



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Human Dignity, Community Education, & Civic Participation Steering Committee

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MEETING SYNOPSIS

January 22, 2014, 4:30 p.m.
Hannah Center – Recital Room
819 Abbot Road

Present: Allen, Camacho, Davis, Jason, Sprague, and Stollak

Staff Members: Clark, T. Schmitt, and Schlusler

1) OPENING

- A) Roll Call
- B) Approval of Agenda

2) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES EXERCISE

The Steering Committee discussed their responses to the November goals and objectives exercise in more depth. These responses were:

Committee Responses

When you think of diversity what are the top four things that you think of?

Diversity is:

- Different Groups of People, based on:
 - Age
 - Ethnicity/Race
 - Religion
 - Economic Status
- Inclusive of All

Responses:

- Asset
- Knowledge/skills
- Occupation
- Economic status
- Wealth
- Activities
- Different groups of people
- Neighborhoods
- Race (x2)
- Ethnicity

- Culture
- Religion
- Age (x3)
- Enhancing
- Inclusive
- Inviting
- Open
- Strength
- Equality
- Accepting

What are the top four obstacles you experience to living or working in the City of East Lansing?

Obstacles to living and working in East Lansing are:

- Cost and Diversity of Housing
- Limited Commercial Development
- Transportation (automobile and non-auto) Environment Deficiencies
- Excessive Socially Unacceptable Behavior

Responses:

- Climate
- Fireworks
- Vandalism
- Excessive noise
- Some student behavior
- Totally dominated by students
- Cost
- Lack of entry level housing
- Limited collaboration with campus/surrounding communities
- Absence of quality services
- Variety of local business
- Lack of retail
- Absence of quality arts
- Limited entertainment/shopping options
- Transportation
- City doesn't embrace what it is - wants to be Ann Arbor
- Traffic patterns (lack of safe walking/biking)
- Parking
- Traffic (safety for foot traffic)

What are the top four things that you can think of that could make you feel disengaged with a community?

Things that could make someone disengaged:

- Lack of effective communication from the City and/or Neighborhood Leaders
- Town/Gown and Public School/Town relations
- Enforcement issues
- Diversity of housing, events, shopping, etc.

Responses:

- Sense of safety
- Community events

- "I just work here" - can't afford to live here
- Senior needs seen to be ignored
- Absence of sufficient daily income to acceptable goods
- Sometimes confusing traffic and routes
- Pace
- Heavy enforcement with no personal touch
- Neighborhood association doesn't meet
- Lack of mass communication
- Effective communication
- Nothing engaging for residents
- Lack of commerce for people other than students
- Lack of cooperation/collaboration between city and campus
- Harshness of attitudes towards students
- Emphasis on students
- No MSU connection
- Disjunction between East Lansing School boundaries and East Lansing City limits
- Impersonal responses from city departments

What are the top four things you think of when you think of what public service means to you?

Public Service Means:

- Working towards the public good
- Taking a participating role throughout the community
- Educating yourself about government and activities

Responses:

- Ensure access to the public good
- Looking out for your fellow man
- Better snow removal in neighborhoods
- Tree maintenance
- Safety
- Willingness to learn about candidates opinions/plans
- Facilitate civic engagement and commitment
- Community education of ordinances and policies
- Transparent
- Accessible
- Listening
- Opportunity
- Helping the community
- Personally participating in civic activities
- Action
- Giving to the community
- Being aware of important needs

What are the four things you think of when you think of what it means to you to be a citizen?

A Citizen Is:

- Committed to the community
- Engaged in the community
- Socially responsible

- Informed and Active

Responses:

- Generous
- Responsibility
- Instinctive for children and family to be socially responsible
- Looking out for others
- Participation
- Engaged
- What the community will be like in the future
- Active
- Civic participation
- Obligation
- A commitment to helping improve the community
- Commitment
- Offering groups or individuals information
- Obeying the laws and working to change the ones that don't work
- Follow rules and ordinances
- Working towards a government of the people, by the people and for the people
- Maintaining oversight over public officials

The Committee discussed some of the items in more depth, to develop specific objectives and actions for the Comprehensive Plan. These included:

- Senior Housing: How do we build senior housing, but ensure that it stays senior housing and doesn't convert to other market types? Does the City's non-discrimination ordinance come into play and is it possible to modify this to support senior specific projects, at the expense of students and other groups?
- Student/Community Education: What programs could support better integration of students into the community? How do we inform students about socially unacceptable behavior once they move off campus, but get them more involved in mentoring/supporting other groups in the community?
- Neighborhood Involvement: What role should neighborhood organizations play in helping neighbors v. what role should the City play? Are there ways to further engage neighborhoods and spark involvement and a sense of 'neighbors helping neighbors'?
- Existing Citizen Assets: How do we capitalize on existing citizen assets (high school students, seniors, greek organizations) to further enhance the community and sense of togetherness?

The committee also discussed some specific changes to language in the Objectives and Actions working document that were noted.

3) **ADJOURNMENT**