

Meeting Minutes

Working Group
Kick-off Meeting
December 9, 2025
6:00–7:00 EST

Roselawn Neighborhood Plan ▪ Job #8420.00

Welcome & Introductions

City staff and project consultants opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and reviewing the purpose of the Roselawn Neighborhood Plan update.

- Maria Dienger, Greg Koehler, Dariah Williams – City of Cincinnati
- Eric Anderson, Abby Stainfield – KZF Design
- Annie Ruth Napier – Roselawn Community Council (RCC) President and 33-year resident
- Carrie Douglas – RCC Trustee, Roselawn Business Alliance (RBA) Treasurer, 15-year resident (10 as a renter, 5 as a homeowner)
- Gerian Johnson – Community member, raised and lives in Roselawn
- Ronald Mosley – RBA President and resident (left the meeting early)
- Tracey Platt – First Financial Bank Manager, active in the community with RCC and RBA
- Tameka Wilson – resident of 4 years as homeowner, Co-chair of RCC Quality of Life committee
- Nancy Sonnenberg – resident since 1995, on RCC and Redevelopment Corp

How do you feel about starting this planning process?

“Hopeful”

“Cautious”

“Excited”

“Open to Change”

“Optimistic”

Why Roselawn? – Rationale for the Plan Update

- The existing neighborhood plan is 10–15 years old and requires an update.
- Both Roselawn and Bond Hill desire independent plans tailored to their distinct needs.
- Planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will positively impact mobility and development opportunities.
- The community expressed a strong desire for implementation-focused planning.

History of Planning in Roselawn

- Roselawn has a long and deep history of planning dating back to 1981.
- Planning efforts have occurred over the last 40 years, reflecting ongoing community evolution.

Project Goals

- Understand Current Conditions: Document housing, land use, transportation, and economic conditions to identify challenges and opportunities.
- Engage the Community & Listen: Work with residents, businesses, and local organizations to ensure the plan reflects real priorities.
- Create a Vision for the Future: Develop goals, recommendations, and an implementation strategy to guide growth and reinvestment.

Project Scope Overview

- Build on prior efforts including the 2019 Bond Hill–Roselawn Plan.
- Address opportunities in economic development, housing, transportation, connectivity, and community spaces.
- Establish a community-driven roadmap to guide future investment and strengthen neighborhood identity.

Project Milestones & Schedule

- Phase I – Existing Conditions & Input Gathering (Months 1–4)
 - Establishing Working Group, kickoff meetings, and engagement tools.
 - Conducting GIS analysis, neighborhood audits, document review, and stakeholder interviews.
 - Launching community engagement: project website, Business Owner Forum, Working Group visioning, and Public Open House #1.
- Phase II – Exploration & Analysis (Months 4–8)
 - Develop plan topics, preliminary goals, themes, and vision.
 - Draft Neighborhood Plan including recommendations, future land use, and implementation.
 - Host Public Open House #2 and revise plan based on community and departmental feedback.
- Phase III – Final Plan Development & Adoption (Months 8–12)
 - Finalize plan, incorporating all recommendations, maps, and implementation strategies.
 - Present plan to the Working Group, Roselawn Community Council, City Planning Commission, and City Council Committee.

Neighborhood Assessment – Key Observations

- The Neighborhood Business District (NBD) is a critical community anchor with opportunity for small business diversity.
- Physical improvements are needed in the business district to enhance appearance and function.
- Strong single-family housing stock, pockets face challenges such as litter and crime.
- Gateway opportunities exist, particularly entering Roselawn from Reading Road.
- Lack of parks and recreation space; opportunities exist for new community gathering areas.

Group Discussion – Neighborhood Character & Favorite Places

Participants shared their perspectives on Roselawn’s identity and assets:

- “Beautiful eyesore” – The neighborhood has strong bones and historical walkability but has declined; opportunity exists to restore its former vitality.
- “Potential” – Significant opportunity for arts and business development.
- “Opportunity and desire to help” – Many residents want to revitalize Roselawn; senior community seen as a resource.
- “Stagnant but full of potential” – Decline from a once vibrant, youth-centered community, lack of programming for kids today.
- “Maximum potential” – Residents may not fully realize the community’s potential.

Attendees also discussed their favorite places of hidden “gems” of the neighborhood:

- Multiple mentions of the Tea Room business center noted as an opportunity area.
- Other mentions include the Yakitori Hibachi Lounge, people’s personal homes, no current favorite place due to loss of past amenities, and the RCRC Reading & Section pocket park (the only public green space in the densest area of the neighborhood).

Next Steps

- Continue Phase I engagement activities.
- Finalize existing conditions mapping and neighborhood audit findings.
- Prepare for Public Open House #1.