



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Human Dignity, Community Education, & Civic Participation Steering Committee

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AGENDA

January 22, 2014 – 4:30 p.m.

Hannah Center, Recital Room
819 Abbot Road

1) OPENING

- A) Roll Call
- B) Approval of Agenda

2) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DISCUSSION

3) ADJOURNMENT



PLANNING, BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT

Quality Services for a Quality Community

MEMORANDUM

TO: Human Dignity Steering Committee Members

FROM: Amy Schlusler, Community Development Specialist II
Timothy R. Schmitt, AICP, Community Development Analyst
Megan Clark, Assistant to the City Manager

DATE: January 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Goals and Objectives for Comprehensive Plan Update

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At the November Steering Committee meeting the Committee responded to a series of questions intended to stimulate the subconscious and assure full participation from each member. The responses to these questions are attached for your review and were used by staff to help identify existing goals, objectives, and actions that are still relative and highlight those that may be missing in the document.

The January meeting will begin by discussing the Steering Committees responses to the questions from the November meeting and how they relate to existing goals, objectives and actions. The next step will be to discuss topics that are not covered in the existing plan. To reiterate, the definitions we are using for Goals, Objectives, and Actions are:

Goals are the broadest expressions of a community's desires they give direction to the plan as a whole. They are concerned with the *long term*, and often describe *ideal situations* which would result if *all* plan purposes were fully realized. Since goals are value-based, their attainment is difficult to measure.

Objectives are broad statements that set preferred courses of action – choices made to carry out the goals in the *foreseeable future (mid- to long-term)*. They need to be specific enough to help determine whether a proposed project or program would advance community values expressed in the goals.

Actions are specific statements that carry out a plan in the *short term* which accomplish the broader statements expressed in the goals and objectives. Actions are generally implemented through the City Council's Strategic Priorities and are activities that can realistically be carried out within a two to five year period and guide the City's day-to-day operations.

The following goals, objectives and actions were developed from language in the current plan and continue to be relative based on the Steering Committees general responses in November.

Obstacles to living and working in East Lansing

- Cost and Diversity of Housing

This item is addressed immediately in the goals and objectives, under ***Objective 1-1: Increase supply of diverse housing opportunities which accommodate the needs of all residents.*** The first five actions under this objective speak directly to the cost and diversity of housing.

Action 1-1.1: Utilize Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) funding in collaboration with Hometown Housing Partnership (HHP) to finance improvements to owner-occupied homes where the family income is below 80% of the Area Medium Income (AMI).

Action 1-1.2: Create a program to incentivize development projects where a predetermined percentage of housing units are set aside for persons with income below 80% of the Area Medium Income (AMI).

Action 1-1.3: Provide development incentives to ensure options are available for senior housing.

Action 1-1.4: Expand on the Downtown Development Authorities (DDA) Housing Policy by developing guidelines which promote a variety of housing sizes and styles within mixed-use developments.

Action 1-1.5: Work in collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) to ensure that desirable and safe student housing is available near campus.

Obstacles to living and working in East Lansing

- Excessive Socially Unacceptable Behavior

This item is partially addressed by ***Objective 1-2: Support activities, policies and institutions that maintain neighborhood stability*** and its second action:

Action 1-2.2: Support neighbors, organizations, and institutions that work toward better social integration of students in the community to encourage collaborative problem solving on neighborhood issues.

and later, ***Objective 1-3: Enhance the safety of neighborhoods*** provides additional language regarding this issue with:

Action 1-3.5: Continue enforcing quality of life ordinances such as snow removal, noise, litter and bulk rubbish.

There are other issues that the Steering Committees and public raised that need to be discussed further, to allow Staff the background to draft effective objectives and actions. We do not want the Steering Committees to get into the specifics of 'wordsmithing' the objectives and actions,

Staff will work on that after the Steering Committees have talked further and will bring language back to address outstanding items. These items include the following, along with a series of discussion items that Staff gleaned from the October meeting, which are attached in a separate document.

Things that could make someone disengaged

- Lack of effective communication from the City and/or Neighborhood leaders
- Town/Gown and Public School/Gown relations
- Enforcement Issues

Staff has begun working on some language for these items as a starting point for discussion, starting with a new **Objective: To engage East Lansing youth and young adults in civic participation** that could include the following actions.

Action Form an East Lansing Youth Advisory Council in which teenage residents take part in City-sponsored meetings, events and activities.

Action Partner with Michigan State University to create a Social Norms campaign, with information distributed on campus and throughout the East Lansing community.

Action Partner with Michigan State University to create an annual Calendar of Events, that highlights City and MSU sponsored meetings, events, festivals, etc.

Action Identify gathering spaces for students/community members to meet within walking distance of campus.

Additionally, there were some items from the Steering Committee's discussion that are being introduced to other steering committees to work on more directly, as they are more relevant to their charges as a Steering Committee. They are:

Obstacles to living and working in East Lansing

- Limited Commercial Development (Economic Sustainability Steering Committee)
- Transportation (auto and non-auto) Environment Deficiencies (Transportation, Environment Sustainability, and Infrastructure Steering Committee)

Things that could make someone disengaged

- Diversity of housing, events, shopping, etc. (will be addressed by multiple groups)

There are items in the existing goals and objectives that partially address these items, but they will be further worked on by their respective steering committees. Additionally, we expect that other Steering Committees will have items to refer to the Human Dignity group for their February meeting.

Committee Responses

When you think of diversity what are the top four things that you think of?

Diversity is:

- Different Groups of People, based on:
 - Age
 - Ethnicity/Race
 - Religion
 - Economic Status
- Inclusive of All

Responses:

- Asset
- Knowledge/skills
- Occupation
- Economic status
- Wealth
- Activities
- Different groups of people
- Neighborhoods
- Race (x2)
- Ethnicity
- Culture
- Religion
- Age (x3)
- Enhancing
- Inclusive
- Inviting
- Open
- Strength
- Equality
- Accepting

What are the top four obstacles you experience to living or working in the City of East Lansing?

Obstacles to living and working in East Lansing are:

- Cost and Diversity of Housing
- Limited Commercial Development
- Transportation (automobile and non-auto) Environment Deficiencies
- Excessive Socially Unacceptable Behavior

Responses:

- Climate

- Fireworks
- Vandalism
- Excessive noise
- Some student behavior
- Totally dominated by students
- Cost
- Lack of entry level housing
- Limited collaboration with campus/surrounding communities
- Absence of quality services
- Variety of local business
- Lack of retail
- Absence of quality arts
- Limited entertainment/shopping options
- Transportation
- City doesn't embrace what it is - wants to be Ann Arbor
- Traffic patterns (lack of safe walking/biking)
- Parking
- Traffic (safety for foot traffic)

What are the top four things that you can think of that could make you feel disengaged with a community?

Things that could make someone disengaged:

- Lack of effective communication from the City and/or Neighborhood Leaders
- Town/Gown and Public School/Town relations
- Enforcement issues
- Diversity of housing, events, shopping, etc.

Responses:

- Sense of safety
- Community events
- "I just work here" - can't afford to live here
- Senior needs seen to be ignored
- Absence of sufficient daily income to acceptable goods
- Sometimes confusing traffic and routes
- Pace
- Heavy enforcement with no personal touch
- Neighborhood association doesn't meet
- Lack of mass communication
- Effective communication
- Nothing engaging for residents
- Lack of commerce for people other than students
- Lack of cooperation/collaboration between city and campus
- Harshness of attitudes towards students
- Emphasis on students

- No MSU connection
- Disjunction between East Lansing School boundaries and East Lansing City limits
- Impersonal responses from city departments

What are the top four things you think of when you think of what public service means to you?

Public Service Means:

- Working towards the public good
- Taking a participating role throughout the community
- Educating yourself about government and activities

Responses:

- Ensure access to the public good
- Looking out for your fellow man
- Better snow removal in neighborhoods
- Tree maintenance
- Safety
- Willingness to learn about candidates opinions/plans
- Facilitate civic engagement and commitment
- Community education of ordinances and policies
- Transparent
- Accessible
- Listening
- Opportunity
- Helping the community
- Personally participating in civic activities
- Action
- Giving to the community
- Being aware of important needs

What are the four things you think of when you think of what it means to you to be a citizen?

A Citizen Is:

- Committed to the community
- Engaged in the community
- Socially responsible
- Informed and Active

Responses:

- Generous
- Responsibility
- Instinctive for children and family to be socially responsible
- Looking out for others
- Participation

- Engaged
- What the community will be like in the future
- Active
- Civic participation
- Obligation
- A commitment to helping improve the community
- Commitment
- Offering groups or individuals information
- Obeying the laws and working to change the ones that don't work
- Follow rules and ordinances
- Working towards a government of the people, by the people and for the people
- Maintaining oversight over public officials

Comments from Human Dignity Subcommittee Discussion-10/14/2013

-The City could create festivals that engage the Student Population more/Perhaps there are specific activities/competitions for students only

(Example: Petoskey Open House)

-The City and University could work together to create a gathering space for students to meet within the downtown/walking distance to campus. This meeting space could facilitate discussion; provide a resource for studying; etc. Perhaps vacant/unused spaces in the City or in nearby places of worship could be utilized

-The City and University could work together to create an annual Calendar of Events, that highlights City and University meetings, events, festivals, etc.

-The City and University could work together to create a Social Justice or Social Norms Campaign, and provide cross promotion regarding the campaign (ideas: 'I Count' Campaign; Free Hugs/Free Compliments to participants)

-The City could highlight/expand the "Welcome Center" located in the 500 block of Grand River Avenue. Many residents are not aware that this office exists. Perhaps better signage is needed to the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau "Welcome Center" site

- City Council/City Staff could work together to support a Youth Advisory Council in which teenage residents are asked to become engaged in ongoing projects/activities

Noted Goal: To shape the place (East Lansing) to benefit the community and improve residents' sense of worth and well-being

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