

East Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #13



Date and Time: Thursday, July 26, 2018, 6 - 8 p.m.

Location: Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden Street

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Merritt Pullam, Chair; Laurie Bogue; Carlyle Faust (alternate for Marti Holmes); Tom Fesing; Tracey MacDermott; Monica Martinez; Tom Meyer; Hilarie Portell; Wende Reoch; Andy Sense

DENVER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilman Herndon; Luke Palmisano, District 5 staff

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Curt Upton; Liz Weigle; Israel Cruz

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME

Curt Upton welcomed the steering committee members and walked the committee through the meeting agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

The committee had no comments on the June meeting summary and voted to approve it for posting it on the website.

3. REVIEW OF DRAFT VISION STATEMENTS

Curt Upton introduced the revised version of the “East Area Plan Vision Statements.” A call for comments was made, several points were raised:

- In addition to honoring the special characteristics and history of vintage signs, a statement should be included that calls out the opportunity to “invite new interpretations” and innovations of neon signs.
- Will the plan recommendations be limited by naming specific streets in the vision? More work should be done to include language that does not exclusively emphasize the corridors for new development. Staff explained that the specifics included in the vision statements are intended as examples, not to limit the recommendations.
- Vision should speak to balancing the preservation of historic character with increasing density through the conversion of large (historic) houses into multiple units.
- Mention of Rose Medical Center still sounds too specific.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES EXERCISE

The committee continued its discussion of guiding principles, which are intended to provide direction for the plan when competing interests must be balanced. The committee discussed the remaining three guiding principle through a discussion on trade-offs and the pros and cons related to:

1. Desire for More Jobs, Businesses and Services vs. Residential Character Preservation
2. Thriving Businesses, Events, and Parks vs. Residential Character Preservation
3. More Intensive Development vs. Open Space and Landscaping

Staff will draft guiding principles based on the discussion to be reviewed by the committee at an upcoming meeting.

5. FOCUS TOPICS AND FOCUS AREAS

Liz Weigle presented draft focus topics. Focus topics are subjects the plan will devote extra time and resources to because they are especially important for the East area. They were chosen based on input from the community survey or existing conditions data. A brief discussion followed regarding the focus topics, with some members suggesting that stormwater infrastructure should also be a focus topic given the importance of carrying forth the recommendations of the Upper Montclair Stormwater Systems Study. Further discussion of focus topics and areas will occur at the August meeting.