

**GROWTH POLICIES PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011**

*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: John Carter (MCCSC), Chris Smith (Plan Commission), Don Griffin (Realtor), Patrick Murray (Prospect Hill NA), Janice Sorby (Bryan Park NA), Jim Murphy (CFC), Mike Litwin (Environmental Commission), Lynn Coyne (Indiana University), Scott Burgins (Plan Commission), Jacob Sinex (Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission), Tom Swafford (CBU Board), Doug Bruce (Chamber of Commerce), Kerry Thomson (Habitat for Humanity), Susan Fernandes (Plan Commission), Dave Harstad (Historic Preservation Commission), Maggie Sullivan (Sustainability Commission), Larry Wilson (Monroe County Planning), Andy Ruff (City Council)

Others in attendance: Tom Micuda (staff), Josh Desmond (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff), Scott Robinson (staff), Adrian Reid (City Engineer), Nikki Johnson (CFC), and Chris Cockerham (CFC).

**Welcoming Remarks/Call to Order (~4:05 PM)**

**Vision Statement Review**

*A. Vision Topics* - Mr. Desmond provided an overview on the vision statement and type of input staff is seeking at this early point in the process. He explained that once a new vision statement is completed we can then begin the document development aspect of this planning process. He used an analogy of taking a trip and how a vision statement is analogous to a destination. Without understanding our destination, it is difficult to plan for a trip for things such as items to bring, routes to take, and activities. Similarly, it is difficult to plan for the future without understanding our destination or having a vision statement. Desmond said the examples included in the packet give an idea of the different ways communities detail their vision statements. Mr. Nickel asked everyone to suggest general topics that are important for Bloomington to consider. Steering Committee members suggested the following topics: walkable neighborhoods, public transportation, employment base, bike friendly, historic character, sense of place, growing sustainable, affordable housing, housing for senior citizens, sewer extension, integration with the University, urban form and appropriate design, compact urban form, food production, regional coordination, clean abundant water, wildlife habitat, strong park system, intergovernmental cooperation, regional center, amenities for all ages, diversified economy, tree city (general), contiguous green space, tourism, shops and restaurants, public private partnerships, safe streets, identify areas susceptible to change, brownfield development, world class international presence, beautiful, stronger airport, distinct borders between urban and rural, and long term annexations.

*B. Round Table Discussion of the Growth Policies Plan (GPP) Vision Statement* - Mr. Nickel then had the group consider aspects of the vision statement examples that were included in the meeting packet that committee members liked or didn't like. Ann Arbor, MI pros: concise, and good background information, cons: too dense, no reference to university, one long paragraph. Fort Collins, CO pros: graphics, visuals, provides three organizing ideas for

the plan, backs up the topics that the plan addresses, bullet points, and acknowledges higher education and cons: could fit anywhere and all are good ideas but lacks unique local ideas. South Bend, IN pros: very easy to read, appropriate, acknowledges higher education, specific to South Bend, short, states a vision of what South Bend should be in the future and no cons suggested. Boulder, CO was suggested by Mr. Hardstad as a good example vision. Their vision uses data to support topics such as jobs, people, and housing. Nickel then asked the group to consider the 2002 Vision Statement for Bloomington. Some felt the history section was not needed, no mention of higher education, and the statement is too long. Mr. Micuda explained the history was included at the interest of the stakeholders at that time. Discussion ensued with vision statement suggestions that include: embracing public improvements, realistic, not everything for everyone, provide transition language, including IU and education, separate the history portion from the vision, concise, specific, be more than platitudes, grounded in data, inclusiveness/unity, a focused direction, implementable vision, and diversity is important for Bloomington. Ms. Sorby suggested Athens, GA as another good example vision to consider.

Mr. Nickel asked if there was anything missing from the 2002 Vision Statement. Steering committee comments included: need to define what “compact urban form” is for Bloomington; better definition of growth management; high-rise buildings; suburban form and urban form because one size does not fit all; tourism and Bloomington’s guests; sustainability; LEED and green buildings; aging in place; recreation and quality of life; and preserve historic resources are missing. Mr. Smith said the role of the automobile and issues with I-69 are important. He said the past roundabout discussion led people to look at the GPP for guidance and this resulted in different interpretations. He also said form-based code is an important consideration, and Ms. Sorby said it provides predictability. Mr. Micuda said form-based codes are more common today, but reminded everyone that this type of discussion will be more pertinent during the plan development process. He also mentioned that the Master Thoroughfare Plan is within the GPP and it covers transportation policies. Roundabouts, five point intersections, and other transportation topics brought up tonight will be discussed more thoroughly during the plan development process, said Micuda. Mr. Wilson wondered if the downtown will be 100 % students with the current trends. Many talked about the need for a diversity of housing in the downtown and the various market challenges present. Property values are high and student housing continues to be strong. Many feel the trends in the downtown will continue. Mr. Coyne said the IU Master Plan is posted online, and Mr. Wilson said the County will soon adopt a new comprehensive plan. Both are willing to provide an overview on the respective plans that may be helpful in this process. There were no additional comments.

*Note: written comments were also submitted by Mr. Litwin, Ms. Sluder, Mr. Stafford, and Mr. Baker and are available for review upon request.*

### **January Meeting Overview**

The next committee meeting is on January 11, 2012 at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers, City Hall. Staff will present some community data and also discuss public engagement.

### **Questions for Staff**

none

### **Adjournment (~5:30 PM)**