



**Transformative Neighborhood Planning Meeting
Thursday February 24, 2023**

The 3rd **Transformative Neighborhood Planning Meeting** took place on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at Gibson Health Hub.

Community Participants	City and Provider Staff
Barbra Tiwald	Carol Pierce, Director
John Comstock	Jazmin Moreno, Gateway Systems Analyst
Bernice Martinez Comstock	Chassity Garcia, Heading Home Gateway Executive Director
Kate Matthews	
Melinda Frame	
Sandra Perea	
Raven Del Rio	
Rachel Baca	
Leslie Padilla	
Vera Watson	
Mario Cruz	
C.W. Book	
Donna Strong	
Alexandra Kirk	

Meeting began with introductions around the room.

Jazmin Moreno followed with sharing context for the purpose of our meetings with statement:

Our goal is to find a balance between moving forward in identifying greater solution and intentions, while still addressing concerns in real-time.

Transition into updates on Winter Overnight Beds and Gateway Facility, by Chassity and Carol.

Chassity: Overnight Beds we are at full capacity on the men’s side and on the women’s side we are still encouraging women to come to the shelter. Operational-wise, everything seems to be running smoothly.

Guests followed up with questions:

- 1. Question: Are the overnight beds still the 50 that was reported to us previously?**

Answer: It's 60 altogether, 25 for men and 35 for women.

2. Question: How full are the women's beds?

Answer: We average anywhere in between 15-20 beds a night.

3. Question: How long can they stay?

Answer: They can stay for however long they choose to. Operationally, if they have their own vehicle, they can start coming at 4:30pm and they can leave at 7:30am. But if they are being routed with the bus, they can start coming in at 5:30pm and they depart by 6:30am.

Carol: Since people do stay, they leave their belongings in their room because they're coming back. We also have storage.

4. Question: Is it separate rooms or is it dormitory?

Answer: On the women's side, there are single rooms, there are some spaces that allow 2 people if they have friends that would like to be in the same room. For the men's side, it is an open space dormitory style, beds are about 5 ft apart.

5. Question: Last month Cristina took us on a tour, she showed us a room that had dividers, is that what you mean?

Answer: That is upstairs for the Gateway's new development.

6. Question: What's going to happen to that area when we no longer have the emergency overnight beds?

Answer: There is not a plan necessarily for that space.

7. Question: There won't be another emergency type of situation like there is now?

Answer: We can never know when there is an emergency but that's not the plan. This was because of winter. Then where the mean are, is the first floor of another building, no plan right now for that either.

Transition into Facility Updates

Carol: The painter's association had a big convention here in Albuquerque. Painters came from all over the country to have their annual convention & they like to give back to the community they're in. So they volunteered to paint. **We had about 150 painters here.** They also painted space on the 4th floor. That was really a great donation, about \$400,000 worth of painting.

Pedestrian Safety was one of the early-on items that we talked about with Gibson and so a Hawk Light is planned for as talked about from the traffic study. The **Hawk Light** is on order. Once available, that is going in about 100 yards to the West of where the pedestrian bridge is.

Question: Can you tell me what a Hawk Light is?

Answer: A Hawk Light is a signal, that senses pedestrians & allows people to walk.

The last item is, **we're preparing to put a fence in the front**. On that fence you'll see the pilasters (columns). We want to put artwork on that, that matches and fits with the neighborhood ambiance, as well as matches what we are really trying to do here as part of the Gibson Health Hub. We are moving forward with the Department Arts & Culture. We also welcome neighbors that are interested.

1. Question: Wasn't there an RFP that went out or is that something different?

Answer: That would be something different because we didn't need to do an RFP, it's a contract with the fencing firm.

2. Question: Why is it being fenced? Is the intention a fence surrounding the entire property to secure it?

Answer: No, it is meant to have a good visual/barrier from the street. It will also guide where people are crossing the street.

3. Question: In relationship with the whole building, is it just in front? & Where is there going to be a break in so people can get in from Gibson?

Answer: There will be a break where the current drive ways are, as well as the Hawk Light.

Transition into rest of agenda

We attempted to begin with a brief activity allowing neighbors to share boundaries through drafting a set of community guidelines. The purpose was to consider if anyone has any emotional, mental or time energy boundaries, as we would have liked to respect that upfront. The intention was to avoid individuals speaking over one another, raising voices, and ensuring that we keep track of time so that we use our 1.5 hours effectively.

A neighbor reminded us of wanting the meeting recorded. Jazmin asked for consensus from entire group and everyone approved. Recording began at that moment. Recording will be available for access at the time that this report is shared with the group.

Returning to agenda, 2 boundaries were shared:

Neighbor 1: "I would think maybe, not yelling at each other might be a good one"

Neighbor 2: “So I’m thinking along the terms of my time and energy boundaries, I would love for us to always have people here who can actually answer the questions that we’re asking. Rather than ‘okay I’ll write that down’ and ‘we’ll address that next time’ and it never happens. I understand that we’re laying groundwork here but I think that would be a better use of our time and we just knew what the subject is gonna be and who is gonna be there to answer the questions.”

Neighbors then collectively shared that they did not want to continue with guidelines.

Jazmin accepted and shared disclaimer. We were not assuming that group did not know how to act “civil” as one neighbor stated nor teach anyone to “behave” as another neighbor stated. This activity was only to take a few minutes. It is a common community organizing exercise. – We spent approximately half an hour going over what the group did not want to do.

Jazmin then shared that we had less than 40 minutes left in our meeting. For the sake of time, Jazmin asked the group if we wanted to discard the agenda and go around the room to share everyone’s top concerns for the city to address. – Neighbors accepted.

Below is a summary of the concerns shared

Items that neighbors would like addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encampments • Walmart Closure • More information on housing currently being built on Jackson & Central • Official statement on Fire Station • Information on the relationship between Gateway & encampments • Connection between code enforcement and encampments • Economic Development / Economic Degradation • Enforcement of Safe Parking use • Contrast between International District and other districts • Change from 1.5 mile radius to .25 mile radius, around Gibson Health Hub • Insistence of placing affordable/transitional housing and shelters in this area

Items that neighbors would like to see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having ACS present at each meeting • Having Gateway residents & graduates share their experience here (once open) • Representation from APD & AFR (first responders) • Constructive Actions from all parties involved (city and neighbors) • City x Neighborhood Clean-up • City Councilor representation

- Regular updates on all areas on interest to the group
- Visible progress
- Resources for neighbors
- Preservation of buildings along Route 66
- Safe & walkable streets
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

General questions asked by neighbors

- Are we being abandoned?
- Who else from the city can we have regular representation?
- What is the procedure for tackling encampments? Why did it take for us (neighbors) putting it all on a paper, for y'all to figure out the connections?
- What is available to ACS?
- What is the city doing as far as code enforcement to hold the property owners of these vacant lots or abandoned buildings or houses, accountable?

General concerns mentioned by neighbors

- Landmark building on Central & San Mateo (seems vacant)
- Neighborhood not being kept aware of changes being made
- Misinformation being spread due to lack of communication from city
- Plan for property on Kathrine & San Mateo
- Unproductive responses from 311, ACS, APD, and CABQ.gov
- Fires being set and leaving scorch marks on walls
- Magnetization
- Lack of effectiveness from encampment team
- City is not proactive
- Substance-use near/at public parks, including when children are present on playground
- Discarded clothing on the ground
- .25 mile radius not being patrolled
- Sculptures of trash
- Lack of trash pick-up in South San Pedro neighborhood
- Chronic Under-development
- Economic Segregation
- Modern-day Redlining
- City purchasing Walmart location (providing something the neighbors do not need)
- Housing Development
- Crime & Violence
- Vacant lots & empty spaces
- I.D. having the worst transportation

- I.D. having the worst job prospects
- Lack of healthy food access/options (food desert)
- Counteractive to place people experiencing homelessness, in an area deprived of things
- Abundance of predators
- Crimes of Opportunity
- Glass & syringes on vacant lots
- Generational Poverty