



DRI New Rochelle – Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #2 December 13, 2018, New Rochelle City Hall, 3:00pm

Meeting Notes

Mayor Bramson opened the meeting with introductory remarks and welcome. Marsha Gordon also provided introductory remarks. Mayor Bramson then opened the floor for public comment, allotting three minutes per speaker. (Public comments listed at the end of these notes.)

Joshua Hunn (Department of State) read the Code of Conduct Preamble and discussed the recusal process.

David Quart (VHB) provided an overview of the DRI schedule and process.

Councilman Jared Rice provided a summary of Public Meeting #1, held at the Remington Boys and Girls Club on December 10, 2018 at 6:30pm. Mr. Quart noted that the deadline for the Call for Projects has been extended from December 14 to December 21, 2018 in response to public feedback. The LPC members discussed the Public Meeting and reported on public comments they heard at the Public Meeting. A set of summary notes from the Public Meeting will be sent to the LPC.

Mr. Quart discussed the Draft Profile and Assessment and the Draft Strategies, both of which were emailed to the LPC members on December 11, 2018. He requested that the LPC review and comment by December 21, 2018, after which both documents will be finalized for submission to the State.

Luiz Aragon, Commissioner of Development, City of New Rochelle, showed a map connecting all the preliminary projects and suggested that the LPC start considering whether these projects meet initial pass/fail criteria: 1) eligible, 2) bring positive community and economic impact, and 3) meet one or more DRI goals. He then discussed the projects currently on the preliminary project list, as follows:

Mobility and Safety

- Complete Streets on Lincoln Avenue
- MobileNR
- Train Station Gateway
- Green Garage

Education and Employment

- Black Box Theater and Art Education Center
- Coworking Incubator
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Boys and Girls Club/116 Guion Place

Other

- Rezoning Lincoln Avenue Corridor – DO-8



Culture, Recreation and Open Space

- The Linc
- Heritage Homes Open Space
- Lincoln Park
- Anderson Plaza Reconstruction
- Heritage Center
- Esperanza Community Center
- Burling Triangle Open Space

The LPC asked several questions and provided comments on the projects.

Mr. Quart then gave an overview of next steps in the DRI process and announced that the next Public Meeting will take place at City Hall on January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm. The LPC subcommittees on public engagement and projects will meet before the next LPC meeting scheduled for January 10, 2019 at 3:00pm.

LPC Comments

The LPC members asked questions and provided input throughout the meeting. Below are specific comments:

- The format of the next public meeting might be better if people are seated at tables to facilitate conversation.
- The format of the first public meeting allowed for one-on-one conversations with the facilitators. However, some attendees stated a preference for a more typical public meeting allowing individual speakers to speak to the entire group.
- The format for the next public meeting should be discussed in the next LPC public engagement subcommittee meeting.
- Audio was a problem at the public meeting.
- Some members of the public were frustrated and felt that the projects were foregone conclusions and there was not enough opportunity to give ideas.
- Boulevards in Barcelona provide good examples of neighborhood play spaces adjacent to streets. Bronx River Trail and the Poughkeepsie pedestrian bridge are other good examples to consider for open space programming.
- The Linc needs to serve the immediate community.
- Ensure that the Linc does not contribute to night sky light pollution.
- It is important to communicate the benefits of the Linc, especially the benefits of traffic calming.
- Provide the LPC with resources and talking points before the next public meeting.
- The City needs to be able to maintain the Linc.
- Consider funding a portion of the construction of the Boys and Girls Club that is designed to support the social and emotional needs of children.
- Consider any long-term plans by Montefiore Hospital to make sure they don't conflict with any of the proposed projects.



- More advertising should be done for the next public meeting, such as handing out flyers to parents at the Boys and Girls Club.

Public Comments

- Speaker commented that she has concerns about the Boys and Girls Club, 95 Lincoln Avenue Community Center, the opening of the market on Lincoln Avenue and North Avenue, and would like to see housing preferences for veterans.