

# SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BUSINESS & RESIDENT RESOURCE GROUPS

### JEFFERSON PARK STATION AREA MASTER PLAN

September 11, 2017 | Copernicus Center

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#### GENERAL OVERVIEW

The three working groups that guide the development of the Jefferson Park Station Area Master Plan—the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Business Resource Group (BRG), and Resident Resource Group (RRG)—met at the Copernicus Center on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The groups were asked to share their ideas and comments on the draft Executive Summary, draft goals, strategies, and design principles. Feedback from participants will help to further shape the preliminary ideas to seek input at the second Community Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The project team first provided an update on outreach efforts to date. In total, 969 people responded to the online survey, and these results are summarized at [accessjeffpark.org](http://accessjeffpark.org). The team gathered more feedback from residents at community events, including Jeff Fest, the Farmers Market, and the Gladstone Park Neighborhood Association and Gladstone Park Chamber Meeting. Over 75 people filled out an additional survey that was distributed at these events. Finally, comments continue to come in through the project website’s “Share Your Idea” page – so far 33 have been received.

Next on the meeting agenda for each meeting was a review of the Draft Existing Conditions Report, and then discussion on the three major topics of the station area plan: Transportation, Economic Development & Housing, and Community Character & Land Use. The main ideas discussed at each meeting are summarized below.

- Transportation
  - Walkability was the top issue identified through the various surveys. A number of strategies were discussed to improve walkability in the area around the Transit Station and how to balance the various modes to improve access to the Transit Center to reduce conflicts.
  - One recommendation considered the potential for shared parking lots in the areathat could function as a public gathering space at off-peak parking times and as a parking lot at other times. This could allow for people coming to major events at Copernicus Center at some times, while being used as an open plaza at other times for smaller events.
  - There was positive initial response to ideas for street re-configurations for Foster Avenue and Higgins Road to improve traffic safety and could provide an opportunity for more public improvements to walkability.
  
- Economic Development & Housing
  - Participants at the TAC meeting discussed the idea of how to make Jeff Park a destination and a place that outsiders see as a place to experience an authentic Chicago neighborhood.
  - The question of what types of stores and restaurants should come to Jeff Park was raised at the BRG, and members noted that they think any business activity would be positive. Once one new store comes in that can be a positive signal to others.

- Community Character & Land Use
  - TAC members observed that preliminary ideas focused on streets such as Ainslie and Lipps. They thought that focusing on this intersection was a way to enhance walkability while still maintaining Milwaukee and Lawrence as major thoroughfares.
  - BRG members noted that there are opportunities in the area for public and private investment – the City can take steps (i.e. street improvements) that may help to spur interest from new businesses.
  - Participants at the RRG meeting talked about the need for better connections to Jefferson Memorial Park and a way to draw in users from the Transit Center.
  - The RRG also noted that the corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Lawrence Ave. could use something to grab attention and that can entice people to stay—they liked the idea of some type of food hall or winter garden that could provide connections to and from the Transit Center and into the rest of Jeff Park.

## NEXT STEPS

- Outreach for Community Meeting #2
- Community Meeting #2: October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Copernicus Center Annex

## MEETING ATTENDEES

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NAME	AFFILIATION
<b>AGENCIES</b>	
Ald. John Arena	45 <sup>th</sup> Ward Office
Ed Bannon	45 <sup>th</sup> Ward Office
Allison Buchwach	Metra
Emily Drexler	CTA
Luis Monterrubio	City of Chicago, Department of Planning & Development
Joseph Osowski	CTA
Scott Presslak	Metra
Ryan Ruehle	Pace
Martin Sandoval	Pace
Heather Tabbert	RTA

### BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP MEMBERS

NAME	AFFILIATION
<b>BUSINESSES</b>	
George Karzas	Gale Street Inn
Chris Kowal	Ideal Bakery
Loukas Kozonis	Kozonis Law
Cesar Lau	Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce

**RESIDENT RESOURCE GROUP MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Susana Ernst	Resident, Jefferson Park Forward, Northwest Chicago Historical Society
Michael Flaherty	Resident
Michael Bezanson	Resident

**CONSULTANT TEAM MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Scott Goldstein	Teska Associates, Inc.
Michael Groh	Sam Schwartz Consulting
Valerie Kretchmer	Valerie S. Kretchmer Associates
Francesca Sallinger	Teska Associates, Inc.
Laura Wilkison	Metro Strategies