

Retreat Minutes

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Chris Janku, Paul Sturtz, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe

Staff Present: Bill Watkins, Tony St. Romaine, Toni Messina, Carol Rhodes and Sheela Amin

Press: Missouriian reporter (2) and Kat Hughes, Columbia Daily Tribune

Thursday, June 5, 2008 – Terrace Meeting Room

7:45 p.m. Session I: Vision Implementation and Oversight

The City Manager stated that the vision discussion will focus on how we move forward with the vision implementation. He indicated that Paula has carried us this far in the vision process and, due to an extended leave of absence, Toni Messina has taken over coordination of the vision project until Paula's return. The city has also hired a consultant, Sarah Read, to assist with the implementation process.

Ms. Read provided an overview on the vision implementation and oversight process. Her presentation focused on how we complete the work that hasn't been done. She indicated a workshop is planned for July.

Ms. Read outlined the themes presented in the City Manager's state of the city and how they tie into the vision plan. One of those themes is that we need to help those that are hurting – interconnecting the community. We are one community – services for all.

Ms. Read distributed a handout – CVC. She raised the question as to the CVC and whether it should be referred to as "Community" vision plan or "Columbia" vision plan. She explained the graphic – the small gear that will help everything else work better; helps things turn by tracking and monitoring data.

Ms. Read suggested narrative progress reports to help citizens understand the progress being made on the vision process. She also suggested developing training for community leaders and a web site dedicated to CVC. Both of these suggestions are in the concept stage and we may want to consider utilizing interns as a resource to assist with these projects.

Ms. Read provided a second handout which identified who would serve on the CVC and she reviewed the criteria for the CVC members. She presented her ideas for a draft working group.

The City Manager stated that Ms. Read outlined a general process for how we move forward with the vision implementation and how we might get there. He asked for Council's thoughts on this process.

Ms. Read outlined the implementation steps – do even basic, original draft – groupings, inventory, assignments; draft an ordinance for public comment; and, identify "low-hanging fruit" – quick series of success – things that can be accomplished in 6-9 months. Given city resources, what are the needs: short, immediate, and long-term.

Council (Mr. Wade) asked what the catalyst will be to get people working on implementation and pointed out that the CVC will need to address organization catalyst.

The City Manager summarized tonight's discussion: meeting scheduled in July to convene a "bally-hoo"; as a staff, we will be putting together an implementation proposal. He stressed that there is a lot happening and we are doing a lot of what is outlined in the vision plan already.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Friday, June 6 - Lookout Room

8:30 a.m. Session II: Natural Resources Inventory Presentation

Timothy Halthcoat, University of Missouri, provided an update regarding the natural resources inventory project (see notebook for presentation). The target date for completion is September/October. Web interface is outside the scope of service and would require additional funding.

There was discussion about how often the data will be updated (flyover every three years) and what, if any, additional funding is needed to expand the program.

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Session III: Land Disturbance Issues

John Glascock reviewed current land disturbance ordinance.

Flip chart notes:

- (1) Land cleared prior to rezoning
- (2) Prior to plan approval
- (3) Clear entire site
- (4) Little effort to conform to the natural contour
- (5) Preservation of top soil – dirt piles
- (6) Height and restrictions on stock piles
- (7) Temporary erosion control not MAINTAINED
- (8) Look at purpose of changing contours
- (9) Tree preservation put in back
- (10) Goal is to increase canopy
- (11) Flexibility in landscaping plan
- (12) What are we trying to achieve with tree preservation?
- (13) Facilitate peoples contribution to tree preservation for big areas
- (14) Grading/clearing connection to a development that's going to take place (zoning)
- (15) Favors Ten Towns Committee ordinance
- (16) Deal with issues as a package NOT individual pieces. **Highlight this point.**
- (17) Sensitive to economics of tree preservation
- (18) EEC and Stakeholder's/Task Force review; Charge Task Force with addressing Council's goals

Council asked staff to summarize this discussion – above and prepare a formal report for Council consideration at formal Council meeting.

11:25 p.m. Session III (B): City Land Acquisition Plans

Hood reviewed the goals for the parkland and open space acquisition established in 2002 city's parks and recreation master plan. He also reviewed:

- The commitments approved by the voters in a previous ballot issue.
- Classifications: Neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and trails and greenbelt.
- Provided a summary of the 2008 Neighborhood Parks Plan (Master Plan – 2008 update)

Hood reviewed the available funding for park acquisition - \$862,199 in addition to the anticipated future funding commitments of \$1.1million over the next three years (FY09-FY11). (*funds committed as part of the most recent park sales tax ballot issue).

Hood reviewed the available funding for greenbelt/trail – available balance of \$257,866 with anticipated future funding \$430,000 over the next three years (FY09-FY11). (*funds committed as part of the most recent park sales tax ballot issue)

Nausier asked what it costs to maintain a neighborhood park. Hood indicated it costs approximately \$7,000 a year. Nausier asked if we want to focus more on larger parks that serve a larger section of the community versus a neighborhood park.

Wade suggested we may need to add a fourth category to the neighborhood parks, community parks and regional parks to include "Habitat preservation" known as "natural areas".

Hood reviewed the 2008 Trails Plan.

City Manager summarized what was presented to Council: a short-range plan through the end of the ballot issue (three more years) as to what land acquisition plan/strategy in the community. We are in good shape for bigger parks. Need to talk about if we proceed as outlined with the neighborhood parks. Greenbelt is still a little bit undetermined. The fourth piece, are there areas (use natural resources inventory) do we need a fourth category for public space which is "preservation" and then how do we do it.

Mayor stated the first step is to identify what they are and the challenges associated with it.

Wade expressed the need to start putting together a funding mechanism, and this needs to be done simultaneously. Begin conversations about possibility of "private transfer fee" and that could be county-wide. Need to find couple of additional sources and begin to accumulate so we can begin to make a big difference.

1:00 p.m. Session IV:

1. Growth Management Planning
2. Comprehensive Plan
3. Infrastructure Planning Process

City Manager stated that both sessions are continuation of last year's retreat discussion.

Teddy is interested in Council's ideas on how we can gain traction on the comprehensive plan. Then, Teddy made power point presentation. Presentation included staff preliminary recommendations pertaining to implementation of a growth management plan that incorporates "form-based zoning".

Wade encouraged staff to examine Souix Falls process.

Mr. Skala asked Tim to provide suggestions on naming options and nuances associated with it. One option might be Land Resources Management versus Growth Management

Nauser expressed the need to pull all plans together into one. Need to focus on big picture and asked if we had spoken with the County about integrating information.

Tim pointed out that the two Planning and Zoning Commissions are working together.

Preliminary work could be done internally. Tim estimated it would take one year to build a Basic comprehensive plan. This plan would be a policy neutral comprehensive plan. Then, launch effort for ordinance – 18 month timeline or longer.

Mayor suggested pulling together what we already have into one document (existing plans) and then when it's time get consultant to review form based planning.

Wade suggested beginning first five steps – plan of action and advancing to Council as quickly as possible.

There was Council consensus to move forward expeditiously.

The City Manager cautioned the Council about reopening acrimony associated with past Metro 2020 discussions.

The City Manager stated that Tim will need to come back quickly with a report – outlining scope of project. We will also need to talk about who and how that task force is appointed.

Session VI: Hot Topics

2:30 p.m. Crime Issues

Wade asked for preliminary numbers – allowing sergeants more time in the field, and any evidence that is actually occurring. Statistics are not currently available, however, should be available in the next couple of months.

Nausier – Regarding the two person pro-active team in Central Columbia – are those officers interacting with youth in area to have more personal level contact – knowing what they're doing in school.

Randy responded that they are not specifically in the schools.

Council asked how much community policing is occurring and the status.

Randy explained that Community Policing is a philosophy and not a program.

Paul referred to an incident on Tuesday night in which he pulled up on Sanford between Ash/Worley and there had been a drive by shooting. Everyone was pretty disappointed that it took a police car 10 minutes to show up and all of a sudden 4 squad cars pulled up.

Randy explained what happens when there is a slower response time.

Skala asked about the relationship the police department has with youth and school district. Does police have regular method or system to track truancy?

Randy indicated that we don't regularly check truancy rates but we're aware of the issue through the school resource officers. The School Resource Officers visit with the youth detectives on a regular basis.

3:40 p.m. Fire Territorial Agreement

The City Manager stated that between now and next January the Council will be hearing a lot about the fire territorial agreement. Today, the City Manager asked for direction to bring back a report or resolution directing the City Manager to send a letter to the district stating that we would like to cancel the agreement.

Fire Chief presented background, basic information regarding the fire department. He also reviewed 4.5 and 5 minute response areas with Station 9.

The City Manager explained what it is going to mean in terms of changing that agreement. Blue areas show response territory in BCFPD. Traditionally, payments have been doubling every two years. Likely, in five years protection for small areas could end up at \$1.2-1.5million per year. Payment is based upon assessed valuation per State statute.

The City Manager is suggesting that we pay the district based on response/services versus territory/accessed valuation. He indicated that we must give them 6 months notice if wish to discontinue the contract and we must do that now. In the meantime, he is proposing that the city and fire district negotiate an agreement. He reiterated that financially and politically the agreement cannot be structured in its current form. We are trying to provide the best response possible to our folks and maintain financial integrity.

4:30 p.m. Kyoto and Climate Change Issues

The City Manager indicated that he asked a local consultant to give him an idea of what it would cost and that information is included in the retreat packet. One of the suggestions is to sell carbon tax credits at the landfill. Question – are those general fund credits and how much revenue will be generated? One of the things we could start with is taking a piece or two of what consultant suggested – carbon footprint analysis and volunteer/task force to review "yellow brick road".

City Manager reported 7.5/ton and in 2008 that produced about \$450,000 in credits. Question then becomes who owns the credits.

Council is interested in starting the process - exploring initiative and utilized leftover Council contingency to fund consultant. Negotiate with consultant now and consider adding position later as part of budget discussions FY09. Identify what credits we have available.

Other communities have funded a sustainability director (city position) and made that position contingent on savings in terms of energy conservation. Job is contingent on outcome.

4:45 p.m. Affordable Housing Strategy

A complete copy of the Affordable Housing Policy Committee report (February 18, 2008) is included in the retreat notebook. One of the things identified in the Task Force Recommendations was to appoint an Affordable Housing advocate within the city structure.

City Manager raised the question as to whether or not the Council wanted to bring somebody on board and let that individual work out what their role is. The report made some general statements. Council is supportive of this position. Half of the position could be funded through CDBG and other half could be supported by local support/grants – banks. Nausier asked if could hire consultant to do this versus full-time city employee and Hoppe suggested an intern. Council asked staff to bring back alternatives.

5:07 p.m. Eco/Devo Issues

Councilman Skala announced that he attended NLC – economic development conference and would forward materials to Sheela for distribution to Council.

The City Manager stated that included in the notebook is an Economic Development white paper and report from REDI (review of business attraction and expansion projects FY97-07). He outlined a proposal that would significantly change the duties, goals, and structure of REDI and basically refocus/restructure future economic development efforts.

The City Manager explained that retooling REDI and increasing some of the resources particularly geared toward University partnerships both with research spin-offs and attracting companies that have an interest in partnering with the University will require some different skills that we have right now. The City contributes about \$350,000 to economic development.

To accomplish this, the City Manager is proposing the creation of a business ombudsmen directly under the City Manager's office so that when the word gets out that someone is looking at potential expansion or leaving we can cut through all of the city ties and see if we can make that happen.

The City Manager stated that Bernie's report also addressed the lack of "shovel-ready" sites and he is proposing to use electric reserves to purchase potential land sites. (\$34M reserve currently)

Lori Fleming stated that we are required by bond covenants to restrict certain reserves.

Council member Nausier stated she felt we needed to pursue all of the items included in Mr. Black's summary. Add to Mr. Black's summary the issue of incentives. She asked if we had developed a working plan/strategy with the University.

7:45 p.m. Work Force Issues

Margrace Buckler provided a status of pay/classification review. Next, Buckler reviewed compensation philosophy.

Next step would include staff developing options for a draft compensation policy; bring forward for Council discussion at a future work session.

Training and development of our employees is also important. Buckler reviewed the goals for training and development. Mayor suggested that we work with career center to develop a workforce development training program.

Wade commented that it is absolutely essential we move forward on these issues.

The City Manager pointed out this is a budget item.

8:30 p.m. GetAbout Columbia

Mary Ellen Lea provided a GetAbout Columbia update. She briefed the Council on priorities – where we are and what we are doing.

Mary Ellen announced a neighborhood meeting to discuss trail, Twin Lakes to Stadium, at Twin Lakes shelter, on June 18, 5:30-7pm. She described the progress being made in the GetAbout project. A list of 20 Projects was included in the retreat notebook.

Mr. Janku wants the connection along Broadway between Stadium and Fairview moved up on the list. He doesn't understand why it didn't make the priority list.

Mary Ellen reviewed the financial status of the GetAbout Project – see handout.

The City Manager stated that what we would like at this point is for Council to discuss the process for how we get to the next stage.

Wade strongly suggested a meeting of the people affected by the potential project be held before the survey flags are placed. This meeting occurs before the IP meeting.

City Manager - Schedule a meeting in each ward in the next 4-6 weeks – appropriate step that is missing. Ted, Steve Saitta and Dave Nichols were present at Wade's meeting – created solid base of information and a meeting to describe the process.

City Manager - Before Council discussion of top project and what we should be doing, schedule ward meeting to review process and projects in general with some focus on the projects we have determined are feasible. At that point, do we want to come back at a Council work session. At that point, come back with the projects Council determines are on the list and do the individual IP meetings.

Saturday, June 7

Council review of priorities:

Mayor	Comprehensive Plan (education component) Land disturbance (canopy/preservation) Zoning Reform Affordable Housing Natural Resources Inventory Downtown Sasaki report/TIF Accomplish GetAbout Plan
Wade	Development policy – resources necessary Public safety Economic development Social Services Self development/training culture (city staff and city council) Explore available resources for small group design and facilitation Move Affordable Housing ahead with existing resources and move to higher priority next year
Skala	Educational component of growth management planning Economic development Public safety – street crime unit Ballenger/Clark Lane (multi-jurisdictional)
Hoppe	Sustainability; energy efficiency; conservation person; programs: demand side management \$1/month added on W/L bill for sustainability/energy efficiency

Sturtz Career Center (First Ward); close to Douglass High School
Building consensus (policy/procedure)
Black Historic District

Nauser Crime Issues/Youth: engagement with youth in community: youth summit or youth commission – seed money to move this along.

Janku Check off utility assistance: increase promotion of program and \$ for assistance
Community appearance – landscaping
New relationship with School Board

Following Council priority input, City Manager reviewed:

Increase in CARE funding – encourage business community involvement; issue challenge to them.
Blind Boone Home
Employee wages/salary
Step up NRT activity – explore funding through enforcement fees, ie, receivership
Mass Transit system (busses) – funding issues

City Manager reviewed upcoming issues for June/July. Issues include: employee wages (pre-Council), NRI (October), GetAbout, Water Master Plan and potential ballot issue. City Manager asked for Council input on how we attack the above list.

Council member Nauser described her approach to working more effectively, including Council meetings. Such as, separate public hearing/meeting on controversial matters; council comment section – consent agenda – staff input on what is appropriate for bringing up on agenda; three budget hearings – hold separate special meeting on the budget.

Mr. Janku suggested a review of how the budget work sessions are structured.

Mr. Wade suggested we adjust how the meetings take place – give Council a plan of work with a focus on questions.

Mr. Skala brought up the idea of subcommittees of the Council.

Council reviewed those items listed as possible charter amendments. It was suggested that the issue of Council compensation be tied into the 2010 census numbers.

Meeting adjourned at approximately noon.