

Public Meeting Minutes

West King Street Community Meeting

Date: July 26, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Umbrella Works

Purpose: Inform neighborhood stakeholders about the City's Strategic Economic Development Plan and Updates and Discussion on the West King Street commercial corridor.

Presenters: Marshall Snively, President and Shelby Nauman, Vice President

Prepared by: Lancaster City Alliance

LCA Presentation Highlights

Building On Strength Plan overview

West King Housing Statistics



Hub Momentum: Examples included the Fulton Theater Expansion, re-use and improvements to several properties including former Buy and Sell, Blue Star and Porter Furniture, C-Town Grocery Store opening soon in 200 W King.

Stakeholder feedback

New business owner at Ruby/ Columbia shared that his location used to be a laundry mat and continued to be a problem location when he bought the building but slowly things have changed there. There is a bus stop in front of his location and the City was able to install a bench for people waiting there.

Opportunities:

- Regular sweeping in some areas has helped reduce accumulations of litter and debris; encourage more blocks to do this.
- New trash receptacles would help further reduce litter
- Add more Art; Crystal Park is a great addition
- Discourage negative activity by “fixing broken windows” approach
- Signage on private property could help deter criminal activity – assistance from LCP needed to understand process for enforcement
- Invested property owners want to help facilitate change
- Higher end graffiti has deterred illegal graffiti on Grant Street
- Develop destinations to drive positive traffic to the area

- Encourage investment, higher end apartments, upper floor development (help with costly fire escapes, tax breaks to incentivize)
- Balance Affordable housing needs with gentrification
- New grocery store

Challenges:

- Mulberry Street is a high litter area and messy trash pick-up is an issue
- 100-200 blocks of West King are high traffic, high pedestrian areas currently experiencing nuisance issues including belligerent panhandlers, prostitution, drug dealing, several overdoses in cars, loitering, crime and a general feeling that the area is unsafe.
- Customers leave when they discover where businesses are located; afraid to get out
- McDonalds has cameras
- A recent heroine bust by police has had a positive short term impact
- Transient homeless population tends to loiter at McDonalds and on the block and Water Street Ministries so close too
- W. King is a driving corridor for many residents and visitors; need to make it pedestrian friendly and attractive.
- Lack of greenspace, open areas become loitering spots
- Grant Street is a high pedestrian area; needs paved and better lighting
- Grant Street dangerous for pedestrians and drivers

Neighborhood Identity:

- West King Clean Sweep group meets monthly
- Beautification projects
- Lighting project is funded and will be installed in late 2017
- Fill empty tree wells and add trees
- Uplight trees
- Grants to improve properties (facades)

Next Steps:

- LCA will organize a meeting with police to discuss nuisance issues specific to the 100 and 200 blocks of W. King Street
- LCA will provide updates as the City's lighting project advances
- Stakeholders will share information with neighbors, tenants and customers about good things happening on W. King and surrounding areas.
- Stakeholders will communicate specific issues to LCA with a goal of improving neighborhood conditions