

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting #1 Summary



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Plan For Our Future, Rooted In Our Past

MEETING INFORMATION

December 9, 2021

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

Location: Commissioners Chambers (415 East Main Street, Emmett) and Zoom

ATTENDEES

Steering Committee Members

- ✓ Nita Barnard
- ✓ James England
- ✓ Steven Ethington
- ✓ Glenn Flaherty
- ✓ Palla Garringer
Walker Harrison
- ✓ Jon Robertson
- ✓ Dan Spanfelner
- ✓ Teena Turner
- ✓ Brad Turpen
- ✓ Justin Vickery
Stephanie Weldon

County Planning Team

- ✓ Jennifer Kharrl, Planning Director
- ✓ Michelle Barron, Associate Planner
- ✓ Neal Capps, Director of Roads & Bridges

Consultant

- ✓ Miriam McGilvray, Logan Simpson
- ✓ Olivia Cvetko, Logan Simpson
Bruce Meighen, Logan Simpson

This meeting was open to the public to listen; however no public comment was taken.

MEETING SUMMARY

Information

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - Miriam McGilvray (Consultant) welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the meeting agenda. She provided a brief introduction and asked the Steering Committee members to go around the room to introduce themselves and share what part of the County they live, what perspectives they bring to the group, and what they are most looking forward to over the holidays.
2. Overall Process, Schedule, and Your Role
 - Olivia Cvetko (Consultant) provided some background information on what a comprehensive plan is and how it is used; the overall process to create a new Gem County Comprehensive Plan; the milestones and progress achieved so far; and the Steering Committee's role. (see presentation slides 4-9)
3. What We've Heard So Far

- Olivia outlined how the process intends to engage and notify the public and how we have been listening so far in the process. (see presentation slides 10-13)
- There was a question about what project information is available online. There is a project page on GemCounty.org which will be updated throughout the process. Currently, the content online includes a project overview, a Kickoff Event Summary, a link to the Public Survey Results, and the Steering Committee Meeting #1 Agenda. There was a request to provide the meeting presentation to the committee or make available online.

Discussion

1. Importance of Visioning

- Miriam described what a Vision is and how it is used in the comprehensive planning process. She emphasized that Visions should be aspirational statements of how the community sees itself in the future. (see presentation slides 14-15)

2. Visioning Ideas

- Miriam asked the group to think about the “ingredients” of an aspirational Vision statement for Gem County. The committee members went around the room and gave their ideas:
 - Supportive community; local activities, events, the community shops locally, gets engaged and helps each other out.
 - Diverse housing; affordable housing; rental housing options.
 - Diversity of people; generational diversity; land use diversity.
 - Small-town feel; pleasant; quiet.
 - Friendly community; where everyone knows each other.
 - Private property rights; personal freedoms.
 - Dark skies
 - Geography; natural beauty; scenic views
 - Open space; mountains
 - Agriculture; farmland
 - Infrastructure; better roads
 - Feels good to live and work here; good to come home to
 - Balance
 - Density near services
 - Water and natural resources
 - Hospital is an asset; health and services
 - Everyone has a chance to succeed
 - Safe
 - Education; keep good teachers; offer youth activities

- Health and wellness for the population; walking paths
- Miriam shared a Word Cloud of the values that have been collected through public engagement so far (see presentation slide 17). She noted that many of the Steering Committee's ideas were reflected in what was heard at the Public Kickoff Event and through the online survey, including:
 - Small-town; friendly; caring community
 - Rural; agriculture; farmland
 - Quiet; peaceful; safe
- Miriam asked the committee to think about what format the Vision should take. She provided examples of visions from other communities, including a short format, slogan format, long/narrative format, and a bulleted format (see presentation slides 18-20).
 - The bullet format is easy to read
 - Multiple shorter statements help focus the values
 - Is a single statement too broad, or too vague? Don't want a meaningless statement.
 - General consensus was to consider a Bullet format for the first draft of ideas. This can always be augmented or restructured in future drafts if it doesn't feel quite right.

Next Steps

1. Next SC meeting: January 13, 2022
 - Discussion about Opportunities and Choices (part 1 of 2)
 - Review Existing Conditions Report in advance of the meeting
 - Review a draft Vision
2. Public Engagement Series #2: TBD February