

Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

MAPC Large Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

4:00-6:00 p.m., October 22, 2014

Discussion Highlights & Points of Agreement:

Attendance - Plan Steering Committee:

Stacy Christie, Mitch Coffman, David Foster, Bryan Frye, Joe Johnson, Cindy Miles, Randy Oliver, James Roseboro, Gary Schmitt, Debra Miller Stevens

Attendance - Project Staff:

Stephen Banks, Dave Barber, Scott Knebel, Scott Wadle

1. Welcome -

The meeting was called to order by Susan Estes.

2. Presentation on Future Park and Recreation Priorities -

Larry Hoetmer, Landscape Architect with the City Park and Recreation Department and Ron Holt, Assistant Sedgwick County Manager each gave presentations to the Committee on the park, recreation and cultural facility assets and programs of City and County respectively. Long-term capital improvement priorities and programming plans were also identified respectively for the City and County.

Hoetmer said that the City's 2008 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is still relevant in terms of overall vision and direction, but that it needs review and adjustment in light of economic and demographic shifts over the last six years. Hoetmer indicated that the biggest need year in and out for his Department is the ongoing maintenance and care of existing facilities, and living with the consequence of decades of deferred maintenance. Other challenges include improving connectivity of existing pathways, aging aquatic infrastructure, and lack of funding to replace extensive city tree canopy lost due to drought. Hoetmer indicated that the consolidation of City and County Park and Recreation operations for operational efficiency purposes was considered in the late 2000's but was not pursued due to a lack of political will.

Holt said that the County's major community quality of life improvements (Lake Afton Park, Sedgwick County Park, Exploration Place, Sedgwick County Zoo and Intrust Bank Arena) are in good condition with sound long-term maintenance and operations funding plans. Holt indicated that the County is in the development phase of a new 1,000 acre Northeast County Park (127th St. East and 77th St. North) that will include equestrian trails and almost 400 acres for future developments.

3. Continue Committee Discussion on Arts, Culture and Recreation Plan Element –

Staff took the Committee through an exercise where each Committee member wrote possible arts, culture and recreation goal and strategy ideas on cards which were then posted on the wall. Using sticky dots, Committee members individually voted for their top plan goal and strategy ideas (the results of this exercise are summarized under separate attachment). Staff will utilize this input in developing a set of arts, culture and recreation plan goals and strategies for consideration at the November 5th Committee meeting.

4. Committee Review of Draft Future Land Use Policy Plan Element -

Stephen Banks presented the Committee with final draft copies of the 2035 Urban Growth Areas Map and the 2035 Wichita Future Growth Concept Map. Scott Knebel reviewed draft versions of the proposed Locational Guidelines and the Wichita Urban Infill Strategy. Some Committee members felt that there needs to be more holistic design guidance polices in the Locational Guidelines related to improving the aesthetic character/look of both public and private development

within the key gateways and corridors identified on the current Priority Areas Enhancements Map. Examples were cited of new private billboards and signs along Kellogg overshadowing/blocking the aesthetic elements of prior public improvement projects.

A Committee member expressed concern for advocating public-private partnerships as a tool in the Wichita Urban Infill Strategy for encouraging infill development. Similarly, the use of gap-financing – the idea of using public funds to help make a project economically viable was also a concern to some Committee members. Knebel indicated that there are situations where it would not have been profitable or possible for a private developer to do a project without gap-financing being provided by the public sector.

5. Committee Review of Draft Public Safety Plan Element -

Deferred to a future Committee meeting date yet to be scheduled.

6. Committee Review of Draft Funding and Financing Plan Element -

Deferred to a future Committee meeting date yet to be scheduled.

7. Committee Review of Draft Plan Implementation Element -

Deferred to a future Committee meeting date yet to be scheduled.

8. Introduce Work on Water, Sewer and Stormwater Plan Element -

Deferred to the November 5th Committee meeting due to insufficient time.

9. Next Committee Meeting - November 5, 2014

10. Comments from Public Attendees - None

11. Adjourned - 6:10 p.m.