



PEOPLE TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
SUMMARY FOR MEETING #3 – THURSDAY, June 13, 2024 – 5:30PM-7:00PM
HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY – 175 WATER STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT

MEETING PURPOSE

To review the baseline data, evaluate the People SWOT analysis board and prioritize the needs of the People in the Union Square area, as well as review the draft vision statement for the People Task Force.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Shared understanding of the baseline data, an organized and prioritized list of needs for the people in Union Square area based on the SWOT analysis, and a finalized vision statement for the People Task Force

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Amos Smith, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Doris Doward, Linda Cross, Jeffrey Walker, Alberta Golden, Josh Golden, Maritza Bond, Santiago Perez-Gomez, Emily Byrne, Rosaly Rosario

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Tomi Veale, John Noonan, Jeff Pyltak, Dale Holder, Henry Fernandez, Laura Woodie, Andy Orefice, Kyle Ballou, Alice Forrester, Bill Villano, Kymbel Branch, LaToya Mills, Steven Marans, Maritza Bond, Bill Villano, Alice Forrester, Henry Fernandez, Margaret LaFever, Keisha Redd-Hannas, Shirley Grice, Keisha Redd-Hannas,

OTHERS PRESENT

Amelia Rodriguez, Jimmy Miller, Christina Rosher

-PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

1. Welcome

Ms. Vincent, Program Manager, welcomed attendees and led introductions. Ms. Vincent introduced the People Task Force Co-Leads, Tomi Veale and Amos Smith, and provided an update on the planning process to date. She turned the meeting over to Jimmy Miller to lead the breakout session activities.

2. Project Updates

Ms. Vincent and Mr. Miller provided an update on the planning efforts thus far. During the People Task Force Meeting on May 9, 2024, Censere led attendees and Task Force members through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to help the neighborhood identify and build on its SWOTs. The Kick-Off Meeting for the Resident Survey took place on June 5, 2024, where YSM announced the start of the Resident Survey and explained their methodology. On June 6, 2024, the Master Planner conducted a Resident Advisory Committee Meeting at Robert T. Wolfe, discussing their methodology for developing housing strategies for the Transformation Plan and how it will build on



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previous studies and the YSM Neighborhood Assessment, including a housing-focused SWOT analysis. The Master Planner will hold a day-long charrette in September. Later that day, the Master Planner held a combined Housing and Neighborhood Task Forces Meeting at HSC, repeating the earlier discussions and SWOT analysis. This meeting was identical to the one conducted earlier at R.T.W.

3. SWOT ANALYSIS Priorities exercise

Mr. Miller provided a comprehensive overview of the purpose and significance of the SWOT analysis. He explained that the SWOT analysis aims to identify and assess the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to the PEOPLE needs in the Union Square area. This analysis will help to inform and guide the planning process by highlighting key areas of focus, potential challenges, and opportunities for improvement. It serves as a critical tool in understanding the current situation and developing strategic plans to address the needs of the community effectively.

Participants were asked to place stickers on weaknesses and threats they found to be their first and second priorities: red dots for first priority and blue dots for second priority for weaknesses, and yellow dots for first priority and blue dots for second priority for threats. At the end of the exercise, it was identified that the top priority in weaknesses was people not working together, and the top priorities in threats were drugs/programming and daycare. Mr. Perez-Gomez suggested that walkability and safety should be considered as one under well-being. Additionally, participants suggested adding the lack of jobs and the lack of training for the workforce as weaknesses. They also proposed that there might be a correlation between educational attainment and school physical improvements with overall educational improvement.



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PEOPLE TASK FORCE SWOT EXERCISE RESULTS

STRENGTHS (INTERNAL)	WEAKNESSES (INTERNAL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks to gather* • Library • Proximity to hospitals/clinics* • Access to highway • Local businesses • Community centers for youth & seniors • Diversity/culture/arts • Schools • Green space • Public Transportation* • Neighborhoodlike • Police Department • Train station • Access to Downtown* • Restaurants* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Lighting • Lack of Security/safety* • Community not working together • Walkability • Information centers • Signage! Way-finding in Union Square/Hill • Greenspace for physical activity/open space to sit • Adult education relocating • Schools/physical improvement • School academic improvement • Lack of access to fresh and inexpensive foods
OPPORTUNITIES (EXTERNAL)	THREATS (EXTERNAL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Security/safety • Addressing homelessness • Services in Union Station • Recreational spaces for youth and elderly; indoor and outdoor* • Community Garden • Development of children & adult education: -children programs, -computer literacy, -GED, -Continuing Education, -financial literacy • Financial literacy & opportunities • Workforce training • Jobs & job creation • Walk-in clinic • Update public spaces • After school programs • More funding • Supermarket w/ fresh foods: -Price Rite, Aldi • Building sense of community and friendliness • Senior center/community center* • Elderly services • School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentrification: -kicked out or eased out where will we live?* • Increasing/high rent* • Drugs • Relocation of police department • Decrease in utilization services • Increase traffic • Affordable daycare • Affordable housing • Lack of community social service funding • Speeding vehicles causing harm to residents • Lack of resources for early education • Lack of Care4Kids • Lack of qualified teachers • Adult education for English learners (ESL) • Cost of healthcare • First time homebuyers funding and education • More funding for sidewalks to accommodate walking • Ensure that property managers do their job and manage the property: -fix door, -fix elevator, -fix intercom, -fix stairs, -fix sidewalks, -fix leaks, -fix roof

* Items that came up more than once

UNION SQUARE CNI

*= items that were identified more than once



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4. Vision Statement

Mr. Miller provided a comprehensive overview of the purpose of a vision statement and how to align it with identified priorities. He presented the group with a draft vision statement: "**Build on myriad neighborhood assets to empower, prepare, and support Union Square/Hill residents of all ages to achieve academic success, sustainable employment through workforce training and educational resources, improved healthcare outcomes, and reduced poverty for children and adults.**" While participants thought the vision statement was good, they suggested adding "dynamic community" and "safe, affordable, and inspires residents." Mr. Perez-Gomez proposed a vision statement, but participants found it too lengthy. Co-Lead, Mr. Smith, recommended creating separate goals, objectives, and strategies from the vision statement. Mr. Miller explained that the resident assessment would help create these priorities.

Mr. Perez-Gomez's suggested vision statement: **"..to achieve physical & mental health by increasing safety in green spaces, accessibility to services and increase community participation, educational attainment and community development by providing resources in a manner attainable to all people."**

Ms. Vincent suggested vision statement: **"To create a thriving and inclusive community where every individual is empowered, valued, and equipped with the opportunities and resources to reach their full potential. We envision a future where collaboration, equity and innovation drive sustainable growth and well-being for all."**

Participants were asked to bring their ideas on vision statements to the next meeting.

5. Planning Handbook

Ms. Vincent distributed planning handbooks. The handbook is designed to walk CNI participants through the steps of the planning process of transforming an existing community into a neighborhood where people choose to live. The task force members were asked to review and become familiar with the information and bring it to future meetings for reference.

6. Questions

Why aren't people who have children here? Wolfe is primarily elderly/disabled.

Why can't there be waivers for a period of time where they do not include the child's income as part of overall household income.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting date and time will be July 11th at 5:30pm.