



*Empowering community,  
Moving Rainier Beach Forward*

## **7-29-16 FID Partners Meeting#1 Notes**

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Attendees:** Giulia Pasciuto, Myani Gilbert, Faduma Ahmed, Uche Okezie, Andrea Dwyer, Robert Scully, Leika Suzumura, Maia Segura, Cindy Jones, Claire West, Paris Yates, Belinda Chin, Sharon Lerman, Gregory Davis, Ken Gillgren, Douglas Young, Lance Randall, Rebecca Saldana, David Sauvion.

### **2. Recap**

**Context and history** (see timeline). The Food Innovation District concept is a vision that emerged from extensive community outreach during the 2012 Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update.

**Progress** (see timeline). A number of developments took place as a result of continuous community engagement

- Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands (RBUF&W). The Friends of the RBUF&W pursued the idea of reclaiming a disused nursery from the City Department of Parks and Recreation to turn it into a working urban farm. Having secured initial funding, they partnered with Parks and selected Seattle Tilth to manage the facility. With support from the Seattle Parks Foundation, the farm successfully raised capital to build new green houses, classrooms, changing rooms a community kitchen and dry and cold storage. Construction is underway.
- Rainier Beach Farm & Food Hub. In 2015, SouthEast Effective Development took over the Master lease of a vacant warehouse on Director St. and brought together a core group of tenant in partnership with Seattle Tilth and RBAC. Today the "Hub" hosts 3 non-profit organizations and 2 private businesses. Seattle Tilth runs its Community Supported Agriculture and Good Food Bags from the hub. Seattle Farm Coop moved its Feed and Seed supplies to Rainier Beach and serve Seattle as well as South King County. Juice Box, Wow Chocolate respectively produce fresh fruit juices and artisan chocolates. Altogether over 20 people work out of this shared space. RBAC also operates from this location and is currently contracting with 1 strategist, 1 project manager, 1 Data Entry Specialist, 1 IT consultant, 4 Outreach Workers and 12 Youth Engagement Workers, all living (and for some, born and raised) in the neighborhood, to the exception of the IT consultant.



*Empowering community,  
Moving Rainier Beach Forward*

### **3. Kresge FreshLo Grant Business Plan**

Current initiatives supporting the Food Innovation District

- Kresge Foundation – FreshLo grant. This first \$75,000 planning grant focuses on 4 areas: Creative Place-Making, Health, Economic Development and Equity. A further RFP could lead to a 2 year, \$100,000 per year implementation funding.
- Seattle Equitable Development Implementation Plan. The City of Seattle is currently working on a mitigation plan to accompany the 2035 Comprehensive Plan that will focus on 5 anti-displacement strategies, one of which is the FID.
- Communities of Opportunity, a partnership between Seattle Foundation and King County Health, is a 3-5 year community-owned data initiative based on Health, Economic Opportunity, Housing and a Sense of Place. RBAC is partnering with 3 other coalitions (MCC, On Board Othello and S-CORE) and HomeSight in this effort. The FID has been highlighted as one of the key strategies.
- Rainier Beach World Market is a vision for a permanent food market led by the Associated Recreational Council, Ethiopian Community in Seattle and ROAR.
- Rainier Beach High School International Baccalaureate, recently sent a group of students to Denver for the IB World Conference centered around Food Systems to promote the work of the FID.

RBAC is also looking to seek further community input and validation of the concept, as well as completing an outcome-based evaluation of the plan.

### **4. Buddy's Furniture Rental Site**

Space is becoming available at the Rainier Beach light rail station in a location that the FID partners have identified for several years as strategic for a catalyst development. While the initial idea was to raise capital to achieve Land Banking, securing a 5-10 year lease would effectively accomplish the same goal.

The property owners have expressed their desire to work with the community and have made RBAC an offer to lease the 7,138sf space for \$6,500, starting January 2017, with the first 2 months free. They, however, requested that the lease be signed as soon as possible.

We are now reaching out to partners to put together a list of potential tenants and establishing a cash-flow projection for the short term. Please share any contact for interested parties.

### **5. Wrap-up Questions, Announcements, & Next steps**

- WSU Bread Lab Tour – Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Next meeting – Monday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm