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**Meeting Minutes  
City of Fort Collins  
Futures Committee  
Regular Meeting  
300 LaPorte Ave, City Hall  
September 14, 2011  
4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

*Representing Colorado State University*  
Martin Shields, Ph. D.

*Council representatives:*

Gerry Horak  
Wade Troxell

*Staff:*

Darin Atteberry  
Bruce Hendee

**Organization**

1. The meeting convened at 4:15PM.
2. The meeting minutes from the 8-24-11 meeting were approved.

**Following is a summary description of the conversation**

1. Gerry asked what kind of econometric tools do we have to work with.
2. Martin suggest a good resource would be a book by an economist from Harvard, Ed Glaser, Triumph of the City
3. Martin indicated it is hard to maintain vitality based on the competition for intelligent people. The point was that success comes a cascading system of attracting intelligent people, which then leads to an inflow of more talent. Fort Collins is having success in this arena due in a significant part to CSU. A clear threat though is if the funding begins to wane. This is a clear threat based on shrinking state and national funding.
4. Wade and Gerry both wanted to know what models are available for long term prognostication. Martin indicated this was a difficult question because of disruptive innovation and the tendency for rapid market shifts based on new and transformative innovations

5. The question was posed by the group “ What does it take to attract the young entrepreneur? What does the environment look like?”
  - Density
  - Quality of Life
  - Bicycles and an ability to bicycle to work and play
  - Younger generation is looking for experience as much as income.
6. Another question posed was” What are the policies the City needs to implement to facilitate entrepreneurs?
  - a. Martin suggested a company/ group called SAGE consisting of former technology people
7. Another probing question: “What made the Breweries happen?
8. one point of consensus was Fort Collins has done a great job of leveraging its assets; young people, university, RMI, downtown, culture etc.
9. A suggestion coming from the meeting was to convene a meeting of entrepreneurs and ask them why they started a business in Fort Collins.
10. Some key considerations the group felt were important:
  - An encouraging public entity and public processes
  - Diversity – Since many of the professionals trained at CSU are international students, keeping them here after graduation is difficult because they do not have the cultural setting to make them comfortable.
  - Attracting and keeping the right people has three interrelated components:
    - a. Intellectual Capital
    - b. Cultural Capital
    - c. International entrepreneurs