



Master Plan Steering Committee
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.
The Visitor Center, 14 North Street

MINUTES
Approved 11/15/2016

I. Call to Order

Mr. Feleen called the meeting to order at 5:15PM.

Present: Melissa Richmond, Andy Lafreniere, Jim Feleen, Marilyn Harris, Abigail Carman, Nick Koloski, Bill Carpenter, Eileen Skowronski, David Putnam (arrived at 6:30 PM)

Absent: Richard Wahrlich, Debora Matteau

Staff: Nancy Merrill, Director, Planning and Development Department; deForest Bearse, Resource Coordinator

Motion: To accept the agenda as presented.

Made by: Mr. Carpenter **Second:** Mr. Koloski

Vote: Unanimous in favor

II. Minutes

a. September 20, 2016

Motion: To accept the minutes of September 20, 2016 as written.

Made by: Ms. Harris **Second:** Mr. Feleen

Vote: Mr. Koloski, Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Skowronski abstained; all others voted in favor

Mr. Folta asked the committee to add a desire for population growth to the vision statement. The committee discussed the idea and agreed that some mention of it should be included. Ms. Merrill said she would work on a statement and send it to the committee.

III. Business

a. Draft Energy Chapter

Note: Ms. Carman, Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Harris serve on the Energy Chapter Subcommittee.

Mr. Lafreniere objected to the use of the words “climate change” on the grounds that some readers may object to the term so strenuously that they will abandon the Plan altogether. He felt it would cause unnecessary backlash. Climate change was not addressed at the public forum or in the survey.

There was objection to the first statement of the third bullet on page 4 on the grounds that the statement was inflammatory and lacked corroboration. The use of the words “global warming” was also found objectionable. Ms. Merrill said that the words “climate change” are used throughout the Regional Plan. She had no objection to the term being used in the plan.

The consensus of the committee was that the chapter is consistent with the vision statement

The committee recommended removing the statement about relocating the transfer station to a more centralized location on page 7.

The committee recommended:

- adding definitions of “Dark Sky” and “C-Pace”;
- expanding more about them in the text;
- provide linkage to the goals and objectives.

Everyone agreed that the energy subcommittee had done a great job.

Motion: To refer the draft energy chapter back to the energy chapter subcommittee to address the recommendations discussed here:

- Define “C-Pace”, “Dark Sky”, and “Tree City”;
- Reconsider the recommendation to move the transfer station;
- Provide a reference to the statement on page 4;
- Consider the use of the term “climate change”.

The Steering Committee thanks the energy chapter subcommittee for doing a great job on the City’s first energy chapter.

Made by: Mr. Carpenter **Second:** Ms. Richmond

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. Draft Natural Resources Chapter

Note: Ms. Skowronski serves on the Natural Resources Chapter Subcommittee.

The committee had very little time to study this chapter as the packets hadn’t arrived (for many) until the day before the meeting. However, they moved forward with discussing the first part of the chapter.

It was suggested that the goals and objectives be embedded in the chapter due to the length of the chapter.

Mr. Koloski asked for more discussion of the City’s responsibility with regard to its conservation easement. He said the easement needs to be monitored and its conditions enforced, but there is no process in place to ensure that gets done both now and into the future. There should also be mention of mitigation.

Ms. Carman asked for captions on all of the pictures.

Mr. Feleen asked if the protection of prime agricultural soils poses a conflict with the economic development goals of the City. The same question was raised regarding the current use program.

Additional comments made included:

- Page 11 – survey results regarding scenic views – provide more survey result data;
- The first sentence on page 12 is “alarmist” and should be changed or removed;
- Page 18 – use of the words “global warming”
- Add “carbon sequestration” to the glossary.

The committee will continue reviewing the chapter at the next meeting. They asked the natural resources chapter subcommittee members to attend their meeting so as to participate in the discussion.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

V. Other

There was no other business.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Lafreniere **Second:** Mr. Carpenter

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse