

Town Plan Steering Committee

November 18, 2015

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Notes

Present: Ian Bender, Kristin Novotny, Wright Preston, Brad Elliot, Chris Granda, Heidi Bormann, Alison Anand, Jeff Forward, Clare Rock (staff)

Updates & Check In

Clare Rock gave a brief overview of the activities to date in the September Vision Forum and the October Resiliency Workshop.

Regarding committee membership, if there are new people who wanted to join, now would be a good time. Rock also reminded people of the committees Terms of Reference document.

Vision Statement Review & Survey Results

Rock provided committee members with the link to the Survey Results and the notes from the Vision Forum prior to the meeting. A copy of the second draft of the Vision Statement (dated 11/17/2015) was also distributed.

Rock provided an update on the school survey which Marshall worked with the middle school principal, Mark Carbone. Over 300 kids responded to the brief online survey with open ended questions. Rock reviewed all the responses and provided the feedback for inclusion in the second draft of the vision statement. Overall the responses indicated that youth want places to socialize and recreate outside of school. These were reasons why they liked the farmers market and the old Bridge Street Café. Plus they also want more recreation options and facilities such as indoor and outdoor pool, tennis, basketball, Skate Park and etc. Rock added that it is not within the scope of our consultants work to analyze the data and provide results like the town wide survey. Rock asked if any committee members are interested in taking on this. Hearing none, Rock shall follow up with Rebecca about the creation of the simple word cloud which would provide a visual representation of the results. Rock also added she would do some follow up with the school.

The second draft incorporated the feedback from the Vision Forum and subsequent comments which were submitted. The major changes were more emphasis on seniors being active members of the community and more emphasis on the arts, and opportunities for youth. Plus the bulleted items on pages 2 and 3 were prioritized based upon dot voting at the vision forum.

The committee reviewed the second draft and made the following changes:

- Instead of the word diverse, use “mix of ages, backgrounds and income levels”

- On page 2, under “community for All Ages” use “promote” instead of “Providing” and change wording of “age in place” to reflect the changes on page 1; Insert the word “child” to read “child care” in 4th bullet, and add an “s” to end of last bullet
- Under “Natural and Working Lands” add “streams” in 1st bullet

The committee also discussed how the listing of the bulleted items of the 1st page was in alpha order, and that maybe a reference to this should be added to the first paragraph.

The committee voted to approve the Second Draft of the Vision Statement.

Town Plan Schedule and Engagement Activities

Rock provided copies of the Schedule and Engagement outline. The file attachment which was distributed beforehand was not the correct file. In the remaining time the committee briefly reviewed the draft schedule and initial responses included that the proposal is too many meetings to effectively engage the public and that there seems to be a lot of emphasis on economic development.

The committee shall spend more time at the next meeting discussing the schedule and engagement activities before proceeding.

Wrap Up: Next Meeting Date & Next Steps

Next meeting is scheduled for 5:30, December 2.