FLUSHING WEST

Public Meeting
Thursday, February 11th, 2016
AGENDA

• Presentation Overview
  o Flushing West Project Background & Timeline
  o Preliminary Strategies to Improve Community Resources- includes parks & open space; waterfront; transportation
  o Preliminary Affordable Housing & Preservation Strategies
  o Preliminary Economic & Workforce Development Strategies

• Interactive Discussions with Agency Staff
Builds upon a long history of previous planning work in Downtown Flushing

Create a Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan to improve quality of life and diversity that:

- Identifies community resources & key capital projects that can contribute to achieving a more livable neighborhood

- Includes an affordable housing component which will incorporate mandatory affordable housing and preservation strategies

- Includes an economic development component to support current small business and workforce needs & future growth
• Zoning Study Area

• Downtown Flushing Neighborhood Boundary

• Housing Study Area
FLUSHING WEST PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW (02-03-2016)*

*Timeline is tentative and subject to change

PUBLIC MEETING: Kick-Off
May 21 Introduction to the study & begin dialogue on neighborhood challenges, needs, and opportunities

PUBLIC MEETING: Vision, Goals, & Guiding Principles (2)
July 29 Share preliminary data & research, understand lived experiences of residents
Aug 20 & Sep 12 Share feedback from previous workshop, deeper dive into key issues, roundtable discussions, Aug - built enviro, Sept - services & land use

PUBLIC MEETING: Draft Zoning Framework & Housing Strategies
Oct 7 Study update, including a draft zoning framework and brainstorm housing strategies

PUBLIC SCOPING HEARING: Review Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Zoning
Nov 17 Preliminary Plan
Feb 11 Share and gather feedback on preliminary strategies for affordable housing, economic & workforce development, community services and capital planning for Draft Neighborhood Plan

PUBLIC MEETING: Draft Neighborhood Plan - Confirm & Prioritize
TBD Confirm and prioritize elements of the Draft Neighborhood Plan

PUBLIC REVIEW SESSION: Draft Neighborhood Plan
June 2016 Public hearing

CB7 Public Hearing & Review
60 days
BP Melinda Katz Public Hearing & Review
30 days

City Planning Comm. Public Hearing & Review
60 days
City Council Public Hearing & Review
30 days

PUBLIC MEETING: Finalize Plan
Share and gather feedback on FINAL Plan

Final Plan and Implementation

SG MTG

Proposed Zoning Framework

Preliminary Neighborhood Plan Strategies

Draft Neighborhood Plan and ULURP Certification Clock Begins

PUBLIC MEETINGS
STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SG)
HOUSING STAKEHOLDER GROUP
DELIVERABLE
CITY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW (CEQR) & UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW (ULURP) PROCESS
WHAT WE HEARD

“Active recreation equipment needed in parks”

“Improve quality of existing open spaces”

“Provide safer and more enjoyable access to open spaces, particularly to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park”

“Passive open spaces desired”
PRELIMINARY PARKS & OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES

GOAL: INCREASE QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE & AMENITIES WITHIN EXISTING PARKS AND ACCESS

• Complete ongoing upgrades to existing parks
• Improve quality of open spaces and amenities
• Improve access to open space to parks and recreational resources by improving walkability, adding signage
PRELIMINARY WATERFRONT STRATEGIES

WHAT WE HEARD

“Make Flushing Creek a recreation destination”

“Create a publicly accessible recreation destination along the waterfront”

“Improve water quality and reduce smell”

“Wide walkways along the waterfront”
Strategies to improve water quality will build upon existing and planned projects:

- Flushing Bay and Creek restoration activities
- Flushing Creek’s Watershed has been identified as a green infrastructure priority area by DEP
PRELIMINARY WATERFRONT STRATEGIES

GOAL 02: IMPROVE SHORELINE CONDITIONS & WATERFRONT ACCESS

Existing Shoreline

Proposed Waterfront Public Access

Marginal Street

Proposed Street Network
“Improve station accessibility for 7 train”

“Streetscape improvements to enhance and support walkability”

“Would be nice to have public plaza with seating in the center”

“Transit center needed to direct bus layovers away from downtown area”
GOAL: IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY & INTERMODAL NETWORK

• Pedestrian safety improvements along Main Street and College Point Boulevard
• Prince Street Triangle Plaza improvements
• College Point Blvd. + Roosevelt Avenue intersection study
• #7 subway station access improvements
• Provide relief from bus layovers
WHAT WE HEARD

“We need to care for the elderly and those who are on fixed incomes, and prevent homelessness.”

“Applying for affordable housing can be complicated, and waiting lists are long”

“Lots of people are moving here, but there is not enough housing and it is becoming more expensive”

“We need more affordable housing for low to moderate income families and singles”

“Tenant harassment and housing quality are concerns, but people are afraid to complain or don’t know about their rights and resources”

“New development should promote small business opportunities and local jobs”

“People are interested in homeownership, but it is not affordable in the neighborhood”
PRELIMINARY AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES

GOAL 01: PROTECT FLUSHING TENANTS FROM DISPLACEMENT

- Deploy recently enhanced anti-displacement programs and services, including code enforcement, free legal services, Tenant Support Unit, Tenant Harassment Task Force, programs for seniors, at-risk families, homeowners, and more
• Work with community groups & elected officials in Flushing to enhance tenants’ access to information

• Make it easier to apply for HPD affordable housing by expanding range of credit and background eligibility, and by working closely with community on the application process
PRELIMINARY AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES

GOAL 02: PRESERVE EXISTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FLUSHING

- Enhance marketing and outreach efforts in the area to owners of buildings that are not currently government assisted/regulated
- Implement the new Green Housing Program to encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and to keep rents affordable
- Work to preserve existing regulatory agreements for affordable housing in the area
GOAL 03: DEVELOP NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FLUSHING

- Implement the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program within the rezoning area
- Encourage private and mission-driven developers to build affordable housing on public and private sites with HPD subsidy
GOAL 04: PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FLUSHING

• Leverage new affordable housing developments to strengthen small businesses and create local jobs by expanding opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses; implementing HireNYC; and integrating new housing with spaces for small business and retail.
WHAT WE HEARD

“Need additional sanitation services to maintain thriving Flushing commercial corridors”

“Need legal assistance for lease negotiations”

“Need M/WBE certification assistance”

“Need more job training programs”

“Need greater access to business and workforce resources”
GOAL 01: STRENGTHEN COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

• Work with local business organizations to conduct Commercial Needs Assessments on major commercial corridors, and implement recommendations
GOAL 02: SUPPORT EXISTING BUSINESSES & BUSINESS GROWTH

• Conduct workshops to help business owners negotiate commercial leases and obtain M/WBE certification for doing business with the City

• Implement the Small Business First Initiative to assist business owners with navigating City regulations

• Provide FastTrac GrowthVenture business education training
GOAL 03: CONNECT RESIDENTS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

• Connect local residents to career training and job opportunities in City-funded developments

• Provide additional resources to the existing Workforce1 Satellite Center
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