

## **Southeast Strong Community Plan Public Meeting Notes Verbatim**

### **Community Priorities Analysis**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

#### **Sticky note group**

- Grow and support businesses ...
  - P3 - improve visual appeal
  - P1 – SBDC (small business district...) in town
  - P4 - SBDC
  - P2 - needs clarity
  - Access to loans and how to apply
  - Successful businesses mentoring startup businesses
  - Access to city loans for Southeast Colorado Springs businesses
  - The city should focus on all southeast businesses and not just a select few but leverage the platform for everyone to receive exposure
  - Maybe create a southeast business directory
  - Prioritize resources for small businesses
  - Businesses that work with young people should have access to funding to expand their reach among young people – bring crime down with positive programs
- Live longer...
  - Topics/priorities are geared to visual appeal and environment friendly implementations
  - NOT health improvement/initiatives
  - Access to direct primary care to Pinnacle Advance primary care - [www.pinnacleapc.com](http://www.pinnacleapc.com) - partner with D2 or nonprofit for onsite clinic
  - Healthcare, affordable healthcare
- Safety -recommendation for review, clearly define what safety means, and who the audience is. Prioritize safety (equipment)
  - Plug into neighborhood watch/ group activities
  - Stronger relationship between police department and neighborhoods – build trust
  - Address the homeless population in the southeast – cleanup is zero
- Transit – bus system is already superb, exceeds expectations.
  - P2 resolve problem causing trash
  - P1 additions
- Culture - From a City stand point - how else do we celebrate our diverse culture other than what is stated

#### **Sheet group #1**

- Priority #1
  - Dept training / Spanish people
  - Community park

- Areas to celebrate diversity events at parks/pavilions
- All culture festivals
- Art/murals showing culture
- Entrance signs to area/neighborhood signs
- Priority #2 (business)
  - Small business support in SE
  - Attract large businesses missing
  - Incentives/penalties to shopping center owners who don't take pride in centers
  - Attract businesses who pay large salaries
- Priority #3 [no notes]
- Priority #4
  - Safety in business districts (cameras/watches)
  - Increase police response time to businesses
  - Clean up homeless in shopping areas
  - Stop people from taking stuff from businesses and leaving
  - Continue to support CONO & neighborhood watch programs
- [Priority #5 is not listed]
- Priority #6
  - Fare costs & change for SE residents for people with EBT
  - Closer stops/locations
  - Covered stops
  - Time aligned with major employers i.e. Amazon
  - Crosswalks to stops with flashing lights
  - Pike Ride partnerships / scooters to get to stops
  - Sidewalks missing & connectivity
  - Connectivity to trails
  - Safe bike lanes /more/ curbs to get up on sidewalks
  - Sidewalk repair
- Other
  - Areas of grass/public areas cleaned up & maintained
  - Develop music hub

## **Sheet group #2**

- Can we get educators from aerospace/engineering into schools to get students into these fields (certificates?)
- Culture
  - Making it easier and faster to apply for a permit, especially for small businesses
  - Job opportunities, internships for students should be included in educational partnerships
  - More grant funding for minorities specifically (a grant writer who can support minority businesses)
- Economic/housing development
  - EDA economic development assistance designation?
  - Directly engaging people in the community for policy change

- The TABOR cap prevents the city from receiving grants from the state, this is problematic
- The area behind King Soopers is not a well kept, well maintained site, it was also formerly a landfill. That space also has 3 (?) different owners. (Neighborhood services responsibility?)
- Mission Trace is an area that needs to be developed (it's been over two decades). Is the owner of this area receiving tax credits?
- This community needs more communication/info/public awareness about the ins/outs of how to reach out to city services, officials, how to get involved with city planning
- Live longer & better
  - If the land behind king soopers could be turned into a park, this would be beneficial
  - Panorama Park is great but we need more of these
  - More hospitals, more health care clinics & facilities and services that accept medicaid
  - More healthier dining options in the area
  - Enterprise zone could create incentives for this
  - Need more diversity in businesses (there should be a limit on storage/car wash businesses)
  - People who work in the area should be able to live in the area
  - Why are so many tiny homes located in the southeast area? Affordable housing options should be diversified
  - Our area needs more starter homes
  - Hancock development project, any updates for this?
- Safety
  - More street lights funded by the city would help with this goal (energy efficient lighting)
  - The city could incentivize private developers in achieving this goal
  - Neighborhood watch is somewhat outdated, there could be alternatives that are better
  - Needs to be better, city-wide reports on crime
  - Media training that prevents the stereotyping of southeast communities as being dangerous or unsafe
  - Seniors need programs that put them in the know about what's going on in the neighborhood
  - We need covered/shaded bus stops
  - More accessibility for seniors
  - Incentivizing community members to
  - A mix of local & franchise owners in enterprise zones
  - The southeast needs landmarks
  - Signs that would let drivers know they're entering the southeast
  - Could we connect hotels in the area with more businesses

#### Table 4

- Reflect & celebrate our diverse culture
  - Priority 1: translate city docs
    - Very important to offer multiple languages
    - Messaging of info in different languages to ensure understanding
    - Simplify but ensure translation is culturally relevant
  - Priority 2
    - A community calendar would help increase access & knowledge about events happening
  - 3. Storytelling & community building @ events is a great building block
- Grow & support our businesses
  - Dunbar Springs, Tucson, AZ
  - Curb appeal is important
  - Broken window theory, can improve or degrade a neighborhood
  - Parking lots
  - Speed (or lack of) of construction is very frustrating
  - Cultural humility vs cultural competency
- Live longer, live better
  - Planting - use nonprofits fighting greenhouse effect to fund and drive plantings
  - Plant “green walls” to help mitigate diesel particulates
  - Farm stands; use common area land to increase small farms
  - Community development initiatives
  - Multifaceted projects
  - Questions about D2 garden, etc.
  - Community hubs
  - 211
  - Navigation of services
- Support our safety
  - Ditches
  - Lighting is poor & needs improvement, particularly in parking lots
  - Neighborhood watch - could community members volunteer to patrol & could they get stipends
  - Schools/churches used during downtimes
  - Capacity building
  - Guidance is a critical part of changing youth crime culture. Police activity/funding for safety

#### Written notes on printed guide

- [jacob.matsen@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:jacob.matsen@coloradosprings.gov)
- Circle around enhanced infrastructure under transit
  - More bus stops
  - Better system for large employers (Amazon)
  - Simpler fares
- Identity - e.g. prominent statue

- Safety - more crosswalks near schools
- Poorly marketed: southeast is home to great food that nobody knows about

### Sheet group #3

- Southeast Priorities
- Challenge to obtain permits
- Disparity in access to healthcare for southeast residents
- COS Go translation in the works -> high level thoughts
- Priority 2 should be priority 1 under grow and support businesses, entrepreneurs, housing & economic development
- Multiple businesses in Southeast should all receive city exposure

### Planner's table guide

- Culture
  - Priority 1 very important - lots of Spanish speakers & korean
  - order works well – related to priorities
  - Messaging should be condensed and simple to promote common understanding
  - Translation and messaging should be checked for cultural relevance
  - More public notice
  - Community calendar - partner w/ nonprofits
  - Priority 3: Internal service Language Line company
- Economic Development & Housing
  - Priority 1: Capacity building
  - Priority 2: Simplify
  - Priority 3: Makes the community feel cared for
  - Priority 4: The competency of cultural competency is slashed through and points to a note that says be mindful of competency - cultural humility & understanding
  - Support clean ups (unkept landscape does not equal pride)
  - Parking lots exp. - imp. Of parking areas
  - S Academy
- Live longer, live better
  - 211 style community care hub
  - Priority 2: Priorities should include or add partnering with existing nonprofits
  - More community hubs that provide navigation & resource guidance
  - SE Springs has higher diesel fuel particulates
    - Use plants to capture some of this
  - Food to Power
  - Add farms to P.2
  - Education | Advocacy
  - Make services more navigable
- Safety
  - Public Safety is more police funding
  - Priority 1: “uniform lighting standards for illumination” circled and comment added: crime should have a culturally sensitive and soft approach

- Priority 3: Utilize technology to improve public safety
- Emergency app -> market info to communities
- Neighborhood watch funding - neighborhood watch signage
- Safety - more community driven safety
- Youth based safety programs
- Lighting upgrades
- Utilize space that is seasonally vacant to support events & community initiatives while not in use
- 3rd spaces
  - Connected to safety and love longer and better
- Transit
  - Walkability! (Group 2)
  - Airport transit that stops at specific SE hubs

#### Group ##

- 1.
  - Want to learn more about how priorities are interrelated, they seemed siloed
  - Who is accountable for each part of the plan
  - More clarity around responsibility
  - Where do we get more info?
    - Where do we sign up for facilitated sessions? Website not intuitive
- 2.
  - What does more walkable mean? What does it look like?
  - How will utilities be involved. Which entities will be relied on for support
  - “Economic vitality” would be a more holistic term (includes business, housing, education/schools, job training)
    - Business & housing feels like siloes
    - No priorities list education/schools and jobs
  - We want a cultural landmark that marks the Southeast, like a sculpture or visual that shows “you’ve arrived”
  - Wayfinding & landmarks would celebrate cultural diversity
- 3.
  - Reference plans like “urban forestry management plan” with a link to provide more info
  - Health section doesn’t include food, healthcare, or eldercare/aging in place, only environmental health
- 4.
  - Proactive community building for safety - incentives for knowing your neighbors
  - Traffic calming measures needed & traffic safety elements
- 5.
  - Mention activating parks
  - Share/highlight the positives & work the southeast is doing with the rest of the city as a resource for the rest of the city

- Diversity of food is an asset and underrepresented and increases cultural interest
  - leads to arts, activities, & events
- People don't go to businesses unless they know about them
- Needs more marketing
- 6.
  - Another transit center (update & add)
  - Pike Ride signage

#### Table notes

- Culture
  - #3 +++
  - Communication between constituency and changemaker
  - How to find out?
    - Radio
    - Social media - expansive social media
    - Spanish specific
    - Fliers at small businesses
    - Share at food pantry
  - Celebrate culture
    - Latino events and more events in general
    - Imagery
    - Decals & flags for Southeast COS
    - Encapsulate diversity
    - In the loop about new businesses
- Businesses
  - Zoning laws for fast food per capita - doesn't leave room for small businesses
  - Helping college graduates get connected to work
  - College isn't always it - especially depending on your degree
  - Trade schools, apprenticeships
  - Partnering with auto shops, career readiness in schools
  - Financial literacy in schools
  - Hiring local incentives?
  - #2 - feels like a lot of things, all good
  - Housing? Is it in the doc? Yes, it's in the plan
  - No one size fits all, need a lot of options
  - Perceptions - affordable leads to higher crime rate, lowering property values
  - And income requirements don't keep up
- Health
  - Mental health
  - Self-care feels like a luxury
  - Access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods is important
    - How do we level the playing field on prices?
  - Clean the whole creek instead of putting it all on us (Fountain Creek)
  - Undue burden with homeless drifting

- Right to live in an environment that's safe
- Safe, clean parks & trails
- Work with Fort Carson
- Roads not being kept up to standard compared to Powers, etc.
- Clean ups can support mental health (nature, movement)
- Group biking & walking & movement
- Safety
  - More lights, less police
  - Southeast has way too heavy a police presence compared to other areas, i.e. speed traps)
  - Yes to lights, people crossing at night hard to see
  - #2 - avoid overregulation, watch phrasing to avoid misapplying
  - Police are doing well (in her experience) with special needs
  - Neighborhood watches?
    - So many apps, depends on what it looks like too
    - Need to know when to get involved and when not
    - Response times - will neighborhood watch have higher priority? Should it?
    - The impact is really interpersonal and situational - concerns about grudges
    - Only comfortable with that among close neighbors
    - Contact the neighbor first
    - Concerns with how POC are perceived in average situations
    - Need safety to foster development (crime statistics)
    - Get discounts for buying ring cameras, etc. i.e. smart thermostats
    - History of racial bias in application (same for Ring specifically, who has access to surveillance)
    - Neighborhood watch needs a definition - need neighbors watching out for neighbors
    - Be aware of cultural lenses
    - Bystander effect
    - When to confront? Please don't or do it with training
  - Special places & transit
    - Chelton Crossing so underutilized, Stompin Groundz
    - What about Mission Trace? Emphasis migrated to avoid putting eggs in one basket
    - What does it look like to share special places? Also, what are the special places?
    - Where are the missing community centers?
    - Would like to see a center like Hillside's - community feel, park that's plainly inclusive
    - Panorama Park is so busy with parking - how to get additional
    - Short term leases for pop up businesses
    - More farmers markets!



- Post it thoughts
  - Temporary use @ Chelton Crossing (opportunities for diff)
  - Knowledge about community center
  - Promote & educate on public transit = good on environment & = physical exercise
  - Temporary use or lease @ Chelton Crossing
  - Gives opportunities to different businesses (different restaurants / business)

Additional notes:

- Fast track special event permits for small businesses. 90 days is too far in advance for small businesses
- Lart-like funding just for cultural events or Southeast events
- Want an Economic Development Authority/Business Improvement District for Southeast/south Academy
- Advocate for state policies that promote housing, like the land use legislation that would have allowed more density
- Use home rule status to do more for citizens, rather than to opt out of policies that support citizens. Engage people in advocating for these.
- More CONO programs in the Southeast (from a CONO grad!)
- Alternatives to Neighborhood Watch, improve trust with police and recognize technology (most people already have Ring cameras, etc)
- Need more programs and activities for Seniors.
- Incentivize redevelopment of Mission Trace
- More hotels and co-located shopping and amenities
- Want murals – especially on the Kelker Substation – its ugly