

9.9.2020

Thornton City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Equity

**Background:**

The Ad Hoc Committee kicked off officially on July 1, 2020 and set the outline for the process to review the topics of equity identified by the council: Policing, Communication, Amenities, Transportation. The Committee will provide recommendations to the full Thornton City Council after each topic for discussion.

**Topic 3: Amenities & Transportation**

8.19.2020: Presentation by staff on parks/amenities and transportation on existing options

9.2.2020: Community engagement forum to solicit ideas and hear from the public on experiences

9.9.2020: Committee reviews and develops recommendations

Committee Recommendations: Outcomes

- Parks plan with deliverables and dates (short term & long term)
  - What can be done now (priority to older areas) vs. midterm vs. long term management
  - Maintenance of equipment/fences & trash management
  - Tables/gathering spaces
  - Safety (homeless use of parks, crime, shootings)
  - Lighting
- Open Space Plans (Yucca, Niver priority)
  - What can be done now (priority Yucca & Niver) vs. midterm vs. long term management
  - Clean paths/walking areas
  - Lighting
  - Trash receptacles/dog bags
  - Focus on transportation hub (ex. Yucca leads to N-Line)
  - Safety (community policing/bikes, homeless)
  - Maintenance (fences)
- Update to Codes
  - Can grants be used to help properties get into compliance?
  - Can the city fix code issues for blighted areas: parking, lighting, safety
    - BIG funding, STAR funding, Alianza support & funding
    - What are the barriers?
    - How can we prevent future problems?
    - What does Denver do for this? Or other municipalities?
    - Support for maintenance/trash management
- RTD Stations (priority 88<sup>th</sup> station)
  - “entryway” to Thornton: what can we do to elevate the station
  - Focus ED on development
  - Partner with Mapleton, Anythink, ADCO
  - Gathering spaces: Programming options (ex. Pop up events, food trucks, art, performance, farmer’s markets) – opportunity to connect all stations in Thornton
  - What can we do to bring people to use the station(s) and explore Thornton?

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- Public Art Plan
  - Focused effort on south Thornton – TASCHO funding
  - Murals on underpasses (discourage tagging) – diversity, kids
  - Murals on concrete barriers (discourage tagging)
- Spaces for older kids/young adults
  - Identify potential locations for pick up games (soccer, basketball)
  - Boys/Girls club (or something similar)
  - Lighting
  - Partner with private groups to bring multi use event space
- Programming
  - Community center
  - Promoting programming nearby, targeted based on areas where offered
- Gathering Spaces
  - Focus on seniors and mobility restraints
  - Bulletin board areas
  - Opportunities for using existing areas
  - mobile activities that are for kids and seniors, potentially adults
- Coordination with RTD on transportation options
  - Lower priority (how do we help communicate all of the options?)
- Focus on Homeless
  - Mental health & substance abuse support (program connections)
  - Prevention efforts – ex. rental assistance
  - Address the “in-between”
  - Spread out across the community
  - Resources vs. police contact
  - Partner with ADCO, other community organizations
- Engagement
  - Support for groups that want to serve
- Community Center
  - Options for funding (voter input)
  - Focused on full resident need (kids through seniors)
- Economic Development Focus (original Thornton)
  - Sit-down restaurants (kid-friendly)
  - Family owned focus (not chain, or if chain something that isn't prevalent and less known)
  - Entertainment (quality – ex. Summit vs. Sonesta Lanes)
  - Revitalization
  - Retail (ex. Steinmart vs. Dollar Store)
  - Avoid or manage food deserts