

Southside Green Zones Council

July 2019 Meeting Packet

Working Groups

Green Economy & Anti-Displacement

Land Use: Air & Soil

Healthy Food Access

Health & Energy in Housing

Self-Determination & Accountability

ACTION:

1/ Review the 1 page draft tables for each of the Working Group areas. They are the Community Identified Key Problems and Solutions that the 2017-2018 Green Zones Task Force process uncovered in their community engagement* in the Southside Green Zones area.

2/ Reflect. Does what is listed as Key Problems or Solutions reflect your experience in the Southside Green Zones where you live, work, play and pray? Is there anything missing?

**community engagement on each topic area was conducted in 2017-2018 by organizers at Hope Community and Land Stewardship Project.*

Green Economy & Anti-Displacement

Community Identified KEY PROBLEMS	Community Identified SOLUTIONS						
1/ Hard to purchase and stay in a home	Keep property values at an affordable rate	Robust funding of municipal/public housing	Residents from before should be able to stay after	City funding or other community money to support Less rentals, more homes owned by BIPOC, WTF, low-income marginalized residents in single family homes	Different models of owning a home	Reparation - repair what was damaged and stolen during the last housing crisis.	Cap property taxes
2/ High rent	Tenant centered lens on city policy development (v landlord/city profit centered)	Municipal Rent Control	Transparency on who regulates landlords	Ways to help people improve their credit scores	Transparent housing policy processes - those effecting renters, shaped by renters	Eviction freeze	
3/ Low wage jobs and no benefits in the neighborhood	Create living wage green jobs in neighborhood (\$15/hr min wage okay now, but grow over time)	Access to free healthcare	Local city jobs / contracts = hire from IPOC, local residents, set a minimum %	Jobs that provide opportunities to felons without exploitation of people or environment	Protected sanctuary status - undocumented workers can report exploitive practices by employers without		
4/ Many Businesses in neighborhood not local	Prioritize hiring locally for jobs	Programs to support local businesses to thrive	Small business loans (interest free)	More job trainings led by business owners of color			
5/ No cohesive city strategy addressing displacement concerns	Clear community-crafted definition of anti-displacement that includes housing and larger community development, economy	Policies that address gentrification	Policies that address displacement	Accountable City Process for developing policies - that are articulated by those experiencing displacement and gentrification			
6/ Lack of easily available information on job training opportunities	Training opps for youth	Job fairs	More community centers as touch points for job training and connection				

Land Use: Air & Soil

Community Identified KEY PROBLEMS	Community Identified SOLUTIONS							
1/ Excessive Automobile exhaust in the neighborhood	Community decision-making and control in transportation planning in neighborhood.	Transparent Data on how environmental factors and traffic decisions impact our health.	Hold transportation planning processes accountable over traffic patterns, construction, detours, road closures & resulting emissions	Improve transit system - Buses can run later and more frequently, especially in neighborhood (underserved areas); Better on-bus bike storage	Reduce "through" traffic - people outside area traveling through the area.	City funds/subsidies for low income residents to use EVs, solar panels, etc to reduce individual emissions	Change Zoning to stop pollution (trucks, etc)	Reduce idling vehicles/trucks in neighborhood
2/ Excessive overall air pollution in community	Remove/limit Smith Foundary	Remove/limit Bituminous Roadways	Change Zoning to stop pollution (facilities)	Ways to hold Industries that pollute accountable and responsible for clean up.	Stop trash burning in neighborhood	Enforce cumulative impacts lens , legislation and information		
3/ Information, education on AIR & SOIL contamination that is in the community is not transparent and easily available / understandable	Expansive and ongoing Community outreach and education by govt / NGOs to people who can't make "community" meetings	Initiate independent affordable air an dsoil testing / equipment / data collection for residents, schools, local businesses (more detailed than state data)	Transaparent about what data the state and city already have on our localized site-specific pollution	Hire staff to collect samples/analyze from within the area	Start with neighborhood schools/daycares for seeing if contaminated			
4/ Contaminated Soils in open areas like parks, playgrounds and gardens	Heal soil and remediate toxins in neighborhood	Establish permanant land spaces in neighborhood - so we can invest in our soil and health for long term.	Intentional engagement with local indigenous community - to understand and receive shared knowledge on indigenous plant life/rain gardens equipped to metabolize	Replace polluted ground soil (Soil/compost grants for residents)				
5/ Design of our urban neighborhood is not centered on the people and ecology	Emphasize a 10 min proximity to quality food, education, housing and work for new urban design	Promote Green roofs and other air/water filtering plant "technologies"	Support bike culture	Change Zoning				

Healthy Food Access

Community Identified KEY PROBLEMS	Community Identified SOLUTIONS				
1/ Healthy food is expensive in our neighborhood	Increase wages (poverty wages make it hard to budget for healthy food)	Increase ability to use assistance programs on healthy food	Make healthy food accessible to food shelves, community centers		
2/ Healthy food is inaccessible in our neighborhood	Fix policies/barriers to small grocery stores and convenience stores for selling fresh organic produce.	More farmers markets	Policies that promote meat that is raised well and humanely		
3/ Temporary/impermanent land access	Like Seattle public edible forest, plant edible plants, public food forests	City programs on gardening more transparent, accessible and responsive to community needs	More accessible city process to increase community land access/ownership.	Community gardens with diverse gardening communities	
4/ Polluted/contaminated soil - can't grow food in my backyard	More education on where to bring hazardous material	Remediate soil	Promote no-till and perennial plants	Learn/understand indigenous knowledge on plant life, rain gardens, equipped to metabolize toxins	
5/ Health food stores do not support existing community (as community gentrifies)	Ethically sourcing plants, locally and organically	Responsible labor practices for employees	Increase funding opportunities for smaller grassroots food-based orgs in the neighborhood	All city functions that use caterers = POC, local businesses, diversified (not same ones over and over)	Develop cooperatively owned and run local food vendors
6/ Community needs more support and education on healthy food (growing practices, preparation, etc)	Support learning about traditional foods and medicines	Promote food growing in community and educational gardens, public school gardens	Food education in our schools so young people see benefit in healthy food + how to prepare healthy food	Micro-grants for community projects that trust community - it knows what it needs	Create pathways for organizations and individual not already active in local foods.

Health & Energy in Housing

Community Identified KEY PROBLEMS	Community Identified SOLUTIONS		
1/ Cost of utilities too high	Improve homes to be more energy efficient	Landlords should absorb the cost of energy efficiency, not the renters	City funds/subsidies for low income residents to use/have solar panels, etc
2/ Landlords not held accountable to fix and repair	Accountability standards for landlords to keeping heat and other essential infrastructures well maintained	Hold accountable the agency that regulates landlords (who?)	
3/ Old houses have older piping-contaminated water	Help fix pipes	Get information and data on this from city	
4/ Residents lack of knowledge on things inside their homes that may be unhealthy	Expansive and ongoing Community outreach and education by govt / NGOs to people who can't make "community" meetings	Education to live using less resources (water, electric, gas)	

Self-Determination & Accountability

Community Identified KEY PROBLEMS	Community Identified SOLUTIONS				
1/ People who don't live, work, play and pray in the Southside Green Zone making policies/programs for the Green Zone	Any GZ process have community led solutions development and implementation - Community shaping priorities, articulate their own decision making model	SSGZ Council budgets and work should build community power	Conduct engagement across all neighborhoods and cutlural groups in the greater Phillips and Cedar Riverside area.	De-center whiteness, center communities of color.	
2/ Fluctuating and unaccountable resources (city, foundations) for the SS Green Zones work	Ongoing resources by the city to support the SS GZ Council long-term	Process for holding the city and other levels of government accountable	Process for holding foundations accountable	Clear pathways for community consent and leadership in the decision-making process.	Prioritize under resourced orgs led by and serving POC, women, Indigenous communities
3/ Community Stress (race-based + otherwise)	Invest in local leadership (existing and new leaders)	Honor community knowledge and time (not donated)	Training & awareness on colonialism and genocide for city staff before making decisions	All budgets for projects should include money for community engagement - supporting people's time.	City must invest in long term relationship building, capcity and training for neighbors