be messaging the positive outcomes of this work too.

**In attendance:**

Andy Schenk (Streets), Kris Becker (DSC), Julie Happy (Communications), Dawn Kinder (CHHS), Gil Pierce (Kendall Yards), Steve Braun (SPD), Crystal Byers (RPM/Greenstone), Dave Scott (SHA), Sara Clements-Sampson (Providence), Jason Ruffing (ONS), Sam Dompier (CCS), Nadine Van Steve (CCS), Ben Stuckart (City Council President), Mark Richard (DSP), Jason Conley (Parks), Mike Piccolo (Legal), David Condon (Mayor), Jonathan Mallahan (ONS), Heather Trautman (ONS), Abbey Martin (ONS)

**Important Dates:**

Quarter 3: July 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2pm, Downtown Library, Room 1A

Quarter 4: October 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2pm, Downtown Library, Room 1A

Teams may meet as needed outside of these Quarterly times to make progress on their projects and be able to report back to the group at the next Quarterly meeting.

For any questions, please contact Abbey Martin (ONS), [amartin@spokanecity.org](mailto:amartin@spokanecity.org), 625-6858.