

West Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #1



Date and Time: Thursday, September 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Community Co-Op at 1st

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Jessica Dominguez

Jeanne Granville

Korey Whitaker

Dannie Dilonno

Dan Shah

Tamil Maldonado

Kaye Kavanagh

Jaime Aguilar

Maureen McCanna

Rosie McDonnell-Horita

Bree Davies

Ephraim A. Bulow

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ABSENT)

Jon Koneman

Lisa Saenz

Yara Vaneau

Sean Brady

Rabbi Tzvi Steinberg

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDES

Councilwoman Torres, District 3

Jesus Orrantia, District 3

Tate Carpenter, District 7

Naomi Grunditz, District 1

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

Eugene Howard

Valerie Herrera

Beth Vogelsang

Fran Peñafiel

Becca Dierschow

Anne Kuechenmeister

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

West Area Plan Project Manager, Eugene Howard opened the meeting at 6:05 pm with introductions. Councilwoman Torres addressed the room on the impacts of the West Area Plan on the westside for decades to come and is looking forward to elevating all community voices. Things to remember for future steering committee and public meetings include making sure all meeting spaces are ADA accessible.

2. MEETING NOTES APPROVAL

This is our very first steering committee. Eugene asked our steering committee members for any suggestions of people who live or work in Barnum West to fill our 3 vacancies for the committee. (*Note: since the evening of the first steering committee meeting, Barnum West vacancies have been filled.)

3. AGENDA FOR THE EVENING

A. Staff and committee member introductions

B. Roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee Members:

- a. Representation of your broader community. Speak to all sides of an issue, talk to your neighbors, friends, get their ideas and opinions to bring back to the group.
- b. Provide multiple perspectives – respect others’ opinions and points of view
- c. Share information and collect feedback – share what you learn with your wider community
- d. Participation in meetings. Steering committee members are asked to attend all meetings, understanding things will come up. If someone has to miss a meeting, they should find someone to stand in for them.
- e. Everyone is expected to participate with a collaborative spirit
- f. Consensus and mutual agreement is desired for decision-making
- g. Recommendations to Planning Board and City Council – hopefully with group consensus and agreement

C. West Area Plan Background

- a. Implementation of Citywide recommendations – Blueprint Denver, Denveright plans, and other recent citywide plans and policies
- b. Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) – created to provide measurable, equitable and inclusive guidance at the neighborhood/area scale
- c. How did the City understand where to start? – 15 indicator of planning need – economic, health data etc.
- d. The West Area will be the fourth plan under the NPI
- e. Because the neighborhoods in the west are unique, the West Area Plan will look at systems that connect the six neighborhoods together, while also highlighting the unique character of each neighborhood
- f. Question: How did the City organize the planning areas? Through identifying:
 - i. Always Topics – Land use, mobility, quality of life, infrastructure, etc.
 - ii. Focus Topics – Neighborhoods, community
- g. Question: Is there a consistent definition for “mobility?”
 - i. Mobility will include: vehicles, bike and pedestrian facilities throughout the neighborhoods, overall connectivity through the various mobility systems and infrastructure.
- h. Question: Are there requirements to meet (or exceed) ADA standards?
 - i. The committee should evaluate all ideas and recommendations with a lens on accessibility.
 - ii. Accessibility should include physical, social, cultural and economic.
- i. Question: How will this plan interact with local plans (Sun Valley Eco-District Master Plan)? Or other DHA Master Plans, Stadium District, Decatur Federal?

- i. Existing plans will be used to inform, guide or connect ideas and recommendations coming out of the West Area Plan process.
 - ii. The process will also evaluate existing plans, look to incorporate elements into the plan.
 - iii. The project team with the steering committee will find ways to connect existing plans with the west area neighborhoods.
 - j. Will the West Area Plan provide guidance for developers on the Large Development Review process?
 - i. Yes. All adopted plans are meant to provide guidance for decision-making, public and private investments in our communities based upon the content and feedback from communities.
 - k. Really incumbent upon stakeholders to get people to engage in this process to ensure their voices are heard, because it will affect development of the future
- D. West Area Existing Conditions
 - a. Era of Construction, Zoning, Land Use, Tree Canopy, Parks and Open Space, Sidewalks, Residential Parcel size, and Building Coverage were reviewed
 - b. Steering Committee Exercise: “What are you hearing, and what do you know to share today about issues in your communities?”
 - c. Councilmember Torres suggested the steering committee remember that council districts are arbitrary and will change over time. A West Area Plan will allow current and future council members opportunities to work together on behalf of the desires of residents expressed as recommendations in the plan.
 - d. Sidewalks – how do we talk about them? Access, equity and elitism – will be important issues to address in this plan.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Public kick-off scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:30-11:30am at Newlon Elementary.
- B. Future Meeting Schedule:
 - a. Steering Committee members agreed to meet on the third Thursday of every month, with the exception of December. December’s meeting may take place earlier in the month or be canceled due to holidays.