

## **IMAGINEBLOOMINGTON STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013**

*Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner and no audio recordings are available. All Steering Committee meetings are open to the public.*

### **Attendance:**

*Steering Committee Members:* Jack Baker, Scott Burgins, Lynn Coyne, Don Griffin, Dave Harstad, Nikki Johnson, Mike Litwin, Patrick Murray, Jacob Sinex, Chris Smith, Steve Smith, Jan Sorby, Phil Stafford, Tom Swafford and Larry Wilson.

*Others in attendance:* Tom Micuda (staff), Scott Robinson (staff), Jacqui Bauer (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff), Ian Champ (SPEA Fellow).

### **Brief Summary of Adopted Vision Statement**

Mr. Robinson summarized the vision statement adoption process and congratulated the Steering Committee for all their hard work towards this effort. This document will now provide the necessary framework to move forward in the planning process. Mr. C. Smith, Mr. Burgins, and Mr. Baker expressed concerns over the adoption process and the final City Council edits made to the Vision Statement. They were worried about future edits that the City Council may make later in the process, after the Steering Committee has already spent a lot of time vetting goals and planning policies. Mr. Baker suggested having additional City Council members join the Steering Committee to help improve coordination between the Steering Committee and City Council.

Mr. Robinson acknowledged these concerns and pointed out that, at the current time, the Vision Statement has not formally replaced the 2002 GPP Vision Statement. At this point, Mr. Robinson said that it was important to move forward into the plan development stage and work to resolve any issues during plan adoption. Mr. Micuda said that he would approach the Mayor and City Council President to review the feasibility of adding more City Council representation to the Steering Committee. Mr. Micuda also reminded the Steering Committee that their mission is to act as an advisory body to the City Council, which then makes final decisions. Mr. Micuda suggested that it would be helpful for Steering Committee members to attend City Council meetings and voice their opinions at that venue.

### **Overview of Plan Development Work Program**

Mr. Robinson provided an overview of the anticipated work program for plan development. This included descriptions regarding topic organization, group sessions, public outreach opportunities and future meeting dates. Mr. Burgins would like to see more specific action steps rather than vague goals. He also wanted to know how aggressive and detailed the Steering Committee can be regarding goal setting. Mr. Robinson replied that this process will allow us to clearly define goals for Bloomington's future. Setting and defining goals is a very important part of the process, so they will provide the direction on appropriate action steps. This is a key role of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Swafford agreed with Mr. Robinson and added that consensus for the goals needs to be maintained. Buy-in from the City Council will be very important for setting these goals. Mr. Wilson said that he has experience in this matter from the County's recent comprehensive planning effort. He agreed that goal setting is very important. He recommended that regular updates be given at joint Plan Commission-City Council meetings. Mr. Micuda said that he fully anticipates this occurring.

Mr. Stafford was concerned that a "silo approach" regarding the plan topics could be a concern because many topics are connected. Mr. Robinson agreed and said that the process is flexible and we aim to avoid addressing topics as "silos". Mr. Stafford said that using the core principles as a way to help ensure goals are interrelated with several topics is important. Mr. Baker said that he liked the proposed work program. He suggested that the Steering Committee will need to stay focused during the goal setting process in order to avoid going off topic at the meetings. Both Mr. Swafford and Mr. Burgins pointed out that some of the existing 2002 GPP policies are still very relevant. These 2002 GPP policies could be used as examples for the Steering Committee in developing the new goals.

### **Staff Discussion of Goal Setting**

Mr. Robinson provided examples of good criteria to follow in developing and setting goals (S.M.A.R.T. – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timed). He recommended that the Steering Committee try to keep goals clear, concise and bold. Mr. Robinson said that staff would provide a summary to the Steering Committee prior to each workshop. He also reminded them that a wide range of Bloomington data has already been collected and presented to the Steering Committee. This can be found on the ImagineBloomington website. Mr. Micuda asked that any Steering Committee member that has data regarding a specific topic area is encouraged to share that information with the entire group.