

IMAGINEBLOOMINGTON STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, MAY 8, 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, Jason Banach, Susan Fernandes, Dave Harstad, Mike Litwin, Patrick Murray, Maggie Sullivan, Larry Wilson and Carl Zager

Others in attendance: Tom Micuda (staff), Scott Robinson (staff), Jacqui Bauer (staff), Miah Michaellesen (staff), Jason Carnes (staff), Paula McDevitt (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff).

Recap of Group 1 Goals Public Workshop

Mr. Robinson provided a recap of the May 2 public workshop that was held at the Monroe County Public Library. He summarized the voting results, draft goal discussion and other feedback received. Mr. Robinson noted that the workshop results are posted on the ImagineBloomington website. He also discussed the new ideas that have been posted on the UserVoice forum, as well as a tally of the on-line survey results. Mr. Zager said that the May 2 workshop was very positive.

Overview of Group 2 Packet Material: Goal Setting

Mr. Robinson summarized the packet materials that were sent to the Steering Committee. He also reminded the Steering Committee that any of the topics could be addressed at this meeting. There will also be two additional meetings to cover the Group 2 topics. He then opened the meeting up to comments, thoughts and suggestions on any of the Group 2 goal topics.

Mr. Baker said getting to cultural attractions was often just as important as the events themselves. They need to be accessible for people to utilize them. He provided trails, transit and bicycle and pedestrian features as examples. Mr. Baker also talked about the wide range of excellent free activities in town, such as Indiana University and at City parks. Several Steering Committee members discussed the importance of better publicizing these types of events.

Ms. Michaellesen provided an overview of the Arts Commission Public Arts Master Plan process. She discussed access, advocacy, diversity, funding, and general information regarding the community's arts. She also gave background on the 1% of the Arts Ordinance and possible revisions. Ms. Michaellesen also talked about the status of current arts venue spaces and gave an assessment of future needs.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the status of the Convention Center. Mr. Micuda and Ms. Michaellesen summarized the Convention Center's very high usage rates and current expansion plans. Mr. Harstad said that under-utilized industrial buildings along Morton Street could provide an opportunity for future arts uses. He said that current developments along the B-Line Trail could spur this type of development, too. He also asked whether the current zoning along Morton Street would support arts re-uses. Mr. Micuda replied that currently that area is zoned industrial as a result of historic land use patterns. He anticipated a future effort to rezone the Morton Street corridor to better accommodate arts uses. He also pointed out that floodplain issues are also present at certain locations.

Mr. Micuda then talked about ImagineBloomington being an opportunity to specifically support both performance and public arts, as well as culture. The 2002 GPP did not address any of these points. Ms. Fernandes said she supports public arts, but the context of that art is very important. She stressed the need for design review and community standards. Mr. Zager asked about zoning regulations that impact performing arts and studios or galleries in neighborhoods. Mr. Micuda provided an overview of UDO thresholds, as well as zoning enforcement versus code enforcement conducted by the police.

Mr. Harstad mentioned the need to identify and foster future arts districts, especially in under-utilized areas. He also said that it's important to incorporate arts and artisans to new projects, especially regarding limestone. Mr. Wilson said that the local food movement and urban agriculture are important factors. He suggested an expanded, year-round farmers' market, increasing cooperation with Indiana University on art opportunities, and the need for developing a mid-size outdoor performing space that could become a major regional attraction.

Mr. Murray suggested accessory structures in neighborhoods could provide additional arts space. Mr. Zager talked about the need for artist collaboration spaces. Mr. Baker supported the opportunities that Mr. Harstad mentioned concerning Morton Street, as well as opportunities in areas around the B-Line Trail. He encouraged new projects to have public art projects in exchange for higher density allowance. Mr. Baker also said that design review could help with that exchange process. Mr. Micuda said that ImagineBloomington is a perfect opportunity to develop those types of guidelines.

Ms. Fernandes said that the Downtown Plan was the first step towards developing stronger design guidelines. She felt that now is the time to assess how they have worked and to see if they should be expanded outside of the downtown. Mr. Wilson said now would be a good time to explore height or density approvals in exchange for complying with higher architectural design standards.

Ms. Sullivan said that a goal should be written that will show the City government supports the arts. She also suggested clarifying regulations for different levels of collaborative use in mixed-use areas. This also includes neighborhood home occupations and "cottage industries". She also said that the same is true for food supply and production industries.

Mr. Zager said there is a need to address local businesses. Commercial development is an important factor in supporting the arts. Conversation ensued about the local business climate, the mix of local skills and talents, and starting a creative climate for people to thrive. Ms. Fernandes said that reuse of the Showers Building was a great example of the "can-do" local attitude. Mr. Banach said it also showcased a successful public-private-university partnership.

Mr. Robinson closed by reminding the Steering Committee about the next scheduled meeting on May 22. It will be a continuation of the Group 2 goal development session, with a specific focus on the Human Condition and Environment.