

East Portland TIF Exploration: E-205 Working Group

Meeting #1 Notes – January 3rd, 2024

Attendees: Annette Mattson, Lisha Shrestha, Karen Wolfgang, Sabrina Wilson, Ken Richardson, Giovanni Bautista, Josee Kangabe, Ali Dirie, Kristin Romaine, Blanca Jimenez, Ali Ibrahim, Mike Devlin,

Staff: Dana DeKlyen, Kiana Ballo, Kathryn Hartinger, Jessica Conner, Paula Byrd, Lisa Abuaf

1. Prosper staff welcomed the committee and reviewed the meeting agenda. Committee members did a round of introductions and discussed what they hope to be maintained and expanded as growth and change come to East Portland:
 - a. Hope for easy access to all needed amenities like green space.
 - b. Expanding resources and support for the community, especially families.
 - c. Economic and infrastructure has declined since annexation to Portland, would like to see neighbors thrive and prosper with stable housing, good jobs, and all the amenities of a complete community. Prosperity without displacement.
 - d. Diversity should be maintained. East Portland is a place where diverse communities gravitate to. Connectivity could be expanded in terms of community connection and the lack of sidewalks and infrastructure. There also needs to be a resource and amenity rich neighborhood to serve the community.
 - e. Expansion of resources for communities of color.
 - f. Stable housing, sidewalk expansion, safe places for kids to play, free community gathering spaces for families and seniors, need for Muslim women's swimming pool, more indoor sport facilities for youth.
 - g. Developing and supporting small businesses, new businesses, and entrepreneurs.
 - h. Access to public amenities and resources.
 - i. Self-governance, support community ideas.
 - j. Address needs that have been lacking for decades.
 - k. Activation of youth leadership, as well — safe spaces and places and a mechanism for honoring and lifting up youth voices.
 - l. Private investment returned to East Portland.
 - m. Blended capital investment.
 - n. Diversity maintained, an expanded sense of belonging and safety, a sense of ownership in the community.
 - o. I'd like to see not just more housing, but more people! No displacement, and welcoming many more folks to a diversity of housing options (HomeShare Oregon, Back Home ADU, etc. etc.).
2. The committee discussed in-person versus online meetings moving forward.

- a. Once every month or every other month meet in person in East Portland with the rest online
3. Prosper Portland and City of Portland staff shared [this presentation](#).
4. Staff facilitated three discussions related to values, vision, and goals, providing examples of existing EPDX community plans/feedback and asking:
 - a. What resonates with you? Are there themes emerging?
 - b. What's missing?
 - c. Are there things that you'd want to include that feel specific to our geography?
5. Values, vision & Goals Feedback
 - a. Discussion 1: Values. The compass that keeps us headed in a desired direction. Values are beliefs about what's important, what is a priority. Fundamental beliefs that motivate and guide actions. What values stand out to you and what is missing?
 - i. **Climate** stands out, and anti-displacement is missing.
 - ii. **Equity** stands out significantly. This is a historical piece that needs to be addressed. There is an overlay with **environmental justice and restoration** as well.
 - iii. **Community stabilization and prosperity** stand out. The **community's diversity** is one of its great assets that needs to be maintained.
 - iv. **People first** stands out because community members talk a lot about needing to be heard. **Cultural identity** needs to be talked about as well, since there is a diverse community giving a focus to promoting cultural identity needs to be talked about as well. I think these overlaps with **authenticity** and diversity.
 - v. Include **agency** as a part of this
 - vi. **Data driven** conversations and decisions match what is reflected in these values, but it is important to ensure that data **helps inform the decision-making process**.
 - vii. Justice and equity are not the same
 - b. Discussion 2: Visions. The ideal state of what the future could look like. Using TIF as a tool for inclusive growth and equitable prosperity. What is your vision for East Portland. What kind of long term impact would you like to see on/around E205?
 - i. A community for the future!! **Green jobs, local governance, interconnectivity**, hope for the future.
 - ii. **Political power**. Ensuring that folks understand what it means to be a **civically engaged citizen**. How do we get people beyond just surviving the present so they can think about what is next. It is a privilege to think
 - iii. about a vision for the future. Ensure community groups that do this work are funded sustainably to continue doing this work.
 - iv. **Political education and power-building**.

- v. Coordination between community groups.
- vi. With city government changing, is there an opportunity to change what is happening there to set up communities for success.
- vii. Need a coffee shop in Centennial.
- viii. Community-owned real estate and other resources
 - ix. Community banks
 - x. Affordable housing and set ups after that for people who don't qualify for affordable housing but can't afford market rate housing – middle income housing.
 - xi. More land trust homes
 - xii. East Portland is big and diverse and multigenerational, long-term people need to feel like they have options to meet the range of needs for a diverse community.
 - xiii. Resilience hubs
 - xiv. Neighborhoods of choice for all income demographics, when people do better they choose to stay in East Portland
 - xv. Workforce development for community centers and services
 - xvi. More integrations between the schools and community
 - xvii. Making sure people can buy their own homes with and without assistance.
 - xviii. Jobs that cannot be outsourced
 - xix. Providing places for people to receive training.
 - xx. Be mindful of the work BIPOC, different communities are not progressing at the same rate especially in home ownership.
 - xxi. Make it a habit to desegregate the data especially when talking about East Portland
 - xxii. Comparing the data to other cities because Portland can be insular when looking at development, look at what has worked well and what has not worked well in other places with similar demographics.
 - xxiii. We like to ogle other models but stop short of figuring out how to emulate them in a way that fits our situations...
 - xxiv. I want to explore the needs for community group-specific gathering spaces AND spaces where groups can meet and mingle and cross-pollinate and create a sense of shared purpose and engagement...
 - xxv. When we talk about accessible housing are we talking about regardless of people's ability or in terms of range of income and prices
- c. Discussion 3: Goals. The specific aim or desired result; milestones to achieve your vision. Goals are specific ways we execute our values to achieve our vision.
 - i. Specify race or ethnicity in city goals.
 - ii. The City does have resolutions on their racial equity goals and strategies as well as anti-racism. We can get those added to our Basecamp.

- iii. Infrastructure caretaking by the City that isn't complaint-driven
- iv. New District 1 council members have offices here
- v. We need the city to do improvements from existing budgets, and not abandon the infrastructure, etc work to the URA funding.
- vi. Investment firms were buying affordable housing which causes evictions to raise prices, TIF won't be in place in time to intervene with that.
- vii. Not familiar with the specific projects. City invested affordable housing projects are affordable for 99 years as regulated.
- viii. How does the investment community communicate with the neighborhoods? How do we in community get information about these upcoming developments
- ix. Geographic equity in distribution of affordable housing. There is an abundance of naturally occurring affordable housing in East Portland but we need to think about making sure that affordable housing developments are spreading the opportunities for neighborhoods that need it and that other neighborhoods that have an oversaturation of affordable housing get more work force housing.
- x. Please remember the need for economic development. We need a thriving business community with opportunities for good jobs, starting businesses, and having good jobs available locally.
- xi. We also need the rest of the city to do their share of affordable housing.
- xii. We need opportunities for folks to start and succeed in their own business.
- xiii. There have been anecdotal experiences of affordable housing residents around the living conditions of affordable housing. How do we ensure that people within the affordable housing structures are thriving.
- xiv. That includes YOUTH as well. Our young people need and deserve options.