

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting
 February 25, 2014
 City Council Chambers

Present:

Steering Committee Members	Bonnie Nelson
Carlos Braxton	Linda Pearce
Kemp Burdette	Tom Pollard
Howard Capps	Jennifer Rigby
Deb Hays	Robert Rosenberg, Chair
Liz Hines	
J. Clark Hipp	Kevin Smith
Paul Lawler	

Absent:

Randy Reeves	Frank Smith
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Staff Members	
Glenn Harbeck	Allen Davis
Christine Hughes	Brian Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM by Robert Rosenberg.

Approval of minutes from the October meeting was tabled to the next meeting and it was requested that the minutes be redistributed for review.

Brian Chambers offered an overview of the neighborhood planning area (NPA) process to date. Seven of 12 meetings have been held and nearly 2,000 comments have been received. Facilitators for the final four meetings are still needed. Brian provided a summary of the top responses to each of the three questions (keep it, change it, dream it). The top “keep it” responses so far are neighborhood character, parks/open space, bike/pedestrian facilities, slow speed limits. The top “change it” responses so far are additional bike/pedestrian facilities, more traffic calming measures, reduce code violations/increased code enforcement, and improved streetscapes. Leading the “dream it” list to date are pedestrian bridges, more parks/recreation facilities, increased public access to water, and streetscape enhancements.

A citywide meeting to finalize the NPA process has been scheduled for May 10 at the Northeast Regional Library. Citizens are invited to drop in between 10:00 and noon to see the results of the NPA process. Steering committee members who were in attendance at each of the planning area meetings are asked to man the stations for that planning area for the May 10th meeting. The Alternative Future Visions will also be kicked off at this meeting.

There was discussion about where the Northside was included in the NPA process. Staff noted that not every neighborhood was targeted for an NPA meeting. Only one neighborhood in each of the 12 planning areas was targeted, with each neighborhood representing a sample of the entire planning area. Northside was not specifically targeted due to the fact that a neighborhood

plan already exists for that area. Residents of the Northside are invited to participate in the “Downtown/Old Wilmington” scheduled for April 3rd.

Christine Hughes noted that the GFA Roundtable meetings have wrapped up and a summary of input is available online at createwilmington.com. Additional input meetings will be held on campus at Cape Fear Community College and UNC-W. Staff is also working with a group of middle school students, high school students, and specific outreach on all of the WHA-owned housing developments.

Allen Davis presented a draft chapter of the Urban Framework Analysis (UFA). This document was originally developed as part of the Growth Factors Analysis, and evolved into a stand-alone document. The document will have three core components, the 20 pattern areas (which was the chapter presented to the committee), a chapter on downtown, and a chapter on the greater downtown and its subareas. These pattern areas were developed based form-related patterns within the built environment, not on land use or zoning. Allen asked the committee to review the draft chapter and provide feedback at the March meeting. It was noted that the purpose of the document is to evaluate what’s existing today. Allen noted that the aerial photographs included in the document are from Google Maps and Bing Maps. The chapter will be discussed at the 3/25 meeting.

Glenn Harbeck reviewed the procedure for policy chapters review/editing. After discussion, it was determined that the committee would review a chapter a month, distributed electronically one week in advance of the meeting, and the committee would “review by exception,” reaching consensus on any edits or proposed changes, during the regular meeting. Issues on which a consensus cannot be reach will be tabled for later review. Staff will then amend the chapter and post it on the committee’s Google Docs page. Additional edits may be offered and agreed upon by the committee when the consolidated draft is reviewed. It was also agreed that pre-meeting discussion on a draft chapter may occur by email using the “reply all” function. The “Arts and Culture” draft chapter was distributed.

The committee broke into seven groups to discuss and formulate the Planning on Tap meeting series. A meeting schedule is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM by Robert Rosenberg.

The next steering committee meeting is March 25, 2014 at 4:00 PM in the Lord Spencer Compton Conference Room.