

West Side Flats Community Open House November 20, 2013 Input from Open House Participants

Approximately 40 people attended the Community Open House. Input was received via written survey comments and verbal comments following the presentation. The questions below are from the survey that was available at the open house, which was filled out by four participants. Following the responses to the survey questions is a summary of comments heard from the group following the presentation of the draft master plan at the open house.

Does the West Side Flats Master Plan's Vision accurately reflect community concerns and desires? Why or why not?

- Yes, the master plan's vision reflects my concerns anyway. LOVE the density, building heights, transportation, and environmental directions.
- Yes, it's great.
- Yes, by incorporating diversity.

Do the West Side Flats Master Plan's Guiding Principles accurately reflect community concerns and desires? Why or why not?

- Yes.
- Want to see mostly co-operative housing.
- Yes.
- Yes, especially with respect to housing and green space

What do you like most about the draft master plan?

- Building heights and density, bike and transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, and ART.
- Community gardens with urban agriculture, artists' co-ops, bike lanes, small business, thoughtfulness of waste water utilization.
- Creative ideas and ways to animate the area. Artists working and making things to create spaces and elements – both functional and aesthetic.
- Parks and open spaces/trails. Easy access in and out.

What concerns you about the draft master plan?

- That it will never happen.
- Migratory path for animals as part of 17 miles of National Park. Community solar should be mandated. Green roofs on new buildings. More gardens.

- Hard to know if it can be done unless the City gives it a high priority.
- Implementation. Let's start this now! Senior housing availability?

What are your top 3 priorities for implementation?

1. Bike trail/lane/connection on Wabasha Street, between Plato Blvd and bridge over river.
2. Better integrated riverfront development.
3. GROW jobs and business and industry, both for West Side residents and Saint Paul's tax base.

1. Work with Great River Greening.

1. Get art and culture center started.
2. Events on esplanade.
3. Attract developers with good design.

Comments from the audience following the presentation:

- Promote development of senior housing in the WSF for current West Side residents.
 - Clarify housing types envisioned in the master plan.
 - Include photos of senior housing in the master plan.
 - The master plan should advocate for an intergenerational neighborhood in the WSF.
 - There are lots of seniors currently living in the West Side Community that would likely have interest in new senior housing opportunities in the WSF.
 - Can the City and the WSF master plan advocate strongly for senior housing in the WSF?
- In the Implementation chapter, identify potential funding sources for senior housing development.
- Friends of the Mississippi River has concerns about the preferred maximum building heights.
- Consider identification of historical and cultural resources in the master plan.
 - Add a guiding principle or incorporate historical and cultural resources into an existing guiding principle.
 - Address historical and cultural resources in Public Art section.
 - Address as an Implementation chapter action.
- The scale of buildings in the WSF should be "residential scale" rather than "downtown scale".
- Environmental design guidelines would benefit from review and edit process.
- Strengthen the fact that the WSF is located in a National Park (MNRRA) in the master plan.
- The West Side Flats are within a migratory path for birds and animals.

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- Strengthen the potential for incorporating solar panels and green roofs into future WSF development.