

Meeting Notes

Meeting: Environmental Quality

Date/Time: 12-16-14

Location: MonTec conference room

Notes by: Bob Horne, Applied Communications

Attended by: Sean McCoy, Martin No Runner, Bob Giordano, Dave Craig, Vicki Watson, Neva Hassanein, Bert Lindler, Sarah Bates, Amy Cilimburg, Leigh Greenwood, Bonnie Buckingham, Jonathon Drygas (Facilitator Assistant Intern), Tom Zavitz (Development Services staff).

Updates and Administration

- The objectives of tonight's meeting were explained; a show of hands indicated that about half of those present had not attended the November meeting.
- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair was put off until later in the meeting.
- On-line forum was discussed, and Tom explained how to navigate to it from OurMissoula.org.
- There was nothing in the parking lot from the November meeting.

Asset Mapping

Tom gave a brief overview of the Asset Mapping project: Update on the collaborative mapping project with the Sonoran Institute's Community Builders Program: Missoula Assets Mapping. The project is in its final stages, wrapping up in February. At that time the final report, including recommendations, observations and a series of eight maps will be available to the group for its consideration in refining its goals and objectives.

There were no follow-up questions.

Background on additional Topics and Goals

The topics selected in November were reviewed and a few of the folks who had not attended that meeting asked about the selection process. The very broad brush of the Environmental Quality topic was discussed, and it was decided to add Waste Stream and Energy as topics. In addition, the group changed Environmental Quality to Air, Soil, & Water Quality, and added consideration of habitat and ecosystems to Natural Resources with the actual goals to be crafted later (via e-mail?). It was determined that the topic of Compact Development can and should be discussed as part of Growth Pressures-Sprawl, and that a goal to develop a carrying capacity model should be added. Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation was changed to Natural Areas/Dispersed Recreation, and Parks, Recreation, & Open Space was changed to Parks and Developed Recreation. In addition, the first three bullets under Air, Soil, & Water Quality were moved to the Energy topic, and the last bullet was moved to Waste Stream. New goal statements for Waste Stream and Energy were formulated, and those new goals plus the goals moved over from other topics are all shown below:

Goal Statements by Topic:

Waste Stream

Goals:

- Zero Waste-Increase the options for diverting waste from the landfill (e.g., develop more recycling infrastructure within the city).
- Reduce the City's solid waste to the point that the landfill is no longer be needed, or is sustainable.
- Provide recycling bins for paper, plastic, aluminum, and organic materials throughout the city's public spaces.
- Develop a community compost program.
- Eliminate direct discharge to the Clark Fork River from the waste water treatment plant.
- Identify major system components and processes composing municipal waste stream.
- Zero waste is dependent upon consumption type (local vs not). The community needs a clear description of type of consumption to promote in Missoula.
- Encourage local reuse/purchase of recycled materials
- Consumption will be included in this as a point of discussion

Energy

Goals:

- Support cleaner wood burning technologies for local wood use.
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Reduce carbon footprint thru renewable energy, energy efficiencies and conservations. Incentive for green buildings.
- Provide incentives for siting renewable energy generation in preferred locations.
- Create a local renewable energy company that can meet the energy needs of Missoula.
- Set carbon neutrality goal and achieve through renewable energy, efficiency, conservation and carbon offsets.
- Build a publicly owned (or cooperative) local energy grid rather than depend on large energy companies.
- Implement independent grid system not run on fossil fuels.
- Increase the percentage of renewable energy in Missoula's energy budget.
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Reduce carbon footprint through renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation
- Promote and incentivize green building infrastructure

Air, Soil & Water Quality (formerly Environmental Quality; will also consider potential ground water pollution from leaching at the landfill, but no goal was developed.)

Goals:

- Decrease human caused air pollution (cars, industry, home heat).
- Improve Missoula's air quality and visibility.
- Protect water quality, especially the Missoula aquifer, from train spills, pesticides, and underground storage tanks.
- Reduce impervious surfaces; move away from asphalt and concrete.

Natural Resources

Goals:

- Protect wildlife habitat and travel corridors.
- Protect Missoula's trees and vegetation in urban spaces.
- Favor native plant and animal species whenever possible.
- Address issues of invasive species.
- Protect intact ecosystems from urbanization and point and non-point pollution. (Facilitator suggested goal.)

Growth Pressures-Sprawl (new and modified goal statements only)

Goals:

- Protect ag land and water (farming and ranching).
- Develop a carrying capacity model for the Missoula urban services area. (Facilitator suggested goal based up Focus Group discussion.)

Objectives from Previous Planning Efforts

Time allowed this exercise to be addressed only briefly. One member thought that all of the objectives listed were worthy of being carried forward and asked why we were going through this process again. It was also noted that there is a comprehensive statement on sustainable agriculture in the 2005 growth policy.

The facilitator asked the group to look over the objectives between now and the January meeting noting any specific statements that were of particular value, were new ideas that had not yet been discussed, and/or represented gaps in the issues and topics we have discussed. The facilitator suggested that this exercise may be able to be completed via e-mail, and that would be determined at a Resource Team meeting on Thursday morning. (Note: Based on our discussions regarding communication between meetings, I am assuming that this exercise **can** be conducted via e-mail with the results posted on the Forum. BH)

Parking Lot

The idea of regulating electromagnetic fields (EMF) was placed in the parking lot for further exploration.

Next Steps

At the January meeting, the compiled goals and objectives will be discussed and evaluated for effectiveness, duplications, gaps, etc. Co-Chairs Elected: Bonnie Buckingham, Sean McCoy, Bob Giordano (alt?)

Next Meeting Date: January 27

Public Comment: None