

Great Falls Growth Policy Steering Committee Meeting notes

September 12, 2024 meeting
Gibson Room, Civic Center

Attendance

Steering Committee Members:

Rick Tryon
Heather Hoyer
Brett Doney
Katie Hanning
Kris Cron
Michael Hallahan
Tom Heisler
Abigail Hill
Dr. Stephanie Erdmann
Spencer Woith
Carol Bronson
Wayne Klind

Staff/Consultant:

Brock Cherry
Andrew Finch
Alaina Mattimiro
Lila Osborn (via Zoom)

Overview

The meeting began at about 3:30 PM with an introduction to the meeting by Planning & Community Development Director Brock Cherry.

Due to technical difficulties with the Zoom connection, Mr. Cherry moved on to the second Agenda topic, noting that a draft Public Involvement Plan has been prepared by the consultant and is under review by staff. He further noted the Plan would be given to the steering committee after final refinements by the staff and consultant.

There were some suggestions for public outreach from the committee, after Mr. Cherry noted staff would welcome suggestions. Some suggestions included:

- Facebook live, including background as well as terminology and explanation of land use and how the Policy fits into decision-making. It was suggested education of the public is important.
- The public needs to understand SB 382 and how/why the Growth Policy is wrapped into land use.

Via Zoom, Lila Olson gave a presentation on the Stakeholder Meeting Summaries.

Some committee members suggested a need for additional stakeholder input. Staff mentioned proposed stakeholder virtual meetings.

One committee member asked about the City's resiliency study for utilities associated with Malmstrom, and hoped it would tie into the Growth Policy effort and also include public input.

Staff emphasized the stakeholder meeting were the first step and further input will be need to fill in missing pieces.

Committee members discussed "gaps" in the stakeholder meetings, suggesting agriculture and schools other than K-12 were missing.

Staff asked if some committee members would be interested in participating in interviews on Facebook, and some said they would.

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.