

Meeting Notes

Comprehensive Plan Community Committee – Kickoff Meeting
January 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 303

Attendees: Mayor Gaylor Baird; David Cary, Paul Barnes, Stacey Hageman, Teresa McKinstry, Andrew Thierolf, Kellee Van Bruggen and Allan Zafft of the Planning Dept.; David Drozd; Marco Barker; Tom Beckius; Nora Brown; Silas Clarke; Grant Daily; Tracy Edgerton; Anna Eicholt; Deanne Finnegan; Stephanie Fisher; Peter Hind; Karalyn Hoefer; Steve Ingracia; Cristy Joy; DaNay Kalkowski; Vic Klafter; José Lemus; Sam Manzitto Jr.; Marilyn McNabb; Todd Ogden; Burdette Piening; Vishnu Reddi; Susan Larson Rodenburg; Dennis Scheer; Bryan Seck; Nader Sepahpur; Meghan Sittler; Sheila Dorsey Vinton and Cindy Ryman Yost

Mayor Gaylor Baird thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She was a Planning Commissioner during the planning of LPlan 2040. She knows firsthand how much work is involved in developing a vision for the community. She urged everyone to bring their unique perspectives and thanked everyone for being community leaders and helping to create something that will guide the community. We want to be inclusive, resilient, thoughtful and innovative.

Paul Barnes welcomed everyone. He went over the agenda. Everyone around the room introduced themselves. He presented a video for the group.

David Cary expressed his gratitude to everyone for being willing to spend their time on this. A lot has changed since 1990. Lincoln has grown by about 193,000 since 1990. We have the 2040 plan which is the vision horizon year. Now we are talking about 2050. There is a minor update every five years, with a major update every ten years. This involves the entire county. Some assumptions in the current plan were that we would grow by 106,000, 90% of county population in Lincoln, 40% of residential units will be multi-family, 40,000 units with 8,000 units of infill, and generational needs. Basic principles of growth are annexation tied to utility services, compact and multi-directional, Lincoln Public School district boundary tied to annexation, one community concept, gravity flow sewer and efficient and orderly growth is cost effective. He showed the current growth tier map. The brand is PLANforward. We want to talk about where we want to go and where we need to be. We will be a county of about 440,000 residents by 2050. Lincoln will be approaching 400,000. A lot of these topics are already in the current plan. There will be new topics as well. Some trends is that there is a lot of growth on the south and east sides of the city. There is growth happening in other areas, as well as inside the city. In the 2040 plan, infill was discussed. The assumption was 20% of infill dwelling units. The reality has been around 26%. 74% of new growth is happening on the edge of the community. We want to think about older commercial areas. There are a lot of opportunities out there. Topics of interest are infill, demographic trends, future of older commercial centers, impact of the advances in technology and affordable housing needs. There are also some concurrent planning efforts with various plans. A big part of this process is the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This will be a coordinated with that plan and a concurrent effort. The Transportation Plan is developed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan.

Andrew Thierolf stated this is an almost two year process. There are four phases. Phase one is big ideas. This is to develop the community vision, what do we want to be in 2050? There is a public event next week. The next couple of phases are policy framework and scenario modeling. That will take most of 2020. That is where a lot of the content will be figured out. There will be some public events. Near the end of

summer, we will release the draft goals. 2021 will be mostly about writing the plan itself. We want to develop a more interactive plan. Mid 2021 is when the draft plan will be available for review. Then it will be presented to Planning Commission, City Council and the County Board. The LRTP will be presented to the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Within that process, there are a lot of other things happening. There is a staff committee, along with this committee. There will be working groups this summer, focused on a specific topic. There will be public events. We are going to do a presentation circuit. We are also going to do one-on-one interviews. We have a couple of surveys. We are looking into getting guest speakers.

Kellee Van Bruggen stated that we wanted to create a big idea summary. We are talking about innovation, sustainability, climate change resilience and affordable housing, along with other ideas. We want to open this up for discussion and see if we are missing anything from our list. The four themes of PLANforward were touched on. Resilient, innovative, livable and thriving. The website is <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/forward/>. A survey is embedded, along with more information and contact information for staff. A few preliminary survey results – this was opened on January 15, 2020 and will closing in mid March. Nearly 500 surveys have been completed in two weeks. The people taking the survey were asked the top three things they liked the most and the top three things that need the most improvement. The top comment for what was most liked was a feeling of safety and low crime, followed by good sense of community and then schools. What needs improvement, the top response was transportation network, then cost of living and physical appearance. Another survey question was any prominent issues in 2050. Almost 300 said they anticipated increased traffic congestion. Then higher cost of living and lack of housing choices and affordability. The fourth is increase in natural and human caused disaster. That is not something we have typically seen in past planning. Looking ahead, what milestones or expectations, the top three were complete the East Beltway, cost of living below national average and equitable access to preventative health care.

David Drozd is with the Center for Public Affairs Research. He is a resource. He works a lot on affordable housing. He gave a slide presentation and stated that he will make all the information available. The census is right around the corner. Having a complete and accurate count is very important. Census data is how we get a lot of our information. Lancaster County has always had pretty consistent growth. Hickman is the fastest growing in the state. Waverly is in the top ten. Births and deaths are relatively steady. Birth rates are down a little. Migration rates go up and down. He explained migration rates over the years. Last time we looked at total population. This time we want to look at all population rates. We had about 12,000 more people move in than move away in the 2000's. We have a lot of in-migration at age 18 and a lot of people move away at age 22. We use some ratios to make sure we keep the population structure the same. We kept these migration rates the same over time. Fertility rates have gone down. Population projections are 440,000 by 2050 for Lancaster County. Growth is about 40,000 per decade. Models for total population were put together as well as models for non-Hispanic whites. The migration rates can be unpredictable. In 1990, Lancaster County wasn't very diverse. Non-Hispanic was about six percent. There has been a rise in diversity. It was predicted that more than 10 percent would be non-Hispanic by 2000 and 2010 was up to 16 percent. The thing to note is that the baby boomer population is mostly white. The growth rate will slow. We also projected households. The number of people in a household has been coming down over time. That will continue to come down. Colleges, nursing homes, prisons, those will go up. Almost all other growth rates will go down over time. One person households have grown over time. 75 percent of those 85 or older, live alone. For the age group of 75 to 84, over half live alone. The bottom line is that Lancaster County has a linear nature of growth that will continue.

Thierolf stated that we are going to try and have these meetings on the last Thursday of the month. There will be a public event next Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. An event flyer was sent out. There will be a presentation by David Cary and David Drozd. Then there will be an open house with seven different stations. There will be a live dashboard presented on the wall with results.

Everyone broke into smaller groups for a visioning exercise to address four questions:

1. What do you like about Lincoln-Lancaster County?
2. What needs improvement in Lincoln-Lancaster County?
3. What do you want to see for the community in 2050?

Group answers

1. Sense of community; Safety; "Greenness", parks, trails, , nature, quality of life; Cost of living; Strong non-profit organizations; Cultural centers throughout community; General sense of community and collaboration; Low crime; Livable; Trails and parks; Strong schools throughout County; Bike/trail infrastructure; Low crime; Big town opportunities, small town feel; Small big town; Safety; Natural beauty; Downtown aesthetics (condition of property); Longstanding residents; Size and design (streets); Sense of community; Increasing diversity; Good education.
2. Conservation focus, local food, urban gardens; Space for innovation, employment, technology; Affordable housing throughout community; Natural disaster, flood preparedness; Traffic challenges, beltways, street infrastructure; Roads into the city; Public art, visible culture; Alternative modes of transportation; Suburban neighborhood centers; Design standards; Economic incentive to provide other housing options; Usable/available transportation; S.I.D.S.; Funding for infrastructure; Outside the box progressive approach to downtown, walkable and bikeable; Opportunities to find a network; Keeping the city connected with growth; Trans-modal options, less reliance on cars; Walkability and biking; Human centered development; Food deserts; Expansion of bus services and other; Transparency, systems, schools, business, navigate systems; Connections to smaller communities via trail system, bikeable connections; Policy updates; Transportation.
3. East Beltway; Multiple family housing in smaller communities; Mixed use development; Policies that attract people to city/county; Affordable housing needs met; International airport between Omaha and Lincoln; Keep our community feel; Keep the things we 'like' now; Major hospital on north side; Growing and welcoming community; Less vehicles, other transportation options; Affordable housing; Effort towards including way to participate with city, county and state; Evening out of household income, health disparities; More diversity in housing types; Transportation, multi, not owning a car, electric and rent; Local food production.

Cary thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Comments from Community Committee members:

Name	What are you most interested in with this Comprehensive Plan update?
Marco Barker	How the plan is designed to reflect the growing shift of the population – aging population; migrant and international population, millennial
Tom Beckius	Policy framework, housing affordability, commercial center –repurposing older centers
Nora Brown	Transportation
Silas Clarke	Growth patterns and transportation
Grant Daily	Use of land, expansion of the city; zoning and housing strategies; sustainable/resilient growth
Tracy Edgerton	Affordable housing; strong neighborhoods; equity & inclusion
Anna Eickholt	Housing; environment
Deane Finnegan	How to adopt to a future we don't know how it will look – housing, transportation – the whole bit
Stephanie Fisher	Long range transportation planning; how & where Lincoln is growing
Peter Hind	Housing, affordability, creative zoning, resilient design, density Infill housing and development – density Commercial centers (tired) Growth/climate impact Missing middle housing
Karalyn Hofer	no comments
Steve Ingracia	no comments
Cristy Joy	Innovation: bridging the community – city, towns & county Encourage the inclusion process of our area * inclusion & communication * Get the message out by inclusion of the rural, villages & towns
DaNay Kalkowski	Future grown areas, infrastructure, availability of housing to all members of our community, availability of diverse housing choices in our developments
Vic Klafter	Affordable housing.
José Lemus	Resident participation; resident innovation grants; pedestrian mobility; urban bikeability; equity and inclusion; food access; city services in multiple languages
Sam Manzitto Jr.	Future land use & growth; SIDS
Marilyn McNabb	What can be done in city policy and practice to protect the biological systems in this place = birds, inserts, native plants and energy issues of all funds
Todd Ogden	Downtown's role
Burdette Piening	With the increase of population, where is the water coming from
Vishnu Reddi	Neighborhoods; downtown; revitalization; traffic patterns in neighborhoods
Susan Larson Rodenburg	Bicycle/walking/pedestrian facilities, walkable/bikeable spaces, quality of life, greenspace, ability to connect people to places, thinking about no-car spaces (downtown)
Dennis Scheer	For use with Planning Commission responsibilities. Update to reflect our growing and changing community. Provide additional guidance to address ongoing conflict between urban, semi-urban and rural-AG interest in the county.

Name	What are you most interested in with this Comprehensive Plan update?
Bryan Seck	Tech changes from now – 2050; helping people & attraction/retention of talent, access ever changing in-demand career pathways & affordable rental & home ownership opportunities; water usage/control
Meghan Sittler	Environment/natural resources – greenspace – open space – ag–urban interface – water, climate impacts on development & infrastructure; neighborhood redevelopment/enhancement; multi-modal transportation; long range growth; innovation to keep community & economy & environment strong
Sheila Dorsey Vinton	The creativity in thinking about making Lincoln better; plan for low income housing development; reduction in health and other disparities
Cindy Ryman Yost	Transportation = (to encourage fewer cars); housing – (quality & affordable, encourage density); technology – (impact on jobs, infrastructure); diversity – (plan that includes welcoming new citizens, rural/urban balance, show concern for those vulnerable – income, disability, LGBTQ, status, aging)