

Meeting Notes

Meeting: Environmental Quality

Date/Time: 11-18-14

Location: MonTec Building Conference Room

Notes by: Robert Horne, Applied Communications

Attended by: Bonnie Buckingham, Amy Cilimburg, Leigh Greenwood Radlowski, Sydney Weydemeyer, Dave Craig, Bob Giordano, Vicky Watson, Bert Lindler, Tom Zavitz (Development Services staff), Jonathon Drygas (Facilitator Assistant Intern)

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

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:

- Natural Areas-Outdoor Recreation-8
- Natural Resources-8
- Parks and Recreation-3
- River-6
- Biking-Walkable-Good pedestrian/bike trail system-5
- Sense of Place-2
- Compact-5
- Local Food-2; went up to 6 after group discussion.
- Friendly-Family Oriented-1
- Environmental Quality-8
- Growth Pressure-Sprawl-7
- Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Service-2
- Bikes-Pedestrians-Trails-3
- Land Use-Zoning-Subdivision-4
- Health & Wellness-3
- Infrastructure-1
- Coordination Between Agencies-2
- Parks and Open Space-5
- Transportation-Parking-Transit-2

Initial Individual Goal Statements by Topic

Environmental Quality

- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Reduce carbon footprint through renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.
- Promote and incentivize green building infrastructure.
- Decrease human caused air pollution (cars, industry, home heat).
- Improve Missoula's air quality and visibility.
- Reduce impervious surfaces; move away from asphalt and concrete (water quality).
- Zero waste; increase the options for diverting waste from the landfill (e. g. develop more recycling infrastructure).

Natural Resources

- Protect water quality, especially the Missoula aquifer, from train spills, pesticides, underground storage tanks.-2
- Protect wildlife habitat and travel corridors.-2
- Protect Missoula's trees and vegetation in urban spaces.
- Favor native plant and animal species whenever possible.
- Address issues of invasive species.

Growth Pressures-Sprawl

- Protect stream corridors and floodplains from development.
- Protect open space.
- Protect Ag land (farming & ranching).
- Prioritize farm/ag land preservation from urban sprawl. (Mitigation, key protection areas, incentivize infill & cluster development)
- Pass bonds and apply for other funds to buy private land and put it in public hands.
- Incentivize and adopt policies to discourage sprawl and leap frog development-2
- Discourage motor vehicle use.

River

- The river's banks are open and available for public use subject to resource protection needs.
- Increase river recreation safety
- Minimize recreational impacts
- Maintain/improve river health (healthy riparian zones, water quality, etc)
- Ensure no toxins go into the river (e. g. pesticides, train spills, underground storage tanks).
- Preserve or restore wildlife habitat along river.
- Prevent development along river corridor for clean water and wildlife habitat.
- Acquire, restore and protect as open space river and stream corridors, and floodplains whenever possible, including outside the urban service area.

Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation

- Maintain and grow open space surrounding the city by limiting development.
- Protect additional lands as available.
- Protect additional lands for Missoula open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and recreational trails.
- Improve access point infrastructure (parking, toilets, roads) to the parks and open spaces.

- Ensure the walk/bike trail system reaches to all natural areas and that the trail system is within 5 blocks of all residents.
- Maintain natural areas as recreation and wildlife corridors.
- Minimize recreation impacts on wildlife and native plant communities.
- Educational campaign for minimizing rec impacts on open space.

Local Food

- Enhance ability to develop local food system (promote community gardens, use pocket parks for food production, encourage backyard gardens, develop a food policy that gives preference to local food procurement by city and public.

Parking Lot

N/A

Discussion Notes:

Group noted the Common Topic Natural areas – Outdoor Recreation was confusing and could have been better titled Accessible Natural Areas or something similar.

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 16, 2014, 5:15 to 7:15 PM, same space (MonTec Building Conference Room)

Public Comment on items not on the agenda:

None received