

# imagine **Columbia's** future!

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## Governance and Decision Making

### Meeting Minutes

3/14/2007

West Junior High School 401 Clinkscales Road

**DRAFT**

Co-Facilitators: Tim Klocko, Jo Sapp

Support Staff: Marilyn Starke

Attendance: James Robert, Tina Bernskoetter, Peg Miller, Larry Schuster, Larry Grossmann, John Schultz, John Clark, Tim Klocko, Mahree Skala, Doug Simmons, Khesha Duncan, Kelly Jo Woodson, Alyce Turner, Nancy Harter, *Elaine Blodgett, Marlon Jordan, Elizabeth Holden*

*Absent: Jon Dudley, Tracy Greever-Rice, Elizabeth Kerry, Trisha Lee, Maria Oropallo, Ron Tooley, Bruce Wallace, David Webber*

*Next meeting: April 4, 2007*

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Corrections offered and accepted; minutes approved.

### **I. Key Meeting Discussion Topics**

Jo Sapp distributed the Vision Flyers and asked members to pass around town.

Jo explained the green sheet E, Exploring the Vision Workshop, will be our focus this evening, preparing for this workshop on April 4, which will be open to the public.

Jo explained that the public will be invited in to "rate" all the goal statements, from all the groups, on a scale of 1-5. This is being done to get a feel from the public if they think our goals are on the right track.

Tim reviewed the Project Deliverables Summary Sheet – Tonight's goal is to firm up the goals and develop the strategies to go along with these goals.

Although we are working in subgroups right now we need to remember that we will come back together as a whole.

Tim then reviewed sheet A and explained that the goals drafted had been reviewed for grammar and refined. This was not meant to change the intent and if we feel strongly we can change again.

Tim reviewed an example of how one of the goals had been modified to simplify and condense the information.

The question was asked why two goals had been combined into one and it was explained that it was really a volume issue that the facilitator group did not want the goals/strategies to become so large that it is overwhelming.

Tim encouraged the group to work on prioritizing the strategies this evening.

Tim handed out the revised goal statements for each subgroup to review and determine if they agree or want further revisions.

The group broke out into subgroups to work on the goal statements.

Revised Goal statements and strategies:

**Responsiveness:**

Revised Goal: The community will have confidence in City government, and there will be clear and open communication between City officials, City staff and the public.

Final Accepted Goal:

The community will have confidence in City government because there will be clear and open communication between elected officials, City staff, and the public.

Strategies:

1. Establish clear lines of communication between citizens, elected officials, and City staff through an advertised, designated person who records, tracks, and assesses responses within a specific timeframe (such as 72 hours).
2. Communication and customer service plans and systems should be established in every City department, including a tracking system under the oversight of a designated staff person so the public's inquiries and issues are resolved.
3. Create a computerized tracking and communication system for City permitting processes that enables all City departments involved, and the permit requester, to track the progress of inspections and City decisions.

**Citizen involvement:**

Revised Goal:

The City process will be reformed with the goal of hearing the voices of people through citizen boards and commissions that better represent the neighborhoods of Columbia, minorities, and people of all walks of life.

Final Accepted Goal:

The City process will be reformed with the goal of hearing the voices of people through citizen boards and commissions and neighborhood associations that better represent the neighborhoods of Columbia, minorities, and people of all walks of life.

Strategies:

Below is a comprehensive way citizens can be involved in their neighborhoods and city. City staff assistance and resources need to be given for:

1. There should be an active neighborhood association in every "neighborhood" – Neighborhood needs to be defined. This would be comprised of all or any individuals residing in the neighborhoods with their own set of guidelines, elect their own officers and have an active online list serve for communication on neighborhood matters and how city affects the neighborhood.

2. The present appointed City Commissions and Boards should be changed with each Commission or Board being selected from neighborhood associations or through a ward process – suggestion: neighborhood associations would be asked for volunteers and somehow lottery system or way people can serve when they want to not have people selected over and over (everyone should have a chance to serve).
3. Have advisory neighborhood commissions elected in areas designated throughout the city (look at model used in Washington, DC). They would meet monthly with citizens on agenda topics and various city issues affecting their neighborhood and advisory commissions would make reports to City Council. Everyone should have a chance to serve on a City Board and/or Commission if they want to.

**Structure:**

Revised Goal: The City government shall adopt a transparent structure that is so responsive, accountable, inclusive, equitable, and effective that other cities in the nation will seek to emulate our model.

Final Accepted Goal: (accepted as is)

Strategies:

1. The City must establish a system of ongoing critical analysis in a standard format including reviews of the activities of boards, commissions and task forces.
2. Increase the size of the Council and provide compensation and other supports.
3. Determine the best way to finance City operations, improvements, and infrastructure over the next 20 – 25 years by appointing a tax base task force to study and recommend the best tax base.

**II. Motions and Votes**

*(Summarize any motions and state the vote outcome)*

*None*

**III. Actions to be Taken**

If subgroups plan to meet, contact Jo or Tim for instructions and posting of the meeting requirements.