

Facilities Master Plan: Imagining the Future of our City

By Mayor Susan Sample

Over the past few months, I have been updating you regularly on the many important projects and initiatives going on at the City of West University Place. I would like to take some time this month to discuss one particularly significant project that will impact West U and its residents for the foreseeable future: the Facilities Master Plan.

This Council approved the completion of a master plan as a top policy priority for this year, with the goal of identifying the final location and function of City facilities. This is an important step for long-range planning for the future of our City's public service model. With some of our facilities dating back to the 1940s, decisions will need to be made in the near future on repairs and renovations. In addition, factors such as the increasing cost of land in our area, changes in local government and public service practices (such as innovations in technology), and the risk of severe weather underscore the need for a guiding plan for our public facilities. Long-term planning avoids short-term mistakes, and decisions about our City's buildings will affect residents for decades to come.

Council has emphasized the importance of public engagement in this process. In line with this, we held our first discussion of the Master Plan at our Council meeting on December 13th, followed by a special meeting focused on different identified concepts on January 31st.

In order to provide opportunities for public input on the final Master Plan, we will also be holding two town hall meetings in the coming months to solicit your feedback on the future and needs of our city. These will be held in both the morning and evening to give as many residents as possible a chance to attend. We look forward to announcing more details on these meetings in the near future.

The Facilities Master Plan process will be an important step in establishing the long-term vision for our community. This includes how our local government, its buildings and operations interact with our community. I invite you all to get involved in this process to determine that vision together.