



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Marisa Neil, Secretary to the Board

The Westside Coalition

Table of Contents

LEADERSHIP	4
EXECUTIVE BOARD	4
BUDGET	4
ISSUE AREAS	4
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	5
<i>EPA Assessment</i>	5
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS	5
<i>Ramada Inn project</i>	5
<i>Affordable Housing on the West Side</i>	5
<i>Northpoint Small Area Plan</i>	6
TRANSPORTATION	6
<i>UDOT I-15 EIS</i>	6
WESTSIDE DEVELOPMENT	7
<i>Power District Campus</i>	7
THE UTAH INLAND PORT	7
EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS	8
THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND HALLOWEEN FEST	8
WESTSIDE CANDIDATE NIGHT	8
PAINT YOUR HEART OUT	9

2022 Westside Coalition Annual Report

Leadership

Executive Board

In 2022, the Westside Coalition (WSC, or “the Coalition”) elected all new executive officers. As President, we elected Dan Strong, and as First and Second Vice Presidents we elected Blake Perez and Charlotte Fife-Jepperson. In addition, Rick Silver and Marisa Neil were elected as Treasurer and Secretary to the Board, respectively.

Budget

In accordance with the Westside Coalition’s bylaws, the Board of Directors passed a budget for the 2023 fiscal year on January 3, 2023.

Issue Areas

In keeping with the Coalition’s goal to focus on issues impacting the west side, the Coalition voted to determine which areas on which to concentrate its efforts. The 6 chosen Issue Areas and their Managers are as follows:

- Education – Charlotte Fife-Jepperson
- Environmental Resources – Terry Marasco
- Housing and Homelessness – C.J. Hellige
- Public Safety – Jason Wessel
- Transportation – Billy Palmer
- Westside Development – *vacant*

The Board of Directors then developed value statements for each Issue Area. These value statements help to ensure that when the Coalition weighs in on any policy decisions affecting the west side, its stance is consistent with the needs of the people it advocates for. The Board also elected Issue Managers to stay abreast of and address legislation, events, concerns, and successes regarding each Issue Area. Over the last year, the Issue Managers have formed committees for their respective Issue Areas. They have also worked closely with First Vice Chair Blake Perez as an Issue Management team to track and respond to policy decisions impacting each area.

Environmental Resources

EPA Assessment

Westside Coalition founding member Richard Holman successfully arranged for the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA8) to conduct an environmental justice assessment on Salt Lake City's west side. The assessment seeks to establish a baseline of environmental conditions on the west side. The first phase of the study will engage with members of the community with support from Mr. Holman, the WSC, and the 6 Westside community councils. The community engagement phase will include:

- 7 facilitated meetings with residents living within each of the community council boundaries (one of which will be held in Spanish). Participants will share their concerns about environmental hazards where they live. EPA8 will utilize the feedback from these discussions to identify specific environmental concerns and areas of focus.
- 1 follow up meeting with participants to share the findings from the assessment.

The Westside Coalition is managing the contract for the first phase of this study and intends to use the findings to apply for grants from the EPA to help advocate for environmental justice on the west side. Furthermore, the community-driven aspect of this assessment will give Westside residents an opportunity to share their voices, which have long been ignored.

Housing and Homelessness

Ramada Inn project

In 2022, the Utah Homelessness Council and former state senator Wayne Neiderhauser initiated a project to convert the Ramada Inn into 200 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). The Westside Coalition wrote a letter to the Utah Homelessness Council and Senator Neiderhauser asking them to reconsider this project. The letter cited the steep imbalance of such large affordable housing projects on the west side vs the east side of the city. Additionally, the letter expressed concern over the project's low budget and the quality of life of the future residents and existing neighbors. The letter also drew attention to deeply affordable housing projects that received adequate funding and support and have successfully integrated into the community.

Affordable Housing on the West Side

In another attempt to engage with the issue of affordable housing, the WSC wrote a letter to the Salt Lake City Council discussing the concentration of affordable housing on the west side. The letter highlighted the inequity between the east and west sides of the city, drawing attention to specific projects and the comparative lack of affordable housing developments east of I-15. The

Coalition asked the City Council to look for alternative solutions and begin easing the housing burden on the west side.

Northpoint Small Area Plan

The Westside Coalition, working in coordination with the Westpointe Community Council and other neighborhood advocates, reviewed the Northpoint Small Area Plan. The Coalition found that the document as written did not align with the community's development values. The proposed zoning allows for Light Manufacturing in the area, including warehouses and loading facilities. This area was previously carved out of the Inland Port boundary because the stakeholders recognized its value for more community-focused development (including businesses and housing). Allowing its use as an extension of the Port made little sense.

The Coalition advocated to the City Council that the plan needed revising. Meanwhile, the Coalition advocated to the Planning Commission that two warehouse projects seeking approval pending rezoning should not be approved prior to the Small Area Plan's adoption. The Coalition utilized a burgeoning relationship with new Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA) Director Ben Hart, who wrote a letter of support emphasizing that there will be plenty of room for warehouses in the existing port boundary.

The Planning Commission ultimately agreed to withhold approval from the warehouse projects, and the City Council is considering changes to the Small Area Plan. Last month, Mayor Mendenhall wrote a letter to the City Council asking them specifically to reconsider the Light Manufacturing zone, based on community feedback.

Transportation

UDOT I-15 EIS

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) initiated an environmental impact study (EIS) along the I-15 corridor between Farmington and Salt Lake City. The study's purpose is to investigate UDOT's proposed transportation alternatives along that corridor. Most relevant to Salt Lake City's west side is the proposed expansion of the I-15 freeway. This expansion will likely require demolishing homes and businesses next to I-15 in the Guadalupe, Rose Park, and Fairpark neighborhoods, in addition to causing a likely increase in air pollution, noise pollution, and other environmental impacts. The Westside Coalition successfully requested an extension of the public comment period for the expansion from the original mid-December deadline to January 13. This extension allowed for more time to raise awareness in the community and give more feedback to UDOT. The Westside Coalition attended community meetings with UDOT and our legislative representatives and worked with area stakeholders to unify messaging opposing freeway expansion and suggesting an alternative of undergrounding the freeway as it runs

through Salt Lake City--reconnecting East and Westside neighborhoods and ending a barrier leading to 70 years of inequity across the freeway. Additionally, representatives from the Westside Coalition have partnered with Sweet Streets, NeighborWorks SLC, and stakeholders in Davis County to work toward solutions and strategies to address this project with a unified voice.

Westside Development

Power District Campus

In 2023, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) unveiled plans for its new Power District Campus. RMP envisions its Campus as more than just a site for its new headquarters; the company seeks to include green spaces, dining, and community gathering spaces along with corporate offices. The Westside Coalition has attended meetings regarding this development and has offered feedback emphasizing the needs and desires of the surrounding community. Recognizing the boon that the Power District Campus could be for the west side, the Westside Coalition spoke in favor of the development in front of the City Council.

The Utah Inland Port

After extensive discussion, the Board did not vote to designate the Utah Inland Port as its own Issue Area. The Inland Port impacts the west side on a broad scale, affecting each of the 6 Issue Areas. To address issues related to the Inland Port, the Board voted to create the position of Inland Port Liaison to interface with the UIPA and provide updates to the WSC Board. Esther Stowell was elected by the Board to fill this position. The Westside Coalition has taken an open-minded approach to the Port project, recognizing that it is likely coming here in some form and that the community may be best served by working to mitigate negative impacts and strengthen opportunities associated with the project, rather than rejecting it outright.

Terry Marasco, the Environmental Resources Issue Manager, has had numerous conversations advocating for the needs of the west side with the UIPA's Executive Director Ben Hart. Conversations between the Westside Coalition and the UIPA continue to be productive and meaningful. In an early sign of mutual trust, UIPA has agreed to fund community engagement efforts related to the EPA environmental justice assessment--pursuant to a clear agreement that the Port does not interfere with that work nor steer the results.

Events and Special Projects

The International Market and Halloween Fest

The Coalition partnered with the Utah State Fairpark to host an International Market throughout 2022. Local vendors and performers have showcased the diversity in our community. The Market was held on select Saturdays beginning in May 2022. The Market's Halloween Fest on October 29 attracted around 6,000 attendees and hosted over 2 dozen vendors. The event celebrated both Halloween and el Día de los Muertos with crafts, cultural performances, and food. Due to this success, the Coalition and the Fairpark will continue holding the International Market into 2023 and hope to increase the event's frequency.

Westside Candidate Night

On September 22nd, the Westside Coalition cosponsored a Candidate Night with the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake (LWV). This forum allowed Westside residents to meet with candidates face-to-face as well as listen to their responses to questions submitted by their neighbors to the WSC and the LWV.

In keeping with the League of Women Voters' empty chair policy, candidates who wished to participate in the Candidate Night but were unable to attend in person were given the option to provide a statement to be read at the event. Alternatively, they could submit a video responding to the questions.

The following candidates participated in the Candidate Night:

- US House of Representatives District 2
 - Nick Mitchell
 - Cassie Easley
 - Chris Stewart (statement)
- Utah House of Representatives
 - District 25
 - Angela Romero
 - Rebecca I. Ipson
 - District 21
 - Sandra Hollins
 - David Atkin
- Salt Lake County Sheriff
 - Rosie Rivera (videotaped response)
 - Nick Roberts

- Salt Lake County Council
 - District 1
 - Arlyn Bradshaw (videotaped response)
 - Richard D.M. Barnes
 - At Large B
 - Richard Snelgrove
 - Suzanne Harrison
- Salt Lake County Clerk
 - Goud Maragani
 - Lannie Chapman
- Salt Lake County District Attorney
 - Sim Gill (video response)
 - Danielle Ahn
- Salt Lake School Board District 1
 - Bryce Williams
 - Jeremy Anderson

Fox 13's Ben Winslow moderated the forum. Food was generously donated by Santo Taco and All Chay.

Although the WSC did not receive a response from all the candidates it invited, the Westside Candidate Night helped attendees engage in the political process and make a more informed decision when voting for their local government.

Paint Your Heart Out

As part of NeighborWorks Salt Lake's (NWSL) annual Paint Your Heart Out event, WSC Directors Billy Palmer and Turner Bitton co-captained a team of 4 fellow Directors (Terry Marasco, Marisa Neil, Blake Perez, and Dorothy Owen) to paint the home of a Westside resident. Paint Your Heart Out not only gave those who participated an opportunity to bond and get to know each other, but most importantly, many of our Westside neighbors' homes were beautified.