



CANNERY DISTRICT, EC

Health Impact Assessment

Cannery HIA Eau Claire Area Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Eau Claire County Courthouse, Room 302

Friday April 7th, 2017 8 – 9:30 am

Attendance:

Jim Dunning, Audrey Boerner, Carleigh Olson, Kathy Mitchell, David Klinkhammer, Don Bodeau, Bruce King, Mel Kantor, Ned Noel, Sara Carstens

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Audrey provided an update on Cannery District development: In 2017 the city will be constructing the trail from Madison St. to the High Bridge. Part of this work will include trimming and removing trees. Lighting will also be installed. A traffic model is also being developed to evaluate traffic accidents and capacity of various streets. Street improvements are not expected until at least 2018, and more likely 2019. Street design has not been finalized.

2. Update on Research Findings (parks and trails, street and sidewalk design)

The group reviewed the “ideal park design” pathway diagram that shows how park designs are connected to health outcomes. The group also reviewed the research showing how street and sidewalk design impacts physical activity and social cohesion and the connected health outcomes. The group also discussed the likely connection between social cohesion (short-term outcome) and violence and crime (long-term outcome).

The research on the pathway diagrams shows the connection between our environment and health. The natural next step from a pathway diagram is recommendations that will allow positive health benefits to be realized by community members. The pathway diagrams will be used by the team to organize and communicate research, and show the connection between research and recommendations in the HIA.

3. Review and discuss draft recommendations

Upon review of pathway diagrams, group was asked to review draft recommendations. These recommendations were initially drafted by the project team, and both advisory committees will be providing input. The recommendations are based on one-on-one



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conversations with residents in the neighborhood, as well as research conducted by the team.

The group discussed that some of the street/sidewalk design recommendations may need to change in the northern area of the development, where there is anticipated to be lower commercial density and potentially different housing density. Possible additions to the draft recommendations included deliberate construction of social gather spaces within the mixed use area, creative parking solutions, and larger setback distances for single-family housing.

Committee members were then asked for vote for the 5 highest/lowest priority recommendations. There was no consensus that any of the recommendations were inappropriate or should be discarded. Several committee members suggested it was difficult to fairly select 5 “low priority” recommendations.

Highest priority recommendations included

- Implement all applicable crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles
- Ensure connection to transportation, trails, and amenities to be accessible for people with all ability levels, following Universal Design principles
- Engage the community in the design and implementation of new public spaces
- Incorporate mixed land uses into community design, including ground-floor commercial retail use that attracts pedestrians
- Incorporate design elements that facilitate social interactions, such as courtyards, outdoor seating, high street connectivity, small storefront setbacks, unique building façades, shade, and informal gathering spaces

Lowest priority recommendations (or recommendations that were expected to be implemented as part of regular development in Eau Claire) included

- Provide amenities such as bike racks/indoor bike parking, fixing stations, benches, and bus shelters
- Use incentives for housing developers or businesses that support the use of alternative transportation
- Develop building height to thoroughfare width ratios of 1:3 or 1:2, which provides comfortable enclosure for pedestrian activity



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- Orient building development toward the street and sidewalk with maximum setback from the sidewalk of 0 feet (commercial) and 10 feet (residential)

4. Discuss health impacts of potential housing scenarios

The group reviewed the three possible housing scenarios. One comment was made that city should work to ensure affordable housing be available in the Cannery District. The group indicated that Scenario C, as the most desirable, warranted the most research but that there is value in having information about how health impacts may vary considering different scenarios. This information could be applied to other future developments in Eau Claire.

5. Wrap up & next steps

The funding deadline for the project has been extended to December 2017. The advisory group was supportive of a final meeting in June, and a celebration/report sharing meeting in fall.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 15th, 8 – 9: 30 am

Location: Eau Claire County Courthouse Room 302