



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Westside Community Area Planning Team Meeting

Date: February 5, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: Frank Garrett Center, 1226 NW 18th Street, 78207

Attendees:

Planning Department: *Chris Ryerson Planning Administrator; Ana Villarreal, Senior Planner*

Council District 5: *Dr. Samantha Hernandez*

Other City Departments Represented: *Karla Campos (CCDO)*

Planning Team Members:

Jonathan Ortiz (Avenida Guadalupe Association)

Dina Serrano (Community Workers Council NA)

Graciela Sanchez (Esperanza Peace and Justice Center)

Irma Hoffmann (Historic Westside Residents Association)

Teri Castillo (Historic Westside Residents Association)

Eiginio Rodriguez (Loma Vista NA)

Erik Estrada (Los Jardines NA)

Mr. De Leon (Los Jardines NA)

Greg Jackson (West End Hope in Action NA)

Jaime Macias (West Commerce Business Alliance)

Melinda Gonzalez (Westside Development Corporation)

Ramiro Gonzales (Westside Development Corporation)

Antonio Castañeda (Westside Preservation Alliance)

Other Attendees:

Francisco Tavira

Yaneth Flores (Esperanza Peace and Justice Center)

Zeke Romo (Our Casa Resident Council)

Christine Drennon (Tier 1 NC)

Tony Garcia (Tier 1 NC)

Cynthia Spielman (Tier 1 NC)

Joseph Carreon (Westside Development Corporation Board)

Meeting Purpose and Background

The Planning Department hosted this meeting as part of our work on the Westside Community Area Plan, which is a long range plan looking at a variety of topics, including land use, urban design, transportation, community amenities, and housing and economic development strategies over a 10-15 year time frame. At the request of Council District 5, the previously scheduled Planning Team meeting was repurposed to provide an overview of basic planning principles and a history and overview of the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, SA Tomorrow Sub-Area Plans, and the Westside Community Area Plan specifically. In addition, the presentation included basic information on other initiatives related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Planning Department Comprehensive Rezoning program and the Ready SA Unified Development Code (UDC) Diagnostic and Update process.

Materials to provide a basic overview of land use concepts and categories were included in the presentation, but the groups' questions and discussion filled the duration of the meeting before we got to that section.

Meeting Format

The meeting was a combination of presentation by the Planning Department (Chris Ryerson) and group questions and discussion on a variety of topics. A summary of those questions and discussion points is listed below.

Group Questions and Comments

- Do other City departments and other organizations pay attention to the Plan? Some older neighborhood or community plans have not been followed in recent Zoning Commission and City Council Decisions.
 - How can we improve knowledge and awareness of the Plan as well as better adherence to it?
 - There needs to be better coordination among City departments.
- What is the order in which rezonings and land use should occur?
- General questions about the upcoming process, and when public drafts are anticipated.
- We have to also think about and document the past to ensure past conditions are informing our understanding of present conditions and being used as a framework for understanding why certain issues are issues in the first place.
- Think about preservation of neighborhoods vs. new policies and structures that go against that.
- We are not seen as communities, we are seen as empty lots.
- Why did VIA have Missing Middle Housing information at their recent UDC update meetings?
- The best transportation is sidewalks for people walking, but many have utility poles/obstacles.
- Are residents ever responsible for paying part of the costs of sidewalk reconstruction projects?
- The Office of Equity and TCI are conducting an ADA Compliance Study on sidewalks; expected to present to Council in July.
- Some neighborhoods are too spread out for “walkability” – should this be a priority in every neighborhood? We have only mechanics shops to walk by...
- We need to be planning for an increasingly aging population
- How will we address parking in neighborhoods?
- Infrastructure such as water and electricity need to be considered with sustainability in mind.
- Each community has different needs and challenges.
 - One example is noise pollution/aircraft noise from Lackland and impact on neighborhoods directly north of the base
 - Is there any sort of program to address this? To retroactively help pay for sound-reducing windows?
 - JLUS in place and new Compatible Use Plan (CUP) being developed
 - Commercial/freight airlines from Port San Antonio side of the airfield also have flight patterns over the area

Next Steps

The next Westside Community Area Planning Team meeting will occur in late March or early April (Planning Team members will receive email calendar invitations).

If you have questions about the Westside Community Area Plan project, please contact Project Manager Chris Ryerson, City of San Antonio Planning Department.

Email: chris.ryerson@sanantonio.gov

Phone: (210) 207-7833

