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**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT COLLINS
FUTURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: August 10, 2015
Location: CIC Room, City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave
Time: 4:00–6:00pm

Committee Members Present:

Wade Troxell, Chair
Kristin Stephens
Gino Campana

Committee Members Absent:

City Staff:

Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer
Darin Atteberry, City Manager (arrived 5:07)
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager (arrived 5:00)
Dianne Tjalkens, Admin/Board Support
Katy Bigner, Environmental Planner
Lucinda Smith, Environmental Services Director
Lisa Rosintoski, Utilities Customer Connections Manager
Carol Webb, Water Resources/Treatment Operations Manager

Invited Guests:

Community Members:

Kevin Jones, Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce
Dale Adamy, citizen

Wade Troxell called meeting to order at 4:07pm

Chairman Comments: Wade explained Futures Committee perspective to presenter. Focus is horizontal, and checking the vector rather than near term.

Approval of Minutes:

Gino moved to approve the July minutes as presented. Kristin seconded.
Motion passed unanimously, 3-0-0.

Future Agendas Discussion: None.

Think Tank Item 7-2015: Climate Resilience—Katy Bigner

Focus on mitigation since the late 90s and global response to reduce GHG emissions. Looking at what actions can be taken to minimize impacts of climate change—adaptation. Resilience is capacity to survive, adapt, and grow despite stressors and shocks, including economic

downturns, terrorism, natural disaster, etc. Looking at how communities can adapt to climate change impacts already experiencing or likely to experience in the future. State of Colorado likely to release adaptation plan this fall, with large focus on water planning. Resiliency is both bouncing back and bouncing forward: stronger, healthier community. Seven key resiliency assets developed by Rockefeller Institute: reflective, resourceful, inclusive, integrated, robust, redundant, and flexible. Resilience scorecard allows communities to review policy, information, organization, social, economic, etc. aspects of disaster event resilience. Ex: 2013 floods—stormwater system performed as designed. Fort Collins climate is ideal now. Preparation helps to protect quality of life in future. Key areas of vulnerability include: our homes, natural environment, ability to recreate, outdoor workers, children and elderly, and business challenges. Projected climate changes include warmer summers, declines in snowpack, earlier spring runoff, declines in soil moisture, declines in water availability and quality, poorer air quality, and potential for less precipitation. Intensity and severity of severe storms is likely to increase, with greater chance of extended droughts and severe wildfires. Businesses and residents rely on water supply, natural amenities and local water features; low income and vulnerable populations will have less capacity to deal with challenges of extreme events and long term changes. Urban Land Institute did study on building resilience resulting in three main recommendations to communities: 1. Building resilience: regional approach to land use, infrastructure, housing, aggressive floodplain management; 2. Financing Resilience: reclamation of floodplain, emergency assistance structures, infrastructure finance, integrated economic development strategy, small business preparation; 3. Leading Resilience: regional working group, annual summit, hardening and creating redundancies for regional communication, education and engagement with stakeholders. The City already is seeking additional water storage (Halligan), collaborating regionally on fire related issues, creating wildfire response plans, implementing low impact development practices, has an ongoing stormwater program, has office of emergency management that cooperates with regional partners, and is participating in regional and national dialogues, and integrating and adaptation strategies into the Climate Action Plan Implementation (additional consideration). Next Steps/Needs: we have identified areas of vulnerability and risk, in good position to move to implementation. Opportunities to fold adaptation into asset management. Extreme event planning this fall for wildfire smoke and extreme heat. Developing collaborative relationships with Larimer County, PSD, UCH, Health District, etc. Staff will continue to monitor the climate science for improved modelling and projections.

Comments/Q & A:

- Compliments to river health scorecard at leadership meeting. How to expand this across sustainability? Scorecard may be way to accomplish this. Holistic view of city.
- Take aways from climate resilience task force?
 - Task force was charged with providing guidance to federal government specific to this area. Collaboration. Strong need for infrastructure; water will be greatest climate change impact. Those recommendations folded into what was given to federal government.
- Broad brush of climate change has lost impact. How does it relate to Fort Collins? Implementation plan. Resilience is sensitivity analysis. Don't design just for X, but many other criteria. Likelihood of things happening. Could also not happen, or be worse. Increase "Air Bands." CSU has NIST resilient communities grant around infrastructure. Also, performance standards as opposed to code standards. Related to water, NSF urban water data. Water Innovation Cluster: how to do demonstration projects? Ag to Urban, grey water demos, etc. In near term move toward resilient infrastructure.
 - Finer details of planning include scenario planning. Utilities is familiar in planning for extremes, thresholds, etc. Thresholds are good for looking at impacts, best management practices, infrastructure, services, projects, etc.

- Communication is important. Also important to have science and engineering backup. River Health report has a lot of modelling for backup. Need robust modelling to do what-if analysis, which supports decision making.
- What do we need to do better? Ex: 6° hotter summers.
 - Fort Collins will be more like Albuquerque. How do we think of our vulnerable communities if mid-90°s become more average summer temperatures? Haven't had many extreme heat events. Could also happen in May or June before people are acclimated to summer temperature change. Can also be related to fire events. Climate change likely to exacerbate existing issues. Ex: Not having housing for emergency personnel who then have to commute. Will have greater challenges if don't address issues now.
 - Where do we start? How do we express this to the public without being too doomsday? How do we get them on board to be more resilient?
 - Tendency to jump to an answer as opposed to understanding more. Create a platform for demonstration. Ex: Network that instruments the Poudre River watershed. If instrument and look at various parameters and get ground truthing, modelling for climate change is not grounded in testifiable data. How do you verify? Create platform that does monitoring of trends based on critical parameters of this community. Have rain gauge network throughout community. Partner with John Van de Lindt, and Bruce Ellingwood.
 - Social context is where some of biggest gaps in data collection are. Ex: How many people going to ER with heat related illness? No one is collecting that data. Collaboration to help City and organizations for planning and responding for air quality and health impacts. Don't have a lot of influence.
- Look at objective behind notion of resiliency. Brilliant because pulls out of weeds; objective is to save lives and money. Be multidimensional. Difference between resilience and climate change. When focus on climate change have fall-off of people who don't align with that discussion. If we want to be resilient versus vulnerable, most people will agree that is best. Climate change data isn't there. Not sure want to spend time on climate change issue. Framework for resiliency is good. Ex: Designing road with more than soil conditions and weight bearing in mind. If include redundancy, flexibility, etc. then you build a better road/become better engineer. Most solutions are grass roots and not being shared between communities. Federal government could be collaborator to fund meetings to share design ideas. Responsibility to share our learning with other communities that may be struggling. Designing for resiliency is exciting. Climate change derails conversation.
 - Engineers need to change design processes to accommodate TBL. Design charrette framework. That is practice that will yield outcomes. Seeing that with LEED building designs, etc.
 - Regional meeting with CDOT for grants included discussion of affordable housing. How is that part of grant for interstate? They are trying to be more holistic in designs. Metrics and real data are used to make decisions. How do you get out of your silos to look at this from a resilience perspective? Ex: How is the bus stop installed so you have a low stress walk to the bus stop? How is Nature in the City impacted by a new road?
 - If we start losing the idea of climate change are we burying our head in the sand? Need to mitigate and prepare for what may happen.

- If climate change is component of resiliency, still accomplish goal of saving lives and money and begin resilient community. Are we trying to do better design or convince people of temperature changes?
 - Other venues for discussions outside of action.
 - Make sure Fort Collins is part of Civil Infrastructure conversations.
- Can compare our innovation and design of stormwater system, which was designed to be resilient.
 - Need to envision what the possibilities are to design for resilience.
- How much have we worked with PSD, etc.?
 - Have preparedness plans and regional engagement.
 - Ex: Need for greater dialogue, in 2012 fires had air quality advisory. Parks and Recreation struggled with making decisions on cancelling programs. How do you make decisions around reducing liability, informing parents, etc.? Focused workshop this fall to talk about extreme heat and fire as a service provider. Need to coordinate with whole organization. Also opportunity to work with PSD for the programs they are offering.
- If apply seven design principles, all of these apply. Adds dimensions to how problems are solved. How do you apply at onset of a program, at roll out?
 - Opportunities at onset of projects. Programs harder because ongoing. Continuous improvement. Opportunities in Sustainability Assessment Tool.
 - Have Climate Action Plan. Talked to CMAP group on campus. Point was to recognize the engagement the group has with the City to bring awareness. Have other activities like ClimateWise which engages businesses.
- What do we need to do for vulnerable populations for extreme events, etc.?
 - Challenge for extreme events is less than optimal buildings now. Make home safer. Weatherization is important for more severe or intense storms. Larimer County Conservation Corps has programs to help citizens weatherize. Quantity of housing is another issue. Have opportunity to offer programs that assist residents and businesses in these events. Hotter summers have challenges; weatherization will help with that too.
- Effect on affordable housing?
 - When first responders don't live in community serving and have to commute, makes community vulnerable. Don't live there because of affordability issues.
 - So not affordable housing, but housing that is affordable.
 - True, spectrum. But if not keeping up affordable housing, have hazards.
 - Review design of these structures, not number of structures.
 - When take too big of a swath, gets diluted. Looking at objective of saving lives and dollars. Example of people in community who are first responders makes sense. But don't want umbrella too big.
 - Social side is not crystal clear and is newest area of focus. At land use level probably specific actions to address, like district heating, water reuse, block scale; closer view includes building codes. Get concrete. Lower income and affordable housing discussion around manufactured housing to create zone district for manufactured homes. Would like richer housing stock, less temporary. Another community is doing tiny homes. (Colorado Springs). Land use level changes.
 - This framework looks at inclusivity and integration. Every CAP team has someone from each pillar of Sustainability.

- Manufactured housing project on Harmony: apply these principles. Is it reductant? No. Only one way in and out. So how do we get first responders in? How robust is water/sewer system? Apply this lens to affordable housing stock we have. Still struggling with how we use this to drive the number of affordable housing units we have in the city. How do you make that stock resilient?
 - What about homeless families? They will be very vulnerable during extreme events.
 - How do we have redundancy to aid them?
 - TBL is important. Framework test this.
 - Having high quality affordable housing makes our community more resilient.
 - And saves us money.
 - Impacts community if housing stock cannot weather a storm.
 - Redtail Ponds is good example of quality affordable housing.

DO: Next Steps

- Explore River Health Scorecard as relates to metrics, sustainability, CAP implementation.
- Use scorecard and 7 key elements to revise SAT.
- Follow up with John Van de Lindt, and Bruce Ellingwood at CSU and water utilities for resilient infrastructure.
- Combine with EHO on innovation, adaptation, and resiliency.
- Metrics around resilience: data, thresholds, monitoring (social, economic, environmental)
- Bolster regional collaboration. (Katy will send ULI study via Dianne)
- Framing resilience—balance preparedness and resilience with climate change.
- Share our designs and successes with others.
- Lucinda working with Boulder. Recipient of 100 resilient Cities. Exchange opportunities.

Future Agenda Items

- Jeff Mihelich will take over staff liaison role for Jackie Kozak-Thiel for the September and October meetings. Calendar for 2015 includes:
 - September: Smart Cities and SUAS
 - October: Broadband removed, replaced by Art of Neighboring; Periodic Review Process/Citizen Engagement Strategies
 - November: Volunteerism (new coordinator); 2016 Agenda Planning
 - December: no meeting
 - January: Arts and Culture
 - February: Diversity and Inclusivity
- If any requests around upcoming topics, points want speakers to be prepared to talk about, send to Jackie.
- *For the Love of Cities* author, Peter Kageyama is coming to Fort Collins. Could Futures Committee meet with him? (additional meeting)
 - Darin and Jackie will coordinate meeting.
 - Seed ideas for 2016 meetings from discussion with Peter.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.