

Meeting Notes

Meeting: Livability

Date/Time: 11-19-14

Location: The Source – Meeting Room

Notes by: Kate McMahon, Applied Communications

Attended by: Michael Dorshorst, Herbert Swick, Paul Bohan, Katie Deuel, Kim Anderson, Kellie Battaglia, Deanna Felix, Mike Monsos, Leslie Swab, Cal Munis

Updates

- At the next meeting the group should appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair that will also serve as representative and alternate to the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee will begin meeting in January, so that will mean a second meeting during a few months overlap with the focus group work for the person acting as a Chair or Vice Chair.
- Draft Community Profile (existing conditions) is now online at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/27401>.

Background

Review a few key elements of the Focus Group Guidelines:

- Inspiration section:
 - Overview of core pillars – they help to set up the process for this project
 - Overview of the City Council Resolution – In April, 2014, the Council passed a resolution in support of the process and starting point being exploration of policies that delve into the meaning of “focusing inward” for our community.
 - Draft Value Statement – this document describes the background for the focus inward concept and lists many core values to consider. This document will be revisited by the Steering Committee toward the end of this process to see whether we need to make any adjustments to the statement.
- Goal/Objective/Action Section:
 - The definition and examples of goal statements are shown in the guidebook

Focus Group discussion ideas:

- Paul Bohan expressed concern that there was not enough representation on the focus groups from neighborhood residents. It is difficult for many people to attend evening meetings. He felt that the process did not provide a way for the residents voice to be heard. Kate McMahon explained that in addition to the focus groups, there would be community meetings that would offer an opportunity for

people to participate. People can also submit comments on-line and staff has been attending a number of community events. Paul's concerns were noted for the record.

Overview of the Values and Challenges process:

For the past five months the planning group has been collecting comments from community members through many topic-based listening sessions regarding values and challenges and ideas to address the challenges. The notes from the listening sessions are available on the website. The Summaries from the notes are the tools used tonight to help guide the process of developing Goals.

Goal Development Task:

Each group member Identified key topics that they felt best relate to the focus group subject by reviewing the Summary Values material and circling five topics and reviewing the Summary Challenges material and circling five topics.

Group members shared their top priorities for the focus group from the Value topic list and the Challenge topic list.

High priority topics were chosen from the Values topics and the Challenges topics. Each group member was asked to write goal statements for any of the high priority topics (whether they came from the Values or Challenges lists).

Group members read off goal statements and some questions and clarification were discussed.

Project staff collected the goals statements and grouped them under the related topics.

The purpose of this process is to collect as many initial individual goal statement ideas and then through the next few months expect to see the statements become refined, combined, sorted and even possibly moved to another group or level of policy development (such as objective or action).

Topics Identified and number of people interested in exploring the topic:

- Sense of Place – 6
- Education – 3
- Cooperation between agencies
- Culture & Arts – 5
- Friendly-Family Oriented – 3
- River/Natural Areas – 2
- Diversity /Open Minded – 4
- Local Foods/Local Services – 2
- Community Involvement – 3
- Growth Pressures/Sprawl – 5
- Social Services/Education – 5
- Community Character/Land Use & Zoning – 7
- Funding – 3
- Infrastructure

Initial Individual Goal Statements by Topic

Culture/Arts

- Missoula has a vibrant and diverse arts community. There are venues and funding for art and display and creation for all people.
- Promote an atmosphere through marketing, construction and spirit that fosters growth and development of cultural activities. Through education, art centers, performing spaces and cultural events.
- A community that has a government that creates an environment that permits a wide range and adaptability for people to enjoy, create and participate in art and cultural activities, equally in small as in individual, little cost, to organize large events suggested by the community.
- Promote the continuation of growth in the arts by making Missoula the center of a diverse and accessible artistic community.
- Maintain Missoula's dedication to vibrant and diverse expressions of art and culture and work to expand opportunities for expression to currently underserved demographics.
- Increase outreach to youth, elderly or Native Americans.
- Missoula will be a magnet for the arts, creating a vibrant environment for music, visual arts and performance arts. Arts programs will extend from the schools, to the community and to visitors.

Growth Pressures/Land Use/Zoning

- To not succumb to unregulated or unharnessed growth without due consideration of the the varied consequences and ramifications (i.e. historical)
- Planning for growth shall strive to maintain Missoula's community character & sense of place while accommodating the needs of and expanding diverse population.
- After a thorough, open review process, draft binding legislation that defines the boundaries between the intrinsic value of neighborhood land and the need for use/reuse of incoming generating land use.
- River road neighborhood – no residential ties higher than 16 per acre – west of Catlin
- Important to maintain city character through sound planning that prioritizes the long-range vision of our citizens.
- Keep the growth in-check.
- A community that creates an adaptable, as non-permanent as possible land, use zoning process that protects individual rights, responds and create opportunities for growth without encouraging excessive growth or growth based on people as commodities.
- Missoula makes thoughtful decisions about land use planning that support neighborhood/community character, parks, trails & natural resources appropriate & accessible services and a diverse and engaged population.
- River Road Neighborhood – Update neighborhood plan. Restrict zoning to no more than 16 units per acre. Sidewalks along Curtis & River Road. Move Street & trail lighting.

- River Road Neighborhood – We need to update our neighborhood plan. We enjoy our central location but fear of too much growth squeezing out single family homes. We would like to continue to embrace and grow small local businesses and opportunity in our neighborhood.
- Can't forget about cars, everyone drives so major through streets must have capacity for the traffic.
- Businesses and high density areas need higher parking per person requirements (doable?) with landscaping.
- Transportation: Draw people within the city out of their cars into new and unique means of transport, understanding the need for individual transportation and the future of possible alternative transportation means.
- To plan for and consider the effects of parking, transportation and mass transit has on the city's character and built environment. To avoid choices that rank the needs of a single automobile over the needs of a community.

Social Services/Local Services

- Support and improve upon the existing social services; address underserved populations.
- Create and maintain a range of effective social services that meet the needs of all citizens of Missoula.
- Missoula leads in providing local municipal services that ensure a sustainable, livable community.
- Social services and education should be provided to all with the goal of being to encourage, care for and create an environment for learning, growth, independence and a sense of purpose as well as responsibility for ourselves and to others.
- Missoula's social services ensure that basic needs of the community are met and people have opportunities for meaningful work, stable income an excellent education and reasonable housing.

Education

- Encourage the creation of a cooperative association of local govt, k-12/higher ed. and local businesses so all become stakeholders for mutual benefit.
- Give children from all backgrounds greater support from K-12.
- Create and maintain excellent public & private educational systems that permit each child to achieve his or her potential.
- Ensure that the city celebrates and invests in the continuing education of all people and all ages and to recognize education as the principal foundational element in planning and growth.

Community Character/Sense of Place/Diversity/Open Minded/Family Friendly/Community Involvement

- Renewed respect for women. Education for men & women of all ages.
- To focus our efforts towards our cities growth while ever mindful of the unique characteristics that define and establish our community, a place, like an individual, is lost without an identify.
- Missoula identifies and supports & celebrates resources and attributes that provide its sense of place and unique community character. (thru funding, programs, recognition, events, etc....)

- Ensure that planning for growth recognizes, acknowledges, celebrates and maintains Missoula's special sense of place and community.
- Utilize the assets, value-mapping data to create evidence-based documentation of what makes Missoula desirable to residents/businesses.
- Establish defining characteristics that make Missoula unique and that should be nurtured to add value and quality of life to its citizens.
- Missoula should be a city that allows itself to grow and adapt with the effort and ideas that are brought forth by the people of the City through their efforts, their means making it a true home of its own.

Parking Lot

- "Diversity" related concerns. Make sure to consider the desires of current residents while planning for future residents.
- Land Use and zoning should be sensitive to current residents & uses.
- Funding
- Local services (including waste management and recycling) & Local foods needs to be addressed

Next Steps

At December meeting: select chair and vice chair; review information from Asset Mapping project; review & discuss topics and goals statements from November focus group meeting; report on topics being covered by other focus groups; and move on to developing objectives.

Next Meeting Date: December 17, 2014

Public Comment on items not on the agenda:

None received