

OPNA/NOON Q&A SENT TO MAYOR ON 10/11/23

We received responses to questions we asked of the Mayor's team on the TMC. Answers to the questions are in italics, questions are in bold.

General:

1. What resources will the mayor's office offer RNOs in regard to negotiating the GNA?

- *Mayor's office will facilitate the GNAs between providers and neighborhoods*
- *Mayor's office will provide an outline for negotiating GNA's*
- *Mayor's office will provide a template from previous GNA's*
- *GNAs will include:*
 - *Operational Details*
 - *Responsibilities of Involved Parties*
 - *Expected Communication Channels*
 - *Accountability and Enforcement*
- *We also look forward to sharing the GNA interest form on Monday and collaborating on ways to ensure that it is shared widely with the neighborhood.*

2. In the Denver Post article dated October 10th, the mayor noted that the most important criteria for determining micro-community placement included: access to utilities, proximity to transit, meeting basic zoning and permitting criteria, proximity to food sources. We would like more information about how the site at 2301 S Santa Fe Blvd meets these criteria.

None of these items are requirements to create a micro-community, but they were among a list of items that we explored as we explored vacant sites across the city.

Several aspects contributed to the viability of this site, including:

- *Zoning – site is zoned appropriately for this use without requiring a rezoning*
- *Utilities – in working with utility providers like Denver Water and Xcel, we found this site feasible to provide these utilities to the micro-community.*
- *Proximity to Transit – great access to the Platte River trail system by foot or bike and a short bike ride to transit stops*

3. Relatedly, we would like information about the process by which this land was approved for the micro-community site, including information about the zoning permit process and zoning permit review.

This site did not need to go through a re-zoning

The site did need to receive a use permit, which required a community information meeting. The meeting required a 21-day posting, which was sent on Sept. 2, 2023, to all owners, tenants, and RNO's within 400 ft of the site. The meeting was held on September 28, 2023.

4. **We understand that homelessness is a major issue in Denver and we appreciate that the mayor is willing to try new solutions. However, the speed at which this initiative is being pushed through and the haphazard way in which meetings and other information is being communicated is concerning, and does not give us confidence that the site will be managed properly. Will the mayor commit to returning to Overland to sit down and talk with neighbors about their concerns?**
- *The Mayor has visited the Overland neighborhood multiple times to discuss this micro-community since it has been announced as a location*
 - *Our team is committed to ongoing conversations with the community about this site*

5. **Relatedly, will the mayor commit to a trial run of one section of the micro-community site before constructing the additional sections?**
- We are exploring the most feasible way to construct and move individuals into these micro-communities. This may include a tiered approach at move in where some folks move in over a period of time.

6. **When will the mayor be able to provide renderings of potential site designs and to what extent will the neighbors and RNOs have a voice in choosing the design?**
- Site designs were provided during the required*

Community Information Meetings, the subsequent Town Hall, and are also available online HERE

7. **Since construction on the long-awaited Jewell Pedestrian Bridge has not yet started, what improvements will the city make to the Evans Street Bridge to make it safer and more accessible for pedestrians? Will the city be willing to fast-track the construction of the Jewell pedestrian bridge and modify the design to include elevators for increased accessibility?**
- This is something Mayor Johnston's administration can look into alongside Councilmember Alvidrez, but it is not part of the current plan.*

8. **Once the 2-4 year lifespan of the site is complete, what will the city commit to in terms of making sure the land is left in safe, clean condition? Relatedly, will the city commit to allocating funds to improve the land post-community to benefit the Overland neighborhood?**
- *The city has a responsibility to keep all of its property safe and clean*
 - *The city cannot commit to funding those items at this time but can engage in conversations with the neighborhood about the ways it would like to see the site activated*
 - *Constituents are also welcome to engage in those conversations with the Mayor's Office and their council member.*

Safety/Security:

1. We are waiting for a response to the information about the school bus stops at Fox and Illiff among others, and how the safety of our young students will be addressed.

- *The site will be gated and staffed 24/7*
- *GNA process will help outline rules and expectations within the community.*
- *We are reaching out to DPS to focus specifically on safety concerns for the bus stop.*

2. There was confusion at the Sunday meeting over whether the site will be low-use or low-barrier. It was the understanding of some people that the first micro-community on site would be low-use, but this was not defined. Later, Cole mentioned that the site would be low-barrier, which we understood meant few qualifications would be imposed on residents in order to move in. Can you please clarify what these terms mean and how they apply to the site?

All of the sites in the House1000 initiative will be based on housing first, which is a low barrier model that accepts people where they are, provides them with the stability of a roof over their heads, and then delivers wrap-around supportive services that assist people on their long-term path towards healthy stable lives.

3. Thank you for the information about the dedicated patrol. Will the mayor's office and the police department commit to having a mental health co-responder in the patrol at the very least during the evening shift if not at all times?

The city is working on growing the capacity of its mental health co-responder network and the Mayor has made that a priority in his budget.

Site Logistics and Infrastructure:

1. Currently there are no parking spaces in the design. Where will the staff of the site as well as those residents who have vehicles be able to park, and how will the city use signage or other means to reflect this? If site residents are parking their vehicles, will they be subject to city code for the amount of time they can remain parked in one place?

The city is assessing potential street parking or available space on the southern parcel of the lot for staff

All who park in the area will be subject to city code and parking rules

2. Will the mayor commit to working with neighbors to make sure the lighting of the site is not intrusive for the homes that border the site?

The city will work with the provider and neighbors to ensure site operations, including lighting, do not disrupt families/homes bordering the site.

3. With the potential for increased visitors to Grant Frontier Park, will the mayor commit to signage along the bike path that borders the park's playground and eating areas to indicate bikes should slow for pedestrian crossings?

The Mayor's Office is exploring this request and will report back in upcoming conversations.

- 4. Relatedly, will the mayor commit to placing more trash receptacles at Grant Frontier Park and allocate the staff to keep them clear?**

The Mayor's Office is exploring this request and will report back in upcoming conversations.

- 5. The latest email from the mayor mentioned the possibility of using the other land parcels as community gardens. Will the city ensure that there is a water and electrical supply to the north and south land parcels?**

We continue to explore this request, particularly for the northern parcel.

- 6. We have been told that the site will operate for 2 years with the option for a 2 year extension. When does the two year term start, and is there a different "clock" for each successive community built on the site?**

The first two-year term begins when a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. The temporary zoning allows for a maximum four-year period from the date that permit is issued.

Community Meeting Feedback:

- 1. Will the mayor commit to investing time and resources so that future neighborhood meetings are accessible in terms of audio and physical space? This includes (but is not limited to) offering virtual attendance with real-time closed captioning, monitored chat, & microphones for the speakers and for those asking questions.**

Yes, and we would love to continue to work in partnership on these community meetings together.

- 2. When might we expect to see any updates to the Facebook page for the TMC? As of now, it hasn't been updated since October 9th, the day after the meeting at the site.**

It is an involving process we will find ways to communicate updates. The source of information will be through us directly or House1000 website.

- 3. When the city took down the old wooden fence along Santa Fe, it was replaced with a chain link fence with green privacy fabric. Neighbors have noticed a marked increase in noise pollution from SantaFe. Will this be the permanent fence? If not, can the city provide any other noise mitigation during the construction period as well as let us know what type of fencing we can expect?**

The fence will be replaced with a new permanent wooden fence.