

Originator
Planning

Item

Progress update on Forward 2040 comprehensive plan update

Date
8/25/2016

Description

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: City of Bloomington

Request: Study Item – Progress update on Forward 2040 comprehensive plan update

BACKGROUND

This spring, staff began the process of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan, which we are calling “Forward 2040.” As required by State Statutes, local comprehensive plans must be updated every ten years to ensure consistency with the Metropolitan Council’s regional “system plans,” which are also updated every ten years following each decennial census.

The update process will occur over a roughly 3-year period. The update must be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by December 31, 2018. In 2016, the focus has been on soliciting input from across the community regarding what people value most about Bloomington and what challenges and opportunities should be addressed. Our outreach efforts to engage the community to date have included:

- **Three town hall meetings** – these were facilitated discussions around the over-arching topics of sustainability; diversity and engagement; and community assets. Over 140 people attended these meetings. A summary of input received at these meetings is included in Attachment A.
- **Creation of a project webpage** that serves as a repository of information on the Forward 2040 project and engagement opportunities. It also includes a rotating question that people can respond to regarding what they value about Bloomington. Responses to the rotating questions were transformed into graphic “wordles,” which are included in Attachment B.
- **Social media** was used to inform residents of meetings, the online survey, the rotating questions, and to apply to be a member of the advisory committee. Staff will continue to use social media to promote meetings and events and as a way to receive feedback from the community.
- **Creation of an online survey** to gather input on what people feel should be the City’s highest priorities to focus on over the next 20-years. To date, 224 people have taken the survey, which officially closes on August 19. A summary of survey responses will be handed out at the meeting on August 25.
- **Information displays and input opportunities** at various community events, including: Bloomington farmers market, Music in the Parks, Summer Fete, and activities at Creekside Community Center. Staff will attend additional events this fall, including: Heritage Days, a pop-up farmer market in the South Loop District, and a meeting held in Spanish at Assumption Church.

- **Advisory Committee** – To assist staff in drafting the policies and priorities for the comprehensive plan update, the City Council directed staff to engage a citizen advisory committee. Half of the committee representatives will consist of Bloomington residents and/or business owners and half will be representatives of existing City commissions and boards. On August 11, the Planning Commission appointed Tom Goodrum to serve on the committee. To date, we have received 50 applications for the general citizen positions. The deadline for submitting applications is August 19. In September, the City Council will review the applications and appoint seven individuals to serve as the resident/business representatives.

Staff will present an overview of the information described above at the study meeting.

Another area of focus this year has been on compiling baseline existing conditions and trend information relative to the various comprehensive plan elements (e.g., land use, utilities, transportation, parks, housing). An update on this information will be provided at a study session later this fall.

Staff has also updated the forecasts for 2040 population, households, and employment to be used in Forward 2040. This information is the subject of a separate item to be presented at the August 25 study session.

STAFF CONTACT

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Requested Action

Informational only. Staff is looking for comments and questions regarding the information presented.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Town Hall Summaries
Attachment B - Draft Wordles