Meeting Notes

Meeting: Community Design

Date/Time: 3-23-15

Location: Solstice Building conference Room

Notes by: Jana Cooper, TD&H Engineering

Attended by: Paul Bohan, Bob Giordano, Harold Hoem, Steve Miller, Jeremy Drake, Sonia Bergmann, Aaron Wilson (MPO), Jacob Wyder, Prairie Wolfe, Bob Horne (Appcom), Tom Zavitz (staff).

UPDATES
 o Steering Committee Report from March 19, 2015: None of the Community Design Steering Committee Members were present at the meeting, Bob Giordano, a Steering Committee Member for Environmental Quality presented back to the group. The Steering Committee worked on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM), staff developed a composite map based on the mapping exercise that was done by the Focus Groups in February, a copy of the map was available at the meeting for members to review. Tom Zavitz explained that the City's existing FLUM, over time, has become quite complex and difficult to interpret and utilize for land use decisions. The Steering Committee and staff are working to simplify the land uses; they are using the composite map as a starting point for these discussions and decisions.

 o Ms. Cooper noted that there were a couple of referred topes from other Focus Groups for Community Design to consider and reviewed these with the group. Further discussion about these items was not made at the meeting.

REVIEW OF DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The facilitator handed out copies of the most recent Goals, Objectives and Actions for the Community Design Focus Group. The group reviewed by topic as follows (see Community Design Topics, Goals & Objectives for complete list):

Overall it was noted by one group member that the Growth Policy should be for the people and having mixed-use districts in residential neighborhoods should be done by a process that comes from the community. Other members stated the members of the group are community members.

 Topic 1:   Community Character and Sense of Place

 Goal 1: Protect and enhance Missoula's strong sense of place by connecting, supporting and protecting what is uniquely Missoula; natural resources, the vibrant diverse community, **distinct*** neighborhoods, and downtown.

 *A group member questioned what is considered distinct and that this word was too subjective, he suggested use of residential instead. The group had mixed opinions on this, one suggestion was to change it to the positive attributes vs. distinct because distinct could be bad things as well, example air quality. The group concluded that they would like the Steering Committee to help define distinct and work on the wording of this goal.

Topic 2: Land Use

The group discussed making sure the Growth Policy didn't just have policies that discouraged sprawl, but looked at what actually encourages sprawl and based on that, develop objectives to help reduce sprawl. The group discussed that if it becomes too expensive to live in the core of the City low and moderate income households might be forced to locate further outside the City (example Hwy 12 corridor to Lolo/Hamilton) which will cause additional strain on services as well as those adjacent towns. An example was to incentivize long term affordable housing in the core of the City.

Objectives
Regulatory
2. Require development to pay for its proportional share of services and infrastructure.

Topic 3: Transportation

Aaron from the City's Transportation Planning Department talked about the difference between the Transportation Plan and the Growth Policy. He discussed that land use and transportation has to work together, the Growth Policy should support the future Transportation Plan and vice versa. He also mentioned that the group should consider what the goals/objectives that are developed do in terms of transportation investments. There was a discussion about whether the mode split goals should be located in the Transportation Plan or the Growth Policy. The group decided it was important to leave the mode split as an objective in the Growth Policy to so the community has a goal to strive toward. The group discussed how do we implement action items that will encourage developers to design in a way that encourages the mode split, an example was reduce parking standards and add bike parking in appropriate locations.

One member mentioned that the Steering Committee should take a broader look at the Growth Policy so there is consistency in terms of how specific the goals and objectives are. If the Community Design group is recommending specific mode split goals how does that translate to the other elements of the plan (housing, environmental quality, etc.), so the policy is approached with consistent levels throughout the document.

The group also discussed adding a car share program at the University, this was agreeable to all members present, but no objectives or actions were developed.

Issue: The transportation system plays an important role on the overall design of a community. Transportation system supports the movement of people and goods in a community. People lead healthier, more active lives if the community is built to facilitate safe and diverse modes of transportation including walking, biking and public transit as complements to the existing network of roads that support motor vehicle travel and the transport of goods. Missoula offers a good bike and pedestrian trail system and good access to those trails, yet existing gaps in that system currently limit transportation options. Missoula's challenge is to continue to safely enhance bike and pedestrian infrastructure that promotes healthy lifestyles and diverse modes of transportation while continuing to actively support public transit and maintain and enhance the existing network of roads to serve all modes of transportation.

*Added this sentence back into issue statement, based on staff recommendation

Objective
1. Develop policies that promote the use of active transportation (walking, biking or public transportation, etc.) and discourage the use of single occupancy vehicles (SOV's).
2. Strive for a mode split of, at most, 25% of all trips are single occupant motor vehicle by 2030.

Actions
9. Adopt programs that promote more transit alternatives and different modes of travel.
24. Develop a bike share system to encourage bicycling

Objective
23. Encourage programs that support non-motorized infrastructure.;
24. iIncrease non-motorized trips to at least 20% of all trips by 2030.

Action
Objective
11. Determine the current benchmark of total "Vehicle Miles Traveled" and establish a target to limit growth or reduce VMTs.
7. Reduce VMT (vehicle miles traveled) by 10% each year.

Objective
25. Develop a robust, thoughtful transportation system that reduces driving through the use of well designed, planned and integrated streets, pedestrian facilities and public transportation options.

Actions
6. Develop individual non-polluting on-demand transportation alternatives that would allow access to a majority of residents within ¼ mile walking distance. -
10. Support and plan for active transportation options such as walking and biking.

Topic 4: **Infrastructure**

Issue: It is difficult for many cities across the nation to maintain existing infrastructure. Pressures of growth and sprawl around the City increase the long term maintenance costs for the City. A need for a sustainable, long term solution to maintain and upgrade infrastructure is needed.

NEW: Objectives for Waste Stream related to Community Design
1. Prepare for the development of necessary infrastructure to allow the City to meeting waste reduction goals.
2. Develop higher quality road design and construction standards that also consider various alternative roadway construction materials.

Action
Update development code to require new/redevelopment to provide space for recycling in development applications.

Actions

Review the long term sustainability of the annexation policy in terms of extending infrastructure into the urban fringe area.

Other Discussion Items

The group briefly discussed two other items:

1. Whether they should add an objective about moving the railyard out of the heart of Missoula, staff will develop an objective for the group to review at the next meeting.
2. If all land in Missoula should be zoned, this will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Parking Lot

None

NEXT STEPS

The focus group will review the results of each subcommittee's work on the objectives. The group will also work on the land use and mapping exercise and work on actions at the March Focus Group meeting.