

AURORA LICTON URBAN VILLAGE

July 31, 2016

Councilmember Rob Johnson
Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor
Seattle, Washington 98104

(Sent VIA Email: Rob.Johnson@seattle.gov)

SUBJECT: July 14, 2016 Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV) Meeting

Councilmember Johnson:

On behalf of the Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV) I would like to thank Amy Gore and yourself very much for taking time from your busy schedules to attend the July 14, 2016 ALUV meeting. We were able to cover several topics in a brief time and we all found your insight and perspective extremely informative and valuable.

As you mentioned, and we fully understand, each Urban Village/Urban Center feels that it has a unique story to tell with unique needs. Ours is no different.

The Aurora Licton Urban Village Neighborhood Plan boundaries were not really based on neighborhood boundaries. It represents more of a "planning area" boundary. While Licton Springs comprises part of the overall Aurora Licton Springs Residential Urban Village, much of the Aurora Licton Springs Residential Urban Village was not represented by a community organization or viewed as part of a "neighborhood". There was no neighborhood called "Aurora". In fact, the Aurora-Licton Urban Village Neighborhood Plan suggests renaming the Aurora-Licton Urban Village to better define and identify the urban village/neighborhood. That (renaming) has never taken place.

In many ways, the Aurora-Licton Neighborhood Plan envisioned creating an urban village from an area that did not have many urban village characteristics. This is still the case. The Aurora Licton Urban Village does not have public facilities such as a community center or library that allows for community meetings (hence, that is why ALUV meets at Lantern Brewing). There are not even neighborhood serving uses like a bank or a drugstore in the Aurora-Licton Urban Village either.

For that reason, opportunities for neighborhood based planning efforts that forge stronger identity in the Aurora Licton Urban Village are welcomed. As we mentioned during the meeting, the Aurora Licton Urban Village does not have neighborhood design guidelines. ALUV would welcome a design charrette or other design initiative, including if ALUV were to be a pilot program for such an effort.

In addition, ALUV would also be interested in participating in a pilot program that allows for early coordination with developers/applicants on design review proposals. Absent adopted neighborhood design guidelines, the main mechanism available to ALUV residents to communicate and express neighborhood design values is on an individual project by project basis. This pilot program, if implemented, would be beneficial to our Urban Village as more and more development is proposed, especially along Aurora Avenue.

Thank you again for your attendance at ALUV's July 14, 2016 meeting. We really appreciate it and look forward to working with you and your staff in the future.

Sincerely,



Leah Anderson
Aurora Licton Urban Village

Cc: Amy Gore, Legislative Assistant, (amy.gore@seattle.gov)