FLUSHING WEST

4rd Public Open House Meeting
Saturday, September 12th, 2015
Overview of the Neighborhood Planning Study

What We’ve Heard from the Community

• July 29th & August 20th Open House Event Recap
• Summary of Issues

Break Out Discussion Groups
- Zoning & Land Use
- Affordable Housing
- Jobs & Businesses
- Health & Placemaking
- Immigrant Services
- Youth & Senior Services
1. Builds upon a long history of previous planning work in Downtown Flushing

2. Includes a zoning component which will incorporate mandatory affordable housing strategies

3. Includes a economic development component to support current needs & future growth

4. Identifies city services & key capital projects to create a more livable neighborhood
**FLUSHING WEST PLANNING HISTORY**

- **1998:** Downtown Flushing Rezoning & Waterfront Access Plan

- **2004:** Downtown Flushing Framework with EDC/DCP led to Flushing Commons & Macedonia Plaza projects

- **2011:** Flushing Willets Point Corona LDC received $1.5 M Brownfields Opportunity Area grant to develop a Master Plan and redevelopment strategy for 30+ acres along Flushing Creek

- **2014:** DCP agreed to work with the LDC to complete BOA Nomination Report and revise the study to foster affordable housing and economic opportunities

- **2015:** DCP launched Flushing West Neighborhood Planning Study; conducted outreach; stakeholder groups formed

- **2015:** DCP first Flushing Town Hall meeting to publicly introduce the study
FLUSHING WEST FOCUS AREAS

• Zoning Study Area
• Neighborhood Area
• Housing Area
• Existing C4-2 zoning regulations cover most of the Study Area and may produce towers set back from the street on low base portions

• Variable maximum FAR’s for different uses currently favors select commercial development—such as hotels—over housing

• Current parking regulations also favors certain types of commercial development
• Facilitate a **community-based planning process** to support policy changes that will shape a more livable neighborhood

• Leverage strong real estate market forces to create **opportunities for requiring affordable housing**, as well as preserve existing affordable housing

• **Encourage walkability** by extending the vibrant downtown area to the waterfront, and create opportunities for **new open space**

• Support the existing and growing immigrant and small business culture by **providing economic opportunities**

• Align investments in **infrastructure and services** to support current demands and future growth
FLUSHING WEST PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

May-Sept 2015
- May 21st 1st Public Open House: Study Information
- July 29th 2nd Public Open House: Listen & Learn
- Aug 20th 3rd Public Open House: Report back & roundtable discussions
- Sept 12th Public Open House: Further assessment of issues & roundtable discussions

Oct-Dec 2015
- 5th Public Event- share preliminary draft zoning recommendations & roundtable discussions to refine strategies
- Public Scoping Meeting to explain analyses on Environmental Impact Statement

Jan-Dec 2016
- 6th Public Open House: Share final draft zoning recommendations & draft capital planning projects & draft affordable housing strategy
- Public Review Session/ULURP Final Neighborhood Plan
- CB7 Public Hearing
- BP Public Hearing
- City Planning Commission Public Hearing
- City Council Public Hearing

Continued community engagement
WHAT WE’VE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY
JULY 29th OPEN HOUSE EVENT

80+ participants
11 agencies
4 community groups
AUG 20th OPEN HOUSE EVENT

40+ participants
5 agencies
WHAT DID WE HEAR? HOUSING

• Create opportunities for new permanent affordable housing
• Prevent housing discrimination & displacement
• Provide housing targeted to Flushing income levels including very low income senior housing
• Provide daycare and recreational spaces in new housing
• Prevent illegal conversions
WHAT DID WE HEAR? TRANSPORTATION

• Improve the sidewalks & streets for pedestrian safety and better traffic flow especially on Main St & Roosevelt Av
• Improve bus service and bus congestion along the streets
• Improve pedestrian access to the waterfront including better biking opportunities & rail access
• Study and “fix” congestion at College Point Blvd. & Roosevelt Av.
• Expand #7 train platform
• More accessible parks within walking distance
• Hard to get to Flushing Meadows Corona Park; Unsure what amenities currently exist there; better maintenance of existing parks
• Support community gardens and small parks targeted to seniors and children
• More public plazas needed to sit and talk
• Plant more street trees and improve waterfront access
More information requested on brownfield cleanup and explanation on how remediation works

Improve shoreline conditions and water quality of Flushing Creek

Dredge the creek to reduce smell
• Protect small business owners from being displaced due to increasing commercial rents
• Explain how businesses can benefit from minority/women-owned certifications
• Create a NYC Business Solutions Center in Downtown Flushing
• Support incubator spaces for entrepreneurs
TONIGHTS TABLE DISCUSSIONS

• 6 Table Discussions by Topic/ 20 min each topic/ stay seated
• 5 min warning signaled by a whistle
  - Zoning & Land Use
  - Affordable Housing
  - Jobs & Businesses
  - Health & Placemaking
  - Immigrant Services
  - Youth & Senior Services

• Topics focus on social & community services

• 10 minutes at the end/ 1 spokesperson at each table reports back to whole group what the main takeaway was.
• Please designate a point person who can represent table
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