



Advisory Committee Meeting Recap Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Members Present: Bicott, Rickert, Erickson, Lewis, Goodrum, Dardis, Singh, Dorn, Korman, Rohman, Thronson, Maciel-Montes

Members Absent: Stanley

Staff Present: Farnham, Schmidt

Item 1 – Introductions:

Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of how long they lived in Bloomington, their profession, and their interest in serving on the advisory committee.

Item 2 – Comprehensive Planning 101:

Farnham gave a brief overview of the comprehensive plan:

- Why Update
 - o Statutory requirement
 - o Regional coordination
 - o Update City goals and implementation priorities
- Bloomington System Statement
 - o 2040 forecasts: population, households and employment
 - o Density guidance = 10 du/acre for new & redevelopment
 - o Affordable housing need allocation
- Comprehensive Plan Elements (chapters)
 - o Land use, transportation, utilities, parks, trails and open space, housing, resilience, economic competitiveness, implementation
- Schedule overview
 - o 2016: public outreach and data gathering
 - o 2017: topic specific issues and draft policies and priorities
 - o 2018: public review and final draft by December 31, 2018
- Progress to date
 - o Town hall meetings, surveys, community events, webpage, advisory committee
- Town hall meetings
 - o Facilitated discussions focusing on three topics: sustainability, diversity and engagement and community amenities
 - o Attendance of 140+ people
 - o Compiled a data book that compares statistics from 1970 to today
- Community events
 - o Farmers market, Summer Fete, Creekside, Music in the Parks, Heritage Days, Assumption Church (conducted in Spanish)
- Survey

- From June 10 – Aug 19
- 13 questions
- 287 responses
- Staff handed out a draft compilation of the survey results.
- Social media input
 - Questions about what people value about Bloomington were posted on social media for public comment; staff compiled the responses in word clouds
 - Questions asked included: In 20 years, how do you hope to describe Bloomington? Where do you like to take out-of-town visitors in Bloomington? When you visit other communities, have you found something that made you say, “we need that in Bloomington?” If so, what was it?
- Steps to complete
 - 2017 – define vision, identify opportunities, draft policies and priorities, public review
 - 2018 – refine policy recommendations based on public input, compile draft plan, distribute draft for review, finalize plan and submit to Met Council by December 31, 2018.

Committee members had a few clarifying questions regarding the affordable housing allocation, what defines naturally occurring affordable housing, and tax increment financing (TIF).

Item 3 – Roles & Responsibilities:

Schmidt and Farnham gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities:

- Advisory committee will provide the community-based input on the vision, goals, policy guidance and implementation priorities for all of the elements to assist staff in the preparation of the comprehensive plan.
- Project staff and technical work groups will provide the advisory committee with information, questions, and draft goals, strategies, and priorities for review
- Planning Commission has official review responsibility (public hearing) and the City Council has final decision-making approval (adoption of plan)

Schmidt provided a copy of common meeting protocols to assist the committee in defining their own protocols.

PREPARATION

- Start and end meetings on time.
- Complete homework and come to meetings prepared.

PARTICIPATION

- Be respectful.
- Encourage a free exchange of ideas.
- Provide lots of ideas
- Listen to each other.
- Make sure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and to be heard.
- Stay on topic.

- Provide clear and concise delivery of ideas.
- Challenge assumptions in a respectful manner with the intent to learn and understand.

DECISION-MAKING

- Contribute towards building consensus
- Consensus?
- Majority?

Committee members had a few clarification questions regarding their responsibilities in preparing for the meetings and how staff would be presenting information to the committee. Staff confirmed that they would provide information one week prior to schedule meetings for committee members to review and comment on. Committee members are not expected to do outside research; however, if they have specific interests or knowledge they want to share, they should feel free to do that.

Committee members were in agreement with protocols as presented.

Committee members discussed the meeting schedule and chose the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm; however, the January 2017 meeting would be on the third Wednesday. Members are asked to commit to attending a minimum of 10 meetings. It was noted that some representatives of City boards/commissions have identified alternates to sit in if they are unable to attend. Staff requested that members let them know if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Item 4 – District Plan Overview

Farnham presented an overview of the three adopted district plans

- South Loop
 - Vision is to transform into a walkable urban neighborhood
 - Focus future development around transit stations and along the extended Lindau Lane, which connects the key development anchors (MOA and Bloomington Central Station)
 - Establish a connected network of smaller blocks that improves the pedestrian and bike environment
 - Enhance access to the MVNWR
- Penn American
 - Vision is also to create a more urban environment with smaller blocks, diverse land uses, and higher density
 - Future Orange Line BRT along Knox Ave.
 - Zone for the vision while addressing concerns of existing uses, particularly auto dealerships
- Normandale Lake
 - 2008 - Focus was on road improvements needed to accommodate significant projected new office development
 - 2016 – Update prompted by use changes since 2008 that replaced proposed offices with residential apartments and funding to build a west-bound ramp

onto I-494 at East Bush Lake Road. Update includes new traffic study, utility modelling and revisions to the implementation plan and financing

- With the land use changes from office to residential/hotel and construction of the I-494 on ramp, the major intersection reconstruction proposed in 2008 was no longer needed
- The update is expected to be completed in 2017.