

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting #2 Summary



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Plan For Our Future, Rooted In Our Past

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: January 13, 2022

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. Introductions: Committee members, County staff, and consultants went around the room and did quick introductions. Miriam McGilvray (Consultant) went through the anticipated agenda.
2. Highlights from Existing Conditions Snapshots
 - a. Olivia Cvetko (Consultant) provided highlights from the draft Existing Conditions Snapshot report. The report is available on the GemCounty.org website and the informational slides are included in the attached presentation (slides 3-12).
 - b. There was a question about what residential zoning categories were shown on the chart on slide 5. The answer is a mix of A-2, R-2, and R-3, and generally rezoning to a higher density.
 - c. There was a question about the timing of the SH-16 expansion. Neal Capps (Road Director) answered that it's a 4yr process for 2 lanes both ways.

Discussion

1. Preliminary Visioning Ideas

- a. Miriam reminded committee members of the community visioning process, feedback, and importance of the vision for the plan. (slides 14-16)

Draft Vision: ***Gem County is a diverse community of caring and friendly neighbors that work together to protect our beautiful rural landscapes and quality of life.***

Draft Guiding Principles:

- **Thriving agriculture and rural heritage**
 - **Coordinated and responsible growth**
 - **Resilient local economy**
 - **Strong leadership and enduring partnerships**
 - **Robust and reliable roads and infrastructure**
 - **Affordable and quality housing**
 - **Active lifestyles and accessible recreation**
 - **Environmental stewardship and protected natural resources**
- a. Like the vision generally – ***diverse*** should be replaced with something more specific like ***strong, thriving***, etc
 - i. Diverse should be a goal still, it's just too "buzzword"
 - ii. Maybe remove altogether to say "Gem County is a community of caring..." (remove unnecessary words)
 - b. ***Protect*** feels wrong – maybe change to ***enhance, cultivate, or foster***
 - i. Change with ***preserve, conserve, support, or maintain***. ***Enhance*** can be left open to interpretation
 - ii. We want to see improvements like new trails etc, but we don't want to lose it
 - iii. ***Cultivate, preserve, or support*** work best
 - c. Consider action statements for the guiding principles
 - i. Environmental stewardship ***to*** protect natural resources
 - ii. Robust and reliable roads and infrastructure (remove redundancy – and "fluff")
 - d. ***Working together*** instead of "that work together"
 - e. Remove leadership guiding principle; it's not something that can be controlled or guided
 - i. We want less government
 - f. Consider new principle: Active investment/create opportunity for youth/future community and generations
 - i. Investment in the care of seniors as well

- g. The guiding principles don't *sound* like Gem County
 - i. Active lifestyles and accessible recreation? That doesn't quite fit, we're not working out, we're working hard (healthy or robust lifestyles?)
 - h. Functional, viable, up-to-date infrastructure
 - i. Affordable, quality housing
 - j. Take out ***coordinated*** from ***responsible growth*** principle
 - k. Consider new principle: Protection of citizen property rights
 - i. This is a recurring theme in Gem County
 - ii. Leave it out of guiding principles but weave into document throughout
 - l. There was a question about the format and whether the principles were really the best way to show these ideas. Miriam suggested coming back next month with some alternative formats to consider.
2. Opportunities and Choices Brainstorm
- a. Miriam explained that we are starting to think about the priority topics to address in detail through the next phase of engagement. She walked through a few public feedback slides to show some of the major ideas that have been generated through the process so far. (slides 21-23)
 - b. The discussion focused on responding to initial topics identified by the consultant, and whether these were indeed the highest priority topics to dig into. (slides 24-26)
 - i. Housing Stock: Senior living, apartments, ADU, etc is hard to do in unincorporated county on wells/septic. Feels more appropriate for Emmett.
 - ii. Economic regional partnerships is confusing and would need further information
 - iii. These topics may read as order of importance; these should be re-packaged for the public to not show order of importance.
 - iv. Road connectivity may be too hard to accomplish. Linked to growth management
 - v. Impact fees for EMS are important but County only just implemented it
 - vi. Etiquette in public lands is out of our hands
 - vii. Recreation programming and events may not be a comprehensive plan item; consider taking out. It's not a priority for the County, since there's already a recreation district (taxing district).

Next Steps

1. Next SC meeting: February 10, 2022 to continue to develop Opportunities and Choices
2. Public Engagement Series #2: TBD mid-March