

Westside Coalition

Minutes of August 27th, 2024 Westside Coalition Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes Taken By: Jake Erickson – Board Member

Location: NeighborWorks Community Mtg Room 622 W 500 N SLC **Online:** Zoom Meeting

Time: Started 5:32 pm Ended 7:38pm Wi-Fi Password: Nswfl\$1234

Board Members Present (#)	Jason Wessel, CJ Hellige, Dan Potts, Bill Watts, David Osokow, Daniel Strong, Chaise Warr, Izumi Okamura, Jake Erickson, Kevin Parke, Charlotte Fife-Jepperson, Chilton Hawk, Turner Bitton, Daniel Tuutau, Billy Palmer
Board Members Excused or Absent (#)	Terrance Marasco
Others Present:	Bim Oliver, David Amott, Nan Weber, Frederick Jenny, Jorge Jimenez, Soren Simonsen, Tim Tingey, Emily Hamilton, Alma Yanagui
Item 1	July WSC Minutes Approval
Motion to Approve June 25th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July Meeting Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jason Wessel motions to approve the July 29th, 2024 WSC Board Meeting minutes. ii. Jake Erickson seconds iii. The motion passes unanimously with all 14 board members present in favor.
Item 2	Community Presentation on the Fisher Mansion
Friends of Fisher Mansion Presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of Friends of Fisher Mansion Proposal <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Soren Simonsen <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Fisher Mansion sits prominently on the Jordan River Trail. The Fisher Brewing owners originally developed the mansion. The mansion was designed in 1893 by Richard Clenning, the architect of Utah’s state capitol. The mansion was purchased by the city in 2009, and used as an addiction recovery program site. There has been no active use in the last 15 years or so. ii. During the 2010s SLC considered putting a bond election before SLC voters, and at the time there was a community org that put forth a proposal to develop the mansion for storytelling of Westside histories.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Since the 2010s, the fence has been vandalized with the ornate metal work taken. The 2020 earthquake also damaged the building. Our mission is to revitalize and preserve the mansion to make it a viable community resource. Friends of Fisher Mansion has engaged Bim Oliver as an architectural historian to assist with the development, preservation, and reuse of the building. By the end of this year, FOFM will put forth its recommendations. A firm is currently doing design work to stabilize the structure and address 2020 damage to prevent the building from deteriorating further. \$3 million is being invested in that effort, but it won't go to restoring the actual structure. iv. Under the city's Capital Improvement Plan, Friends of Fisher Mansion is asking the city for \$500,000 for additional improvements around the site. Possible uses could include exterior restoration and additional site improvements. Once the structure is stable, you won't have the risk of collapse if there's another earthquake. We're also looking at interior system upgrades. We currently have an active community survey that has been published, and we'd like the WSC's support in sharing this survey. The Friends of Fisher Mansion would also love a letter of support. <p>b. Jason Wessel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Since there's now a special district, how would modifying the northwest master plan work? There's a \$4.5 million dollar master plan, why get the CIP grant? <p>c. Soren Simonsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The state-created district encompasses a bit of this area, but it does not affect the mansion. Instead, it would wrap around that special district, and it could even encompass that special tax increment district since there are many private properties present. The Fisher Mansion isn't in the reinvestment zone. <p>d. Jason Wessel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Let's put this on the agenda for the issue area meeting. We'll have it on the third Wednesday and before the deadline at the end of September.
Item 3	Glendale High School Proposal
<p>Proposing a Westside High School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Glendale High School Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Introduces Alma Yanagui and Jorge Jimenez from the Utah Community Advocate Network (a partnership under the University Neighborhood Partners network).

b. Jorge Jimenez

i. We're doing this because it's an issue that affects all folks in the school district. The quality of our schools is inadequate. There are two buses that come to Glendale. This last year they consolidated it to one bus, which means that two dozen students are left on the curb waiting. In response, our group has sent a letter and started a petition with student signatures. We also staged a walk from East High School to Glendale.

c. Kevin Parke

i. Participating in extracurricular activities is almost impossible for kids on the Westside.

d. Jason Wessel

i. Is there enough population to add a school, or will a school need to be closed down for a Westside High School to open up?

e. Billy Palmer

i. There are two people running for school board on the WSC. There's a lot of deep passion about this topic. I've had kids who went to east high, but other kids had to go to another school because it's been so inconvenient. You would find a lot of people like ourselves who live in our own neighborhood passionate about the issue because every obstacle we've mentioned would be addressed with a Westside high school.

f. Jorge Jimenez

i. The school board wants to renovate two high schools to add more kids. There is the necessary population if we use smaller schools. We thought the school board would support this once they started the feasibility study, but they said there wasn't enough land for a comprehensive high school, and that there was an insufficient student population. Half of the students in SLC are at private schools. Population wouldn't be an issue if a west side high school were built – the issue is how many people are going to non-community schools like charters. We're trying to figure out how to move forward.

ii. Another question: does the school have more interest in their own charter school? We'd like to hold focus groups throughout the community with the WSC's assistance to see what the answers are.

g. Daniel Strong

i. With regards to hosting a townhall, Charlotte, are you interested in leading that?

h. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What's the time frame for this? Some of the cc chairs might be able to help with the focus group. I can handle the community facing portion. i. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Daniel Strong moves in favor of assisting with a town hall with Charlotte acting as point for the effort. ii. Billy Palmer seconds. iii. The vote passes unanimously with all 14 board members present in favor.
Item 4	Rio Grande Plan Update
<p>Presentation on the Rio Grande Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rio Grande Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Frederick Jenny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The underutilized rail yard creates a giant gap between east and west. There will be 800 daily activation events by 2030 from the inland port and idling trains. The city defines this as its greatest transportation conundrum. It's also bad for emergency services. Salt Lake Central is not very user friendly. There are no bathrooms, no shelter, no food. We want Rio Grande to be a train station again. We want to bury the railroads, get rid of the viaducts, cut back the freeway ramps, and get our trains underground. By moving the tracks into an underground train box along 500 west, the trains would move through 8+ crossings below grade, return passenger services to the Rio Grande Depot, and open 75+ acres of land to redevelopment. ii. On the 12th of September at Sorenson center, we'll have a long question and answer session. All are welcome! b. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Fairpark Redevelopment District board has had conversations about a transportation study. I would encourage you to meet with that board since there'd be a huge amount of public support for this if the transportation issue is solved. c. Bill Watts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the impacts (property, building acquisitions, etc.)? And how do you plan on going about acquiring these parcels? ii. East-West is a significant road with many businesses stationed there. d. Frederick Jenny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The buildings that need to be demolished are mainly warehouses on 500

west. I am not sure of what further specifications there are. Eminent domain will be most likely needed. In order to bury the rail on the east west corridor, you have to acquire the land to bury the trains as they turn.

ii. We are advocating for this plan from a citizen perspective. We believe this is the only concrete infrastructure project to bring the east and west sides together.

iii. If we open up 75 acres of land, the approx. value ranges from 17 million to 1.9 billion. It could be labeled as a literal crossroads of the west. This is a large public investment that will diminish in value over time. We ask that you engage with the Reconnecting Communities Study, attend the Interim Transportation Committee on September 18th, and even discuss a letter of support from the WSC.

e. Billy Palmer

i. I've come to understand as people talk about burying the tracks that because of the need for gradual slope you need to start way at the end of the valley, so it's practically impossible. I kind of missed how much of that west east side divide will disappear. How much would see the tracks in general.

f. Frederick Jenny

i. The tracks will be all the way down from I-15 in the south and reach zero before 900 south, where it's at its lowest point. It continues all the way until north temple where it will start to rise back up and come up at 600 north.

g. Jason Wessel

i. How would we reroute trains? We could coordinate with the city council.

ii. This topic will be discussed at the September 18th Issue Area Meeting.

h. Frederick Jenny

i. We'd follow the Reno model.

i. David Osokow

i. I like the plan, but there are so many details that make me nervous: how does this happen at the same time as I-15's expansion from the perspective of a construction hellscape. This worries me. Is the north temple station still going to be there?

j. Jake Erickson

i. Can we get some WSC representation at the September meeting?

ii. Billy Palmer and Izumi Okamura will attend.

Item 5	Treasury Report
WSC Treasurer's Report	<p>1. Report by Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Izumi Okamura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We budgeted 20,000 for expenses throughout the year. There are no remaining items to be reconciled.
Item 6	Bylaws Discussion
Presentation on Bylaws Proposals by the Bylaw Committee	<p>1. Review of the Bylaws Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jake Erickson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There are two areas of disagreement within the bylaws. The first concerns our community council composition failing to be reflected in the bylaws, which explicitly highlights the number six as a defining feature of the WSC's membership. We attempted to change this by adding the word active to the WSC's composition definition. ii. This change in wording would effectively reduce the number of board members on the WSC to two. We could either keep that number as is, or we could expand the number of At-Large Directors on the WSC to 8 individuals, which would keep the WSC at 18 seats in total. b. CJ Hellige <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. I like rewording the definition to the word active – it's not a permanent word which is good. If one of the cc's is inactive, the natural consequence of that is that they don't have representation. In the future, they could always get those two seats back. c. Billy Palmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When we talk about some community councils, they may be active but are less populated. Some may have more households. Do we define around population, or is that not math we should be engaging in? d. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. I like the very soft touch on the word active. e. David Osokow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. I agree with CJ, and I'm for more at-large members. If they create two new ones again, then they get two more seats. f. Kevin Parke

i. I'm wondering if we can make a maximum of 18 people, then depending on the number of community councils, the at-large would fluctuate.

ii. The proposal written now is a cap of 8 on the At-Large.

g. Bill Watts

i. Any additions past 18 should require a unanimous vote.

h. Chaise Warr

i. I agree with CJ. I think a community council's ability to exist is indicative of that community's interest. If they're having difficulties existing.

i. Jake Erickson

i. If a community council is struggling, let's have a conversation about how to help since our advocacy as a whole is weakened if one of our councils is weak. The structure of the Westside Coalition's membership isn't where that conversation should be held.

ii. The other issue with regards to our bylaws concerns elections. Currently, our bylaws allow for candidates to be submitted from the floor at the Annual Meeting, but they also stipulate that a list of candidates are required 10 days in advance of the Annual Meetings. So, the bylaws are in conflict with one another and that conflict must be resolved.

j. Daniel Tuutau

i. 10 days is a long time, so we shouldn't cut off people that far in advance.

k. Jason Wessel

i. I support dropping it down to three or five days, but I'm against nominations from the floor. You can shut down that meeting were that to be allowed. This tactic is mainly used in union organization, but this has happened before.

l. Kevin Parke

i. I wouldn't do any less than three business days.

m. Daniel Strong

i. It's strange that we have meeting after meeting, and then the annual meeting is a two minute speech. You potentially risk losing people if you allow floor nominations.

ii. If there's a three-five day period where you have your name in, it gives people time to research the candidates. I feel we've reached a point of relative agreement here on three business days.

Item 7	Meeting Adjournment
Adjourning the August 27th, 2024 WSC Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Motion to Adjourn<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Jake Erickson<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Motions to adjourn.ii. CJ Hellige seconds the motion.iii. The motion passes unanimously 14-0.
	Next Meeting: September 24th, 2024 5:30pm – 7:30pm