



CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY MANAGER
Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq.

To: Mayor Jamie P. Bova and Members of the City Council
From: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager
Date: June 16, 2020
RE: Docket of June 24, 2020 -- Update -- North End Urban Plan Project

Attached is a report from the Director of Planning and Economic Development which provides an update on the North End Urban Plan Project.

/paf
Attachment

cc: P. Reynolds, Director of Planning and Economic Development



THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Department of
Planning and Economic Development

To: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager
From: Patricia Reynolds, Director, Planning and Economic Development
Date: June 17, 2020
Subject: Status and Progress Report, North End Urban Plan

Introduction

As the City moves forward to meet the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and provide a balance of residential, commercial, and employment uses consistent with the vision of the community, the North End Urban Plan will be integral to the process, informing policies and guiding appropriate development within this critical area.

The following is provided as an update on the planning process to date, and a look at the schedule as the consultants restart after the 60 day suspension of work necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

North End Urban Plan, Time Line and Background

January, 2020

The development of the North End Urban Plan began on January 21, 2020, with an aggressive schedule of 16 weeks to create a substantially completed Plan for the North End. The Plan schedule was divided into 3 phases, Phase 1, Discover (4 weeks) set the stage for future public engagement by conducting research of existing plans and documents, and beginning preliminary public outreach. This phase was completed on schedule.

February, 2020

Phase 2, Dialog (8 weeks) broadened the discussions to the general public and gathered input from city residents and stakeholders by holding numerous small-scale meetings and a community wide Public Forum. On February 25th the first Steering Committee meeting was held, and on February 26th the first of two proposed Public Forums was held at the Met School.

March, 2020

Phase 2 continues. As the consultants began to synthesize the information learned from the community, a second Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for March 17th, and the last planned Public Forum was scheduled to follow on March 18th. At this point, due to the impacts to the public outreach process caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings were cancelled days before they were scheduled to occur.

April 8, 2020 to June 8, 2020 (Suspension Period, 8 weeks, some work continues)

At the following council meeting, the City Council approved a 60 day suspension of the development of the North End Urban Plan, from April 8, 2020 to June 8, 2020.

Public Forum 2 was reworked and moved from an in person public meeting to an online survey format utilizing the existing project website, CoUrbanize. The online survey remained active until May 18th, closing at that time to allow the consultants time to review and analyze the data prior to the end of the suspension period on June 8th.

On May 27, 2020, a postcard mailer was sent in an effort to reach households without computer access and provide a method for those residents to participate in the survey and allow for additional public input.



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NEUP Update

During the suspension period, the consultant continued to monitor the on-line survey, and prepared a draft of a form based code for the study area. The preparation of the code was included in the approved contract. (This form based code is in addition to the code prepared by the Zoning Working Group which has been submitted to the Council and referred to the Planning Board for a recommendation.)

North End Urban Plan, Moving Forward,

June 8 to July 8 (Four weeks +)

Phase 3, Deliver. Work on the plan restarted on June 8, 2020, with a new substantial completion date of July 8 2020, and the final draft of the consultant's form based code is nearing completion.

On June 16, 2020, a virtual steering committee meeting was held to review the progress of the plan and the proposed next steps. The next steps were outlined as follows:

Plan

Draft completion

Submittal to the Planning Board, July 8, 2020

Planning Board review

Plan adoption by City Council

Zoning (Form based version)

Review by Staff

Submittal to City Council

Referral to and review by Planning Board for recommendation

Council vote

A recording of this Steering Committee meeting is available for viewing and all materials from the meeting will be made available on the CoUrbanize site.