FoCo Future Forum Wrap Up – 5/27/15

1. **What perspective do you have now that you didn't have before tonight?**
   - Less focus on low income/employment/education than we need
   - As a new resident to FC, I was surprised at the assumptions about who is moving to FC and what they want. Perhaps planners should seek to understand what the new neighbors are really seeking when move to FC. Some conversations did not feel inclusive/welcoming. ☹
   - Understanding toward housing issues
   - Need infill and multi- and high rise dwellings
   - Options to accommodate growth
   - Lucky to live in a community that collaborates
   - People here really care to make a better city
   - Thought ratio even more oriented to single-family – 76% - single.
   - Hard to finance mixed-use developments
   - I learned how much is being done about preserving our resources/ history/ community
   - More thought has done into planning for growth than I expected – and from many perspectives
   - The power is with the property owners, what is our special sauce?
   - New info about transport – life culture
   - More active engagement of neighborhoods threatened by change of character
   - I was excited to hear of the positive attitude for controlled, well-thought-out growth prospects
   - Austin is good at branding; didn't do as well with transportation planning
   - Fort Collins branded as lamb feeding capital of world
   - Concept of taking our "ingredients" and deciding what our special "sauce" is
   - That FoCo is actually brilliantly positioned to implement key aspects for growth
   - Concept of diversity vs. outward growth
   - Great to be exposed to the many facets/organizations interested in focusing on FoCo's future
   - Maps can show how a community feels about itself
   - Realized need to keep business data, particularly retail business data, up to date in OpenStreetMap because it is used in an increasing number of apps.
   - Agriculture practices in Weld County can impact FC; standing water -> mosquitos flying 7 miles
   - D.L. ways of looking at health
   - Regenerate!
   - What is a thriving community
   - So excited at Lou Bieker and his ideas, and Brian Dunbar and what he saw in Melbourne and Portland – living spaces!

- The need to take up less space with our homes and yards so we can have more shared space and be more connected to the community.
- One of the tables I visited was about intergenerational living. As part of the older population, I found it interesting that a couple of college age boys (and glad that they participated) discussed communal living, but their perspective seemed as if no one would have to purchase a "living facility"; someone would just donate their home for others to reside in.
- It's good to know that there are many smart, dedicated, diverse people thinking about these issues, and taking action. This includes the presenters as well as the participants!

2. **What's the best idea you heard?**
   - Living wage
   - Social sustainability
   - N/A – didn't get to a point of idea generation
   - Alleyway restoration for urban renewal
   - Ask Chamber of Commerce what incentives we actually get them to build affordable housing
   - Kristin's talk was on target and inspiring.
   - What are you willing to give up to retain what you have (what's important)?
   - Taking care of everyone
   - Options for college students to find affordable living
   - Balancing temperate congruent infill with preserving targeted neighborhoods with historic value
   - Proceed with cautious optimism
   - Love the transit system future ideas
   - Transit oriented housing to include car sharing program (example project in Superior)
   - Building on sustainability instead of maintaining
   - Using ideas from Institute for Built Environment for cooling rather than installing A/C in schools
   - Architects' perspectives on building cities
   - Focus on public/mass transport options now rather than 20 years from now!
   - Need to be easy, accessible, reliable, affordable
   - The general importance of maps and sharing ideas about our community without censorship
   - Need to connect places
   - One individual is starting a program to gather food for the poor by mapping fruit trees both in people's yards, as well as on public property. In most cases the fruit is not harvested currently. Data would be collected about each tree as to the type of fruit, when it typically is ready for harvest, and information about the owner (so

permission could be obtained). Volunteers would visit the tree at the appropriate time and pick the fruit.

- Another individual wanted to create an app for a self-guided walking art tour of downtown. We are going to try and connect him with a student from CSU who may want to do this as project. Sophia Lynn, Assistant Director of CSU's Geospatial Centroid said that they have a couple of art students who may be starting a project to map public art and art galleries in Fort Collins.
- IBE potential use of OpenStreetMap
- In-fill needed to key city center and stop people coming in from other communities
- Multi-generational housing communities
- If you put a bowl of fruit out instead of candy, people will eat healthy, and healthy recreation and transportation opportunities work the same way. Only a small percentage of people are going to go out of their way to engage in healthy physical activity if the supporting infrastructure is not there.
- Maybe not the best, but the most pertinent was the presentation on growing up, not out.
- I sat in on the table discussion about seniors in the community. I think it's a great idea to encourage mixed housing arrangements. Earlier that week, I ran in to an elderly friend of mine who said she had moved in to a 'senior living facility' and it was making her so sad because she was only surrounded by old people! Similarly, the college-aged members of our table group talked about how unfortunate it is that they, too, are often made to feel isolated from the rest of the community. And families with young children could greatly benefit from the wisdom and patience of the older generation. Somehow we need to figure out how to enable people who WANT to live in a more multigenerational setting to be able to do so. Of course this should not be required of anyone, but it should be an easier option.