

Brisbane March 21, 2019 Community Conversation Table Discussion Notes



Table 1

- Ellen
- Jackie
- Ambert
- Emmanuel
- Merrit
- Autumn

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - Beautiful environment
 - Peaceful
 - Small, tight knit community
 - Walkable
 - Community, familiar faces
 - Safety, trust
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Uptick in crime
 - Teachers and many others cannot afford to live here
 - Lack of basic retail and a pharmacy
 - Density of cars and parking

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - A unified community
 - Stay unique
 - Be realistic about changes
 - Warm welcome to newcomers
 - Keep Brisbane similar while enhancing quality of life
 - Addressing traffic with growth
 - City-run transit system
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Schools
 - Social gatherings and events to enhance connection
 - Already existing programs
 - Having a goal to work towards together
 - Program to work together to help others, such as seniors
 - Uniting via new retail

Table 2

- Steven
- Sher
- Carol
- Jen
- Charlene
- Cassandra

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Everyone knows each other**
 - **Beautiful**
 - Weather is great
 - Safe
 - Small town feel
 - **Proximity to SF**
 - **Oasis**
 - Quiet
 - Library
 - Personal, closeness
 - **Individual contributions; everyone has a voice**
 - Collaborative
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Lots of construction
 - Becoming like SF
 - **Brisbane will become something totally different**
 - Environmental impacts
 - **No high school**
 - **Adding housing could be at the cost of the environment**
 - Traffic
 - Hard to find community

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Not SF: traffic and homelessness
 - Quiet small town
 - Connected community
 - Happy with town the way it is
 - Lots of open space
 - Open to see changes in the community faster than is planned
 - Small town

- Like the way it is
- Lots of natural environment
- Safe community, responsive law enforcement
- Strong community connection
- Concerned about noise in the industrial park – lots of trucks
- Different parts of Brisbane are impacted differently
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane’s sense of community

Table 3

- Bill
- Barbara
- Greg
- Theresa
- Thom
- Jen

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - Maintain – preserve outdoor recreation
 - **Small, safe, and welcoming community**
 - **Accessible location**
 - Walking dog and meeting neighbors
 - **Sense of community**
 - Low density – yards
 - Trees, open space
 - Clean air
 - Community involvement
 - People are active
 - Similar to Bernal Heights
 - Peaceful, quiet, safe
 - Fixer upper – as entry
 - Walkable
 - Hardware/library
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Kids gone from Bay Area – cost
 - Reverse mortgage hard to afford
 - Changes in 25 years
 - Increase in price housing
 - Political pressure
 - Congestion – coming and going
 - Prices of rentals and homes
 - Parking

- Availability of stores
- Core values hard to sustain because of outside factors
- **“Cottages” disappearing – McMansions**
- Losing “starter” homes; most gone
- Competition for small houses
- **Dependence on cars; no good public transit**
- Hills

Discussion #2

- Brisbane’s future: hopes and concerns
 - **San Bruno mountain** – access to open space. Maybe Baylands can provide similar outdoor access – bicycle and walking. Trails – safe.
 - Open space maintained in Baylands
 - Maintain views of Bay
 - **Continuity with what we have in Brisbane**
 - Low density and open space maintained
 - Neighborly feel – not separate from current Brisbane; connectivity
 - Hope Baylands can improve housing mix of affordability – address problem created by Prop 13 that rewards commercial development
 - There is no answer
 - Need cemetery, high school, make bay accessible, swimming pool
 - Weather is good
 - Hope that commercial build up is mindful of what Brisbane needs: market, school, gas stations, things needed that are missing now.
 - Baylands workers have access to housing
 - Make Brisbane more a place where children can grow up – garden, schools, sense of community
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane’s sense of community
 - Not assume negativity from anybody
 - Stay informed, stay active
 - Make Brisbane a safe haven from all the divisiveness
 - Everyone try to work together; be more accepting of each other
 - Need to build on the agreement we heard tonight to work out the details.

Table 4

- Danny
- Deane
- Rita
- Dan
- Deb
- Vera
- Dolores

- Carey

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - Topography
 - Location
 - City
 - **Maintain nature; fog**
 - Still living!
 - **Safety**
 - People
 - Sense of community
 - **Small town**
 - Knowing each other
 - Trust/community
 - Walkways
 - Access city government
 - Political access
 - Cul de sac town
 - Affordability
 - Stars
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Traffic
 - Parking
 - Affordability
 - Housing
 - Crowded
 - Mobility
 - Sewage/water
 - State control

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Walkability/open space
 - Preserving nature
 - Multiple transportation – more bus transportation
 - Separate bike lane for safety
 - Elevated shuttle
 - Fiber internet
 - Increase voters change election
 - Maintain core values
 - Sewage plant
 - Solar panels (solar farm): generate power and lost cost, turbines
 - Increase in car trips

- Uber makes congestion worse
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Community clubs and organizations
 - Connect the Ridge
 - Shuttles, monorails, and walkway (bike)
 - Expand what Brisbane is currently; natural feel
 - Mitigate traffic
 - Parking garages
 - Extend SF trolley
 - Continue to have community events
 - Participate
 - Meet and greet: "Night Out"
 - More outreach, targeted marketing
 - Different locations for events, not just downtown

Other feedback about the meeting

- Enjoyable
- Good conversation
- Informative
- Important
- Fun
- Surprising
- Motivating
- Interesting

Table 5

- Colin (23)
- Janice (99)
- Jim (about 60)
- Kima (6)
- Jerry (29)

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Small town**
 - Tight knit
 - **Know all neighbors**
 - Short commute
 - **Work near home**
 - **Quiet**
 - Low crime
 - Convenience

- Many artists
- Outdoor spaces
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Airbnb
 - Shopping
 - Community interaction
 - HOA frustrations
 - Future housing for children
 - Parking
 - Transit – one bus
 - Isolation: shopping, restaurants, schools

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Hopes
 - Open spaces maintained
 - Get rid of the soil
 - More affordable housing
 - Local say in remediation
 - Cycling routes
 - Place to centrally congregate
 - Not drastic change with new houses
 - Integration with current
 - Better shopping area
 - Concerns
 - Baylands change
 - Basic cohesive
 - **Soil remediation process**
 - **Split community (such as Palo Alto and East Palo Alto)**
 - Pool blending: currently lots of pockets
 - Wildlife concerns
 - Wait and see with developers
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Concern they won't have big say
 - Cede to Daly City
 - Build community; build bridges

Table 6

- June
- Ken
- Kathy

- Sebastian
- Cameron
- Terry
- Karen

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Small community but still big enough**
 - Get to know many residents
 - Good pool
 - Quiet and peaceful
 - Mountains and nature
 - **Intimate hidden lovely place**
 - **Safety and closeness of places**
 - Walkable
 - Neighbors support
 - City officials / service is very efficient
 - Nature smells
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Less of a community feeling as it grows
 - Long commute to PA
 - High schools; no high school in Brisbane
 - No gas station
 - No grocery store
 - **Worry about losing intimacy and feelings of small community**
 - Get overcrowded
 - **Fear of losing safety (crime)**
 - **Parking and traffic**
 - Access to city
 - **Integration of the community**
 - Losing character of the city (and identity)
 - **Infrastructure**

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Art community
 - Eclectic
 - No suburbs
 - Community to stay the way it is
 - No super big houses
 - Recreational and community centers and community events
 - Keep town's identity
 - More services and events in the new area to attract different neighborhoods

- Connection between different communities in town (integration)
- Affordable houses
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Community events and meetings
 - Expand Bayshore trail bicycles

Other feedback about the meeting

- Encouraged
- Not contentious
- Fun
- Affirm my beliefs
- Informative
- Enjoy new people
- Able to share

Table 7

- Leesa
- Bill
- Linda
- Kim
- Michael
- Kevin
- Jasama

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - Community – nice people
 - Sense of safety
 - Small enough to know everybody
 - **How everyone is involved or invited**
 - Nice and quiet
 - Small town but also in dynamic and rich area – symphony
 - Small town
 - Cultural element
 - Pockets – lots of artists
 - Value people and how we connect – care for each other
 - Love the mountain, weather, city
 - Like how community has become more diverse. Before there were blue collar (totally white, bars, redneck)
 - Changing
 - Generational affecting and learning from each other
 - **String groups and affiliations: Lions Clubs, book clubs; they make sure various community needs are addresses.**

- Walking on the street – meet and talk
- Pedestrians
- On the Ridge
- Now more stable for raising a child
- Know my neighbors
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Hopes
 - Knowing the neighbors
 - Knowing central and Ridge
 - Open space
 - Want gym and soccer field
 - Places to bring people together
 - Grocery store
 - Looking ahead – don't have to drive
 - Restaurants, entertainment in the Baylands – places to be active together
 - Build housing in Baylands that reflect central and Ridge values will more naturally connect us
 - Walkable/shuttles
 - Nothing more than 10 minutes' walk from open space
 - If there are places or our development that draw people to build community
 - Have Baylands thrive
 - Amount of people in an area to build business that also helps supporting other community members' needs
 - Concerns
 - Some people believe the Ridge is the biggest
 - Unconscious bias
 - You killed the butterflies
 - Making friends; building through school
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - In reflecting values in the future development
 - Process needs to listen to all citizens of Brisbane – both no and yes on JJ people
 - Want to be recognized
 - Need to listen
 - Desires feedback loop: here is what we heard and here is how we are addressing and incorporating it
 - Want for us to learn how to clean up / do remediation
 - Future development look at development for next 20 years plus
 - How we will be in 20 years
 - Would like connectors between people and Baylands, as well as central Brisbane and the Ridge. Trails and corridors are needed
 - Improving recreation department – programs for kids

- Build a school
- How do we provide supportive connections that help children thrive in the school environment
- Need to look at concern with water rise, chemicals that impact living and children's health
- Fire truck
- What is the best thing for them

Table 8

- Lita
- Scott
- Mary Jo
- Kai
- Mark
- Lori

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Leaving doors unlocked**
 - Culture – leadership with values you share
 - **Weather**
 - **Quality of life**
 - Time outdoors
 - Outdoor space
 - Space of home
 - Peace and quiet
 - **Secluded and quiet**
 - Community events – crab feast
 - **Welcoming – culture of Brisbane**
 - Civic engagement is easy
 - **Connectivity to city plus seclusion**
 - Proximity plus caring community
 - Safe for kids
 - Warmth
 - Urban oasis
 - Economic diversity
 - Trust
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - **Dependence on car for transportation**
 - **Lack of diverse local retail – only one grocery store. Amazon/Good Eggs needed**
 - **Lack of mass transit connection to San Francisco**
 - Lack of high school – difficult to raise family / continue community

- Note: lack of retail supports secluded character
- **Lack of a local bar**
- Traffic bottlenecks
- Missed opportunities to build tax base that would support public services

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Want measure JJ to enhance what we have – concern about population influx – not be segregated from new development. Don't want to lose "little gem" of Brisbane
 - Fear of invasion
 - Want to grow and not be stuck in tension and uncertainty around development. When have opportunity to develop, how does leadership stay accountable to community congruency.
 - Hope Baylands development will be designed in a way that supports community. Open space, backyards. New population may take away power of existing residents with new elected representatives. Could change character of existing Brisbane.
 - **Keep existing community fully engaged in development of new community. Don't want to be a sore loser, fracture community. Also want new community to be equally involved.**
 - Don't want to lose feeling of community – don't want to grow in a way that makes community impersonal
 - Traffic – develop in a way that impacts it least – infrastructure
 - **Maintain values identified in Discussion 1**
 - Maintaining housing that is economically integrated
 - Hope Brisbane community remains proactive on issues like climate change. Adapting rather than reacting
 - Holistic visioning needed in community
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - More workshops – continued, regular facilitated meetings
 - People stay engaged, listen to one another
 - Reaching out to everyone in community
 - More places for everyone's voices to be heard
 - Combine community engagement with food and music
 - Getting to underlying shared motivations – getting to why, taking politics out of discussion

Other feedback for this meeting

- I love Brisbane!
- More hopeful
- Inspired
- Engaged together
- Can't wait

- I'm hopeful

Table 9

- Nancy
- Sean
- Maya
- Michele
- Carolyn
- Robert
- Prem

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - People care about each other
 - **Community and know people**
 - Connection with people
 - Neighbors help
 - Look and feel of houses – small town
 - Safe, quiet
 - Location, proximity, history, geography
 - Volunteer
 - Invested
 - Diversity of people and craft and language
 - Open
 - Inclusive
 - City services are good!
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Expensive housing
 - Transit
 - Leashes
 - Increase in density, lack of space
 - Mobility challenges for aging
 - Development pressure, infringe on mountain
 - Litter
 - No high school
 - Commute
 - Increasing cost (property taxes) of new housing and reclamation
 - Flooding and environmental challenges

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns

- Connection between Baylands and Ridge – walkability and transit
- Integrity of the process
- **Protect the mountain; zero development**
- **Concern for how “sustainable” isn’t good enough. Regenerative – generate resources**
- Concern that Brisbane is responding to a “boom” – what about bust? Resources need to be generated.
- High quality of public services: fire department and police force
- Baylands recommendations: use the maintenance yard, think about transportation, remediation (pro and anti JJ)
- Concern – “ask” for involvement but don’t list school
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane’s sense of community
 - Define and meet conditions of remediation
 - Community involved in planning specifics: monitoring meetings, open door meetings, transparency and respect
 - Unite around remediation
 - Transparent processes and or who pays influences meetings and decisions
 - Fear about conflicts of interest

Table 10

- Names not provided

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Neighborliness – the “welcome pie”**
 - **Proximity to SB mountain and trails**
 - **Small town**
 - People know each other
 - Walkable
 - **Community activities to bring people together**
 - Community feeling
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Proximity to SF
 - Good transportation
 - **Neighborhoods**
 - Safe feeling
 - Pool
 - Key group of community activists who know everyone in city hall
 - Take care of each other – kids too
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - **Community values (above) being threatened, want to preserve what they have**
 - In deep trouble, considering moving; canvassed against JJ
 - Developers paid off legislators
 - Whole vote was a big lie

- Want accurate information, lots of lies
- Would like to walk to grocery store
- **Traffic light at SB Ave. and Bayshore Blvd.**
- Couldn't hear John when he presented – “talking trash”
- **Housing affordability – can't afford to retire**
- Doesn't think can build out of jobs/housing gap
- Social inequality is a problem
- Tech is a problem
- **Future development is a challenges to “small town” quality of life**

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Neighborliness; walkability
 - More convenient stores; high school
 - Things have been built in the past
 - Change is coming
 - Environmental problems due to poor remediation
 - Safe community is important
 - Resilient and sustain a major disaster – sea level rise, earthquake
 - Go back to past; no one works in the trades anymore; want to sustain working class values
 - Solar and alternative energy leadership around sustainability and value presentation of nature
 - State taking away local control; Canepa supports AB 50
 - Need to subsidize people so they can live here; Brisbane can't control cost of living
 - Problem is power and money; we've fought against big power
 - Want truth about impacts of JJ/Brisbane development
 - Can't have a real conversation
 - Transparency and information
 - JJ was confusing; everyone was confused
 - For Baylands: all want land clean-up, want sustainable energy, action plan, money for education, sea level rise is a concern
 - Concern is family and friends moving away
 - Traffic congestion – how does it improve? When will it improve? No answers, no funding
 - Doesn't help developers will providing funding for transportation; won't pay for impacts
 - Community – broader participation in development of specific plan; need an advisory board
 - Submitted questions that weren't answered; given to her son who was an intern
 - City council is deaf to this group. They are under pressure from outside of Brisbane, i.e. developers and state legislators funded by developers
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - To come together, Brisbane needs information

Table 11

- Brian
- Tony
- Diane
- Joe
- Elaine
- Cindy
- Lee

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **True, small community**
 - Can interact personally
 - Safety
 - Bay views
 - Everyone knows their neighbors
 - Walkable city
 - **Convenient location**
 - Not far to commute to other cities to work
 - See everyone at grocery store / town
 - Good place to raise kids
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - Aging and **mobility** - need better accessibility/housing for seniors
 - Lack of a high school
 - **Infrastructure**
 - Kids can't afford to stay and live in Brisbane
 - Next generation
 - **Traffic**
 - Not as quiet due to planes
 - Noise
 - **Income disparity**
 - High taxes – Prop 13
 - High cost of rents, water, utilities
 - Public transportation not as good

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Maintain close community
 - Attract those who want the same
 - Want same as now, unique city, special
 - Need high school, sewage plant, senior housing, doctors/clinics, more business such as a theater
 - Don't want to lose what we have

- Want fully accessible transit
- Don't want to need to always drive
- Next generation can continue to live here
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Prices of housing increase leads to people moving frequently versus staying in community
 - How to preserve small town feel?
 - Costly/not affordable or physical limitations force you to move away
 - No alternative housing
 - Need true affordable housing
 - More community events and outreach: who is going? Are the same people attending? Need more frequent communications and types, but still missing people

Other feedback on this meeting

- Not overly optimistic
- Just scratched the surface
- Good – enjoy living in Brisbane
- Nice to have someone who doesn't live in Brisbane participate
- Thankful to see friends
- Grateful

Table 12

- Didi
- Neha
- Silvia
- Paul
- Shivit

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Rural parts of city; quiet and don't need to struggle with city living**
 - Openness – more space
 - **Open – natural beauty, sense of belonging, friendly as compared to big city**
 - Opportunities – participate in discussion about direction of community
 - Independence and spirited
 - **Can't pull the wool over residents' eyes**
 - Baylands has pushed city toward making decision
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - More crowded
 - No central body of knowledge
 - Division/flux
 - Identify crisis – embrace what we are
 - In past, not enough people were informed; meetings could be angry

- Don't understand background
- No grocery stores
- Opposing sides
- **No high school**
- **Future schooling**
- Who/what Brisbane is/was/wants to be is not clear, especially in this time of change – both for newcomers and longtimers

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Have a high school
 - Won't be able to drive – have to change my life
 - Want to be part of the team that builds high school
 - Brisbane will be an example for the region and broader area – Baylands if done well will be an example
 - Clean-up Baylands, not mere remediation
 - Dump clean-up onto part of Baylands
 - Environmentally responsible – use my voice – safe for my family
 - Be seen as a progressive town – town splits of the past need to be in tune with the rest of Bay Area
 - Embrace change
 - Financial prosperity vision; my home will increase in value
 - Be facilitator of change
 - Clean-up remediation of Baylands need to be accelerated
 - Rainbow market; Safeway won't come
 - Hoping to merge Bayshore School District and Brisbane
 - Beautification around Marina – speed dial – to make Brisbane more attractive
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Baylands invest in future
 - Younger town
 - Planning outdoor activities in area
 - Cash in on natural beauty of the area

Other feedback on this meeting

- Appreciative
- Thankful
- Feels good about it
- Information

Table 13

- Steve
- Sherry
- Tania
- Anthony

- Thu
- John
- Laume

Discussion #1

- What you value about living or working in Brisbane
 - **Location**
 - Tight knit community – small
 - Small town – know everyone
 - **Quiet**
 - Safe
 - Good for my children – safe
 - **Close school**
 - Accessibility
 - Convenient for working parents
 - **Rural community – unique – surrounded by urban**
 - **Mayberry**
- Challenges affecting you and others in Brisbane
 - **Lacking amenities – gas station, large grocery, high school**
 - Trader Joes
 - Traffic – takes forever to go anywhere
 - **People in my age group who have been here a long time are moving away – losing friends and old timers**
 - High home prices mean people are cashing out
 - Financial issues – jobs not here
 - Afterschool program was overcrowded and we had to wait to be in it – forcing us to hire a nanny
 - Traffic that will increase with development (despite Caltrain) – more homes (2.5 people)
 - **Transportation – can't walk or bike in Brisbane (can't get to Caltrain)**
 - **Not sure who is behind the coming changes in development (not transparent)**
 - Who are the faces behind the Baylands
 - **Kids can't afford to live here so the parents move away**
 - **Caltrain is not frequent enough to be useful (once an hour)**
 - Shuttle and train station not used to capacity
 - **Affordability**
 - Parking
 - Gentrification and change
 - Brisbane used to bus kids to Pacifica

Discussion #2

- Brisbane's future: hopes and concerns
 - Hopes

- Kids can live here
- City services don't get diluted – police and fire department must be supported by developer
- Solar and wind incorporated in sustainability framework
- Maintain charm without altering it
- More shuttles to public transit and more frequent to Bart and Caltrain
- Sustainability is a prime concern for the future – keep it up!
- Art center for the community to make things
- Concerns
 - Affordability
 - This will become just a tech center like SF – locals will be squeezed out by tech from around the world
 - Lack of connectivity between “our side” and the “Baylands” – want both sides to come together
 - Toxic soil fears – how can we trust that it will be really cleaned?
 - Need to take the time to really do it right and listen to everybody on this last open space
 - Water supply, utilities, and sewage treatment
 - Flooding of new development
- How we can work together to enhance Brisbane's sense of community
 - Figure out how to integrate the new with the old (especially with the road that splits the community)
 - Use a high school to unite and build attractive public spaces that unite
 - Build affordable housing for teachers, staff, fire/police services
 - Parks and rec – swimming pool (things that get people together)
 - Pedestrian walkway and bike paths. No safe way of getting across to the new development – a physical “bridge” is an idea
 - Continue open lines of communication
 - Continue transparency and these kinds of meetings

Other feedback on this meeting

- Community
- Empowering
- Enriching
- Informative
- Open dialogue
- I have a say in the future
- City planner presentation was monotone – could have been animated more