

## Meeting Notes

Meeting: Steering Committee

Date/Time: 6-25-15

Location: Jack Riedy Conference Room

Notes by: Kate McMahon, Applied Communications

Attended by: Bob Wachtel, Bonnie Buckingham, Chase Jones, Don Macarthur, John DiBari, Katherine Brady, Neva Hassanein, Ron Erickson, Ruth Reineking, Sean McCoy, Aaron Wilson, Tom Zavitz and Laval Means (staff), Kate McMahon (facilitator)

## Vision Statement

The Steering Committee reviewed the revised Vision Statement and made the following comments.

- In the last sentence on paragraph 3, revise to clarify the meaning of “capacity”
- Add the concept of “resilient” and broaden it to mean resilient for any type of catastrophic economic, social and environmental events or issues
- There was discussion about the first sentence and whether the term “rich cultural history” referred only to arts, parks, heritage and museums. The vision statement should refer to the diversity of the people as well. It was agreed to add the term “diversity” to the vision statement.

## Review Safety & Wellness Chapter

- Under Goal SW1, combine objectives 5 & 6 to read, “Promote safety of all transportation systems including vehicular, active transportation and transit options through education and infrastructure improvements.”
- Laval noted that they had received input that there should be specific objectives that address racism and non-discrimination. It was mentioned that the issue was discussed in the Livability group and that the objectives were written to be inclusive but there was no specific objective regarding this issue. The Committee agreed to add an objective in the Livability chapter under the “Community Character” topic. Possible wording may be, “Support efforts to understand the impacts of racism and other biases and promote non-discrimination policies.”
- Make sure that all objectives are inclusive.
- On pg. 34 Objective #5, reference childhood trauma and add the term “Informed approach.” Laval will follow up with the Safety and Wellness group to make sure they have the correct terminology.
- It was suggested that staff make specific outreach to veterans groups to make sure their concerns are being addressed.
- The Committee noted the importance of the non-profit sector as partners in implementing the plan.

## Review of Economic Health Chapter

- Ruth noted that if the objectives from the other focus groups are achieved, economic health will take care of itself.

- There was discussion that health care is an important economic driver in the community and should be mentioned. It was agreed to add this as an objective.
- It was noted that the description for Local Business mentions “commercial urban agriculture” but there is no corresponding objective. The Committee agreed to add an objective under Local Business that mentions supporting local food and value added agriculture.
- It was agreed to add the following objective to support Goal Econ6, “Encourage the local economy to be resilient to the effects of climate change and economic cycles.”
- Change Objective #1 on pg. 41 to read, “Support partnerships to create a positive environment .....
- Change Goal 12 on pg. 43 to read, “Strive for educational excellence that produces globally competitive and locally engaged citizens.”
- Change Objective #8 on pg. 41 to delete the words “resource based”. Under the Implementation Actions, cross reference arts, parks and recreation action items.
- In the section on Local Business, either expand the description or add an objective to encourage local businesses to be engaged in the community.
- On pg. 44 in the description for Transportation, use the term “biking” instead of “cycling”. Change Objective #2 in this section to use the term “choices” instead of alternative. Change #3 to change “thoroughfare” to “transportation”.

### **Comments on Previously Reviewed Chapters**

- In the housing section it was noted that land acquisition should either be an objective or action item.
- Under Housing Conditions Snapshot, add information to recognize that there are many issues associated with affordable housing such as taxes and financing. Not all affordability issues relate to supply and demand. Livable wage is another issue.
- Add an action item for housing that promotes working with legislators to change state law on rental safety inspections.
- In the Economic Health chapter, in the Business Development section, add an objective to support passenger rail from through Missoula from Seattle to Billings.

### **Action Item Table**

Kate McMahon noted that the final action item table will have columns that indicate “Timeframe”, “Focus Areas”, and “Lead Agencies”. The survey will help staff assign the appropriate timeframe for the actions (near term, mid-term, long term). If an action item advances goals from multiple focus groups or if the action item is more directly related to a goal rather than a more indirect, tangential type of action, it would be more likely to have a shorter time frame assigned to it. It was agreed to add a category for “On-going” action to the alternatives under “Timeframe”.

The Committee asked if the lead agencies would be notified about action items that were assigned to them. Laval noted that the table will just use general terms to identify lead agencies such as “Non-profit partner”, “Housing Agencies”, “Private sector”. There will be a review draft for public comment and if an agency wants to self-identify as the lead they will list them.

The Committee asked if there would be an effort to track the status of the action items. Staff noted that the MCA does require 5-year updates.

It was suggested that there should be a short version of the action item table that identifies the highest priority items. One way to set the priorities would be to identify the common themes that cut across all of the focus groups or that were voted on at the open house and identify the action items associated with these themes. The committee noted that the priorities in the Growth Policy should establish legislative priorities. Priorities will also influence what regulatory changes would be most effective as well as priorities for budgeting. Don noted that since the last Growth Policy, the city has grown from a small city to an urban area with urban issues. Prioritizing the most important actions will help the city deal with these issues.

After discussion it was agreed to take the following steps to establish priorities:

- Staff will sort the action item table based on survey results.
- Identify the key themes and explain in the narrative that action items related to these themes have highest priority when the City is the lead agency. Themes should relate to main points in the vision statement as well as the top themes from open house input.
- Staff will distribute the list of key themes, equating to highest priorities, and ask for observations and any missing themes.

### **Next Steps**

Since there was not time to review the land use map, the Steering Committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, July 9 at 5:15 pm. The prioritized action themes will be reviewed on July 9<sup>th</sup> as well. The action item table will be re-sorted with additional supporting information added and distributed for comment via e-mail at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm