

TEAM Delridge (Thrive, Eat, Act, Move), led by the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association, gathered more than neighbors from throughout Delridge for a community gathering to talk Safety, Recreation, Transportation and the Built Environment at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center on April 20th from 6:30-8:30pm.

Fitness system priorities

Participants discussed fitness system strategies to improve active living, walkability, parks/recreation access, and safety and voted on which strategies are most important. In order, these are:

1. Equitable Access: to Recreation Facilities, Parks, & Community Resources
2. Schools/Child Care, Including:
 - a. Active transportation to/home from school,
 - b. Physical activity during school hours
 - c. Physical activity after school
3. Built Environment for Walking/Biking:
 - a. Ease of use for bikes and other alternatives to cars
 - b. Better transit access (more options, more reliability)
 - c. Create social environment supportive of walking & biking

Additional comments & insights from participants at the meeting.

What was most interesting about this meeting?

- The different perspectives and points of view of other group members
- Willie Austin's stretching was great
- Meeting new neighbors
- Learning and coming up with ideas for things that can actually happen—that we could get done
- I really enjoyed the small group discussion time. It was an amazing opportunity to see different points of view
- Meeting new people, my neighbors
- Hearing about current issues, problems and success around fitness in Delridge
- This was a good update on the process- and it's great to be able to have a say in what happens
- This was a great learning opportunity and I enjoyed speaking with different members of the community

General comments:

- What is there for young people after high school? What about young people that don't go to college or don't want to go to college?
- There should continue to be an emphasis on people helping people, and should focus on children
- We need even more community input. More people = more ideas.
- We need lots of PR/Media in order to spread the word and make this work happen
 - Use blogs, neighborhood councils, schools, and other outlets to promote more people coming to meetings.
- Do we have buy in from government on these ideas?

Strategy #1: Equitable Access: to Recreation Facilities, Parks, & Community Resources

- There are lots of non profits that are doing and/or want to be doing some of these things—matching them up to schools and community centers to serve more people would be a great idea – we could have one administrator that is shared.
- There aren't any East/West busses connecting Delridge way to the rest of W. Seattle.
- Schools/Community centers aren't connected (geographically or with public transit)
- Why aren't folks using our community centers?
 - They're unkempt
 - Some staff and other users aren't friendly
 - Activities that are offered aren't relevant
 - It seems as though facilities are constantly under construction (poor communication about when facilities are open)
 - Need more promotion of promising programs (for example, better promoters—ask teens to market to other teens)
 - Recreation centers need clear guidelines and a sense of community ownership so that folks respect the facilities.
 - There aren't transition-aged programs (programs are for kids, or people that have kids, but none in between)

Strategy #2: Schools/Child Care, Including:

- **Active transportation to/home from school,**
 - **Physical activity during school hours**
 - **Physical activity after school**
-
- We need to go directly to schools and day care centers to get their input and solicit their involvement in KCFFI and TEAM Delridge.
 - There are lots of non profits that are doing and/or want to be doing some of these things—matching them up to schools and community centers to serve more people would be a great idea – we could have one administrator that is shared.
 - There aren't buses that can get students home who are staying after class for activities.
 - Schools/Community centers aren't connected (geographically or with public transit)
 - Biking programs at schools would be great!
 - We need to do something to ease the grant application process so that if there is money in Olympia for school programs (walking/biking) it's easy for schools to get.
 - Cars are scary and fast. It isn't safe for kids to walk to school.
 - We need 'pedestrian priority' crossings.
 - Flag crossings would be really nice for near elementary schools
 - Limited insurance at schools prevents the possibility of joint use agreements
 - After school programs aren't "cool" and don't cater to drop-ins.
 - Could Cascade Bicycle Club partner with some of our schools?
 - We need to 'go where the people are' and reach out to principals and PE teachers.

Strategy #3: Built Environment for Walking/Biking:

- **Ease of use for bikes and other alternatives to cars**
 - **Better transit access (more options, more reliability)**
 - **Create social environment supportive of walking & biking**
-
- Metro/DOT should be apart of these conversations
 - It is difficult to ride a bike along Delridge (unsafe)
 - There aren't any East/West busses connecting Delridge way to the rest of W. Seattle.
 - You've got to be a good walker to get around Delridge (lots of hills and unkempt staircases)
 - We need connected sidewalks in good condition (not to mention places to go)
 - There is trash everywhere. Why aren't there even trash cans?
 - Do people know what the biking/driving laws are?
 - Actual sidewalks (with lines) would make a difference
 - Bicyclists don't follow the rules of the road.
 - What about bicycle cops? They would set a good example for the community.
 - Police officers seem to always just drive down Delridge way talking on their cell phones.
 - Biking & walking maps could be invaluable when partnered with the right programs/campaigns!
 - We need additional education about all of the natural parks and resources that are out there.
 - Could a youth running club begin to make trail running 'cool' in Delridge?
 - People are afraid to go into Longfellow creek because of safety concerns, and because homeless people are living there.
 - Are there plans for a bike lane along Delridge? Who communicates this?
 - People need to be more aware that opportunities exist.
 - Wider walking paths would make Delridge more walkable.