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
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.