

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting
 March 26, 2015
 City Council Chambers

Present:

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

Absent:

Steering Committee Members	Randy Reeves
Kemp Burdette	Frank Smith

Staff Present:	Others Present	
Glenn Harbeck	Tyler Newman	Tyler Newman
Christine Hughes		Heather Jarman

The meeting was called to order at 2:14 PM by Robert Rosenberg.

The February 2015 meeting minutes were approved. It was noted that Linda Pierce Thomas was left off the attendance record; the minutes were corrected.

Mr. Rosenberg led a discussion on the next steps for the committee. It was agreed that there would be no formal meeting of the committee again until a work session is scheduled for the committee to present the policies chapter to the Planning Commission and City Council. In the interim, two public input meetings will be held to gather feedback on the draft policies component of the box set. The meetings are scheduled for May 12 from 11:00 to 1:00 PM downtown and on May 13 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Northeast Regional Library. The draft will be released for public review in advance of the meetings and will also be posted online after the meetings to continue to collect public input.

There was a discussion about the format of the plan box set. It was noted that the executive summary would be the final piece produced. Bonnie Nelson noted that the steering committee should be convened to review a draft of the executive summary. Howard Capps noted that an index would be assembled for the policies document to aid in cross-references.

Christine Hughes led the group in brainstorming each committee member's priorities for the plan. These priorities will be used to help shape the format of the public input for the policies. Priorities identified by the committee:

- Emphasis on aesthetic qualities for public and private development
- Underground utilities

- View transportation as more than moving cars
- Mixed-use development
- Redevelopment and infill
- Plan built on public input
- Aging population
- Housing to support demographics
- Housing diversity (types, price points, regulations)
- Prioritize implementation
- Coordinate public and private investments
- Additional river crossing
- Cape Fear River as an asset
- Grocery store on N. 4th Street
- Refine land use regulations
- Transit-oriented development
- Do not restrict infill and redevelopment to only nodes shown on Growth Strategies Maps
- Collaboration with other agencies and service providers – policies are mutually supportive
- Promote transit to work centers outside the city limits
- Allocation of industrial zoning – guidance on how to keep or change
- Preserve neighborhood character (low density) while accounting for growth
- Growing a robust economy
- Public safety tied to growth
- Wilmington is going to grow – no population growth is not an option – tie decisions to growth strategies

The committee reviewed the draft policies component. There was a brief discussion about how sea level rise is addressed and the committee noted that the environmental impacts of sea level rise are real and should be addressed; the management of stormwater should also be a priority. The committee also discussed public school siting policies and the need to emphasize to the school board how critical it is to reconsider the current decision making process. Mr. Capps led a discussion on underground utilities and the committee agreed that this should be encouraged.

Following review of the policies, the committee agreed to proceed with moving this component of the box set forward for public input.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.