

## **GROWTH POLICIES PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012**

*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, Susan Fernandes, Don Griffin, Mike Litwin, Patrick Murray, Andy Ruff, Jacob Sinex, Chris Smith, Steve Smith, Jan Sorby, Phil Stafford, Maggie Sullivan, Tom Swafford, Ron Walker.

*Others in attendance:* Tom Micuda (staff), Josh Desmond (staff), Jacqui Bauer (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff).

### **Brief Recap of ImagineBloomington Outreach Efforts**

Ms. Bauer provided a summary of the public outreach activities that were recently conducted to solicit public feedback for the draft Vision Statement. Ms. Bauer also briefly summarized the input received for each topic point of draft the Vision Statement. The Draft Vision Summary Feedback and Staff Recommendations document that was emailed to the Steering Committee (and available online at <http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/13140.pdf>) provides more detail.

Mr. Coyne questioned if there were enough responses through the Vision Statement outreach to proportionally represent the community's population. Staff replied that they felt it was a good response rate, plus the overall message of ImagineBloomington was spread throughout the community during this process. This was especially true during the open house events that were held at the Monroe County Public Library. Staff anticipates that greater community interest and response will be present for the plan development phase.

### **Staff Recommendations for Vision Statement Edits**

Ms. Bauer then outlined staff recommendations for editing the draft Vision Statement. These recommendations were specifically based on the public feedback received. Ms. Bauer indicated that the edits were to following points of the Vision Statement: (d), (k), (f), (i), (m) and (n).

Ms. Bauer began with point (d) edits. There was some minor discussion regarding the wording options of "require" and "need" essential services.

Ms. Bauer reviewed point (k) edits. Mr. Baker asked if it could be reduced in length after the phrase "system of transportation". He also recommended that the entire vision statement wording be shorter and much less detailed. The future plan development phase would a better place to discuss finer details. Mr. Sinex mentioned the concept of "mode share" and discussed editing the wording to encourage increased walking and biking mode or trip share. Mr. Coyne asked whether the wording discouraged hybrid vehicle use. He also discussed the concept that gas powered vehicles are changing in favor of hybrid powered vehicles and cleaner engine technology in the future. Mr. Ruff wanted to keep the wording as is, with concerns about all vehicles, including hybrid vehicles, being non-sustainable. Mr. Griffin said that walking is not

an option for all people and that point should be acknowledged. Mr. Stafford encouraged transportation options for all ages and abilities. Mr. Griffin agreed with Mr. Stafford's statement. Mr. (Chris) Smith suggested removing the word 'reduce', as well as adding "emphasizing balance".

Ms. Bauer reviewed point (f) edits. Mr. Ruff asked if the wording regarding 'regional hub' might be a negative aspect, especially concerning sustainability. He suggested that encouraging local industry clusters and food production in surrounding communities would be a better approach. Mr. Litwin asked what kind of 'hub' is Bloomington? Need to clarify this somewhere. Mr. Walker suggested removing the word "small" from entrepreneurial and small business climate to better emphasize all entrepreneurs, regardless of business size.

Although not flagged by staff by for edits, some discussion began concerning point (c). Mr. Coyne and Mr. Litwin proposed to add "land" or "physical" to better define the development activity phrase.

Ms. Bauer reviewed point (i) edits. Mr. Sinex suggested removing "scarce" from resources. He also discussed rewording "natural assets" to "natural beauty". Discussion ensued regarding the definition and scope of urban agriculture, local food systems, food security and city vs. non-city locations. Ms. Sullivan suggested that language from the Bloomington Food Policy Council might be of assistance. She will e-mail this language out to the Steering Committee so that everyone can have an opportunity to read it. Mr. Ruff stated that there is a need to make a stronger statement regarding the environmental footprint for the community.

Ms. Bauer reviewed point (m) edits. Mr. Stafford suggested that "healthy lifestyles" are not simply just individual choices and actions (exercise, diet, etc.). Instead, they also include larger community systems, such as water quality, sanitary sewers, etc. He stated that we need to focus on public health systems too. Discussion then began on possibly locating "healthy lifestyles" within another topic area.

Ms. Bauer reviewed point (n) edits. Mr. (Chris) Smith stated this needed editing because it was not a clear statement. He suggested replacing "fortify our progress toward" with "Improve public safety and civility". Mr. Baker suggested it be edited to also include public health.

Further discussion began about the length of the overall vision statement. This included the feasibility of reducing the size, but still keeping the clarity and amount of detail necessary to adequately explain each topic point.

### **Overview of Next Steps**

Mr. Micuda asked whether the Steering Committee was comfortable with shortening the length of the Vision Statement by reducing the descriptive statements included with each topic area. He stated that staff would begin to edit the draft accordingly. He also asked if the Steering Committee would be comfortable reviewing the edited version of the draft Vision Statement via e-mail and not holding another meeting. The consensus of the Steering Committee was positive to both shortening the document and reviewing the edited version via e-mail only.

Mr. Micuda explained that the next step in the process was to bring the draft Vision Statement to the December 3, 2012 Plan Commission meeting. He anticipated two Plan Commission hearings would be necessary for adopting the Vision Statement at the Plan Commission level. One would be held in December and the next would occur in February, 2013, due to the Plan Commission not holding a January meeting. Mr. Micuda said that due to the compressed timeframe, the Steering Committee and Plan Commission would likely be reviewing the edited draft Vision Statement simultaneously. The consensus of the Steering Committee was that they would be comfortable in taking this approach.