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April 1, 2010

**Memorandum**

TO: Mayor Hutchinson and City Councilmembers

TH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager   
Diane Jones, Deputy City Manager 

FM: Joe Frank, Advance Planning Director   
Ken Waido, Chief Planner   
Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning and Special Projects 

RE: Work Session Summary – March 23, 2010 - Update on Phase 1 of the Plan Fort Collins Planning Process

**Work Session Participants:**

Diane Jones, Deputy City Manager  
Joe Frank, Advance Planning Director  
Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning and Special Projects  
Ben Herman, Principal and Vice President, Clarion Associates  
Lesli Ellis, Principal, Clarion Associates

**Direction Sought/Question to be Answered:**

Related to the Plan Fort Collins planning process:

**Values:**

Are there values missing within the current City “values” in *Snapshot* report?

**Ideas as Foundation for Phase 2:**

Does the list of ideas submitted to the Council include the right mix for study? Are any missing?

**Key Discussion Points:**

1. Provide an update on Phase 1 of the Plan Fort Collins process.
2. Seek Council’s input on values and the list of ideas for next phases of Plan Fort Collins.
3. Discuss ongoing public outreach and next steps.

### **Council's Discussion/Direction:**

Presented below are the comments and questions on the topics raised by Council members during the March 23 work session. Staff responses to these questions and comments will be forwarded to the Council before the May 25 work session.

1. Need to have close coordination and alignment between the Plan Fort Collins process, the Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) process, and the Resourcing our Future process, in terms of consistent language, topics covered, and results. This will be important if a decision is made to seek approval from the voters for additional taxes in November.
2. What is actually meant by "sustainability" and does it include the "triple-bottom-line" approach of the term as used in the *Snapshot* report and the City's current definition as contained on the City's website?
3. May want to consider whether the *Snapshot* report should also include discussion as to what hasn't worked.
4. The topical area of "Natural Areas, Parks, and Recreation" needs to be expanded to include Open Space.
5. In reporting information to the public, do not report such information based on a "sampling" of data. Information needs to be based on a thorough analysis of all data.
6. Clarification is needed on what is meant by a "clean job" and a "high quality job" related to the triple-bottom-line of sustainability.
7. Challenge: Taller buildings. What will be acceptable, 10 stories, 4 stories, or what? Will depend on location and design. Human scale aspect needs to be strongly considered in order to convey the idea that height isn't the only consideration.
8. Need a better understanding of what is meant by "balancing growth and conservation of natural resources." Need a better understanding of the interrelationships between economy and the environment.
9. There were questions related to the potential use of open space for flood prevention and energy production. May be prohibited based on open space tax ballot language. Current City policy documents may be silent on the use of open space for flood prevention and energy production subject.
10. What is meant by "Long-term financial viability and maintaining a long-term balance between land conservation and stewardship"? Long-term financial viability is not mentioned in any other issue.
11. Missing Value: Protect the remaining natural areas in and around Fort Collins.
12. Please clarify what the *2010 Natural Areas Strategic Plan* is.
13. The listed value, "Leveraging community strengths for economic benefit" is not "new;" it is an on-going effort that needs to go to the "next level."
14. In the effort to expand public input to include "youth dialog," groups dealing with "early childhood" issues need to be added, as well as CSU students.
15. It should be clearer that the Top 5 lists for "Keep" and "Different" are not in any hierarchical order (order of importance).
16. Issues that are currently underemphasized: hazardous materials; waste reduction (not just recycling); the importance of CSU and federal labs for economic development; the barriers to redevelopment, including the rules for compatibility; gentrification and the

- potential loss of affordable housing, including mobile home parks; and information regarding “growth paying for itself.”
17. Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) needs to be included in conversations about utilities and the environment.
  18. The concept of a shared grid is important and will require cooperation with Fort Collins’ sister cities within PRPA.
  19. There are no comments on retrofitting of existing buildings to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases.
  20. “Para-transit” needs to be included in the “public transit” category.
  21. Need to add into the plan the issue of “water storage” in addition to existing issues of conservation, water supply, water quality, minimum flows in the Poudre, etc.
  22. Plan Fort Collins language should avoid value laden terms such as “growth” of the community. Use value neutral statements in the document.
  23. Need to preserve “employment land” for the long term and not give in to short term landowner requests to respond to a current market condition.
  24. How is the diversion rate of recyclables measured? Questions about 33% reduction estimates. Recycling is only one factor...first reduce, second reuse, and third recycle. The City may be able to do more with the management of hazardous materials. Does the City’s Climatewise Program include reduction of hazardous materials?
  25. The history of the 2005 paradigm shift for economic health needs to be expanded and reworded to reflect the values of a unique community in a changing world.
  26. Can input from City boards and commissions in the future be distilled to cover the unified statements and the different statements?
  27. What is meant by, “Address future management and uses along the Poudre River.” Will the thoughts from a diversified group that worked through the UniverCity Connections process be included?
  28. What steps can be taken to ensure that there is a balance and variety of view points within the Focus Groups?
  29. The *Snapshot* report that states commercial buildings are built for a 40-year life cycle; is this supportive of our sustainability efforts? Are there things the City can do to lengthen that period of time (not meant to indicate the City needs new regulations)?
  30. What are “green corridors”?
  31. “Work regionally to maintain open space corridors” should be reworded to include, “preserve, maintain, and enhance” open space corridors.
  32. Has the protection of environmental concerns become so ingrained in current processes that they don’t need to be continuously mentioned in the *Snapshot* Report? Such concepts as fragmentation of open space, movement corridors, etc., need to be reinforced.
  33. Should NISP be listed as the only resource for “more information” about the Poudre River?
  34. How is the City going to deal with the fundamental electronic bed rocks of an emerging democracy?
  35. Will there be a “scorecard” eventually to monitor the success of implementation of *City Plan* and the *Transportation Master Plan*?
  36. Concern was expressed about the emphasis/obsession on “assuring long term financial viability” and the uncertainty of open space funding of the Natural Areas Program. Staff needs to plan to have a Council work session briefing on long term stewardship issues.

37. Community gateways need to be constructed, as they are important to establish the character of the community.

In summary, the Council was unanimous that the Plan Fort Collins process is off to a good start, and the decisions are going in the right direction in terms of topics, involvement of the public, etc.

**Next Steps:**

- A revised *Snapshot* report will be completed by mid-April; staff still needs to obtain input from Focus Groups, on-line surveys, etc.
- Focus Groups will meet to discuss more specific topics.
- In May, the Council another update will be provided on the Plan Fort Collins process, and staff will report back on the questions and comments raised at the March 23 work session.