STEERING COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2015
TIME: 2:30-4:00 PM
PLACE: City Hall Auditorium
1 Municipal Dr.
Fishers, Indiana 46038

Members Present: Steve Hardin, Rich Block, Ronda Shrewsbury Weybright, David George, Cecilia Coble, Scott Fadness, Anderson Schoenrock, Leah McGrath

Members Not Present: John Weingardt, Kimberly Mills, Rodney Retzner, Pete Peterson, Warren Harling, Ellen Rosenthal

Others Present: Rachel Johnson, Sue Harrison, Caleb Gutshall, Dale Davis, Connie Nimmo

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Task Forces will present their final recommendations to the Steering Committee on December 14. All Task Force members and the public are welcome to attend.

- Transportation Update:
  - 96th St., 116th St., Hwy. 37, and Olio Rd. provide connectivity throughout the City.
  - 106th and 126th Sts. should have a ten to twelve foot trail that connects the east and west.
    - 106th and 126th Sts. would connect on Cumberland Rd.
    - Less vehicular activity on those roads make it a smart, safe option.
  - Paths should be collectors to larger routes, similar to how subdivision streets feed to main arteries.
  - The airport property has height restrictions, limiting potential uses.
    - Low-lying businesses and offices will create destinations.
    - It should have a campus feel, using landscaping to create place.
    - A road should meander through the development and connect on Hague Rd.
  - Façade improvements, such as repainting crosswalks and resurfacing roads, will help Allisonville Road.
    - It is a great redevelopment area. The southwest side has limited access.
    - A left turn lane would relieve traffic.
    - Area should also be connected to residential zones via paths.
    - A path along Allisonville Rd. should stretch from 96th St. to Conner Prairie.
  - Hwy. 37 needs to have greater pedestrian access.
    - Hwy. 37 will go under crossroads.
    - Easier access from 135th St. to the school bus garage may decrease traffic and increase safety.
  - Brooks School needs only two lanes to keep residential feel in the area.
    - Paths should connect along that stretch.
    - The west bound lane on the bridge could be striped out for fishing, walking path or other amenities.
  - Pedestrian safety can be increased with raise crosswalks, like the new ones on Maple St.
    - Concrete can be difficult to maintain, so it should not be used for crosswalks.
  - The Nickel Plate District should have pedestrian facilities on both sides.
    - Curb cuts on 116th St. should be limited to prohibit multiple ingress and egress.
  - Short and long term priorities will be discussed at the November 18 Task Force meeting.

- Residential Update:
  - A smart Fishers encourages redevelopment, best practices, sustainability, high quality building materials, functional open space, low-impact development, HOA stewardship, reinvestment and rewarding.
A vibrant Fishers encourages maintaining property values, meeting needs, diverse architecture and monitoring the housing stock.

An entrepreneurial Fishers rewards innovation, offers a la carte development standards, upgraded amenities and maintaining infrastructure.

 Redevelopment and maintenance is crucial to keeping the value of the aging housing stock.

Development standards in all aspects of the Unified Development Ordinance should be raised.

- Residential neighborhoods should connect to one another.
- Pedestrian networks should be completed within two years of development construction.
- Mixed use may be appropriate in certain nodes.
- Infill development is expected.
- Universal Design will increase sustainability.
- Relationships with HOAs immediately after development by incorporating language into covenants to hold them responsible for maintenance, etc.
- The City should strategically target investments.

Open space is not always thought out.

- The City could offer a la carte features to help guide thoughtful development.
- Nature corridors should be optimized.

Some neighborhoods are more at risk than others to lose value.

- Investment in road maintenance, etc. may encourage homeowners to reinvest in their homes.
- Housing stock should be accretive to the City’s vision.
- HOA and community engagement may increase with awards and programs.

Land Use Update:

- There will be roughly 16 categories.
  - Categories are defined with development features and standards.
  - Residential zones are graded by density.
  - Industrial spaces offer flex space to help attract innovative businesses. Warehouses and logistics are not envisioned in these areas.

- There are approximately 25 special study areas, but some stick out more than others:
  - 116th St. and Allisonville Rd. should be redeveloped as a mixed use node.
  - I-69 and 106th St. could be office space.
  - I-69 and 96th St. serves as a gateway to the community.
  - 126th St. and Olio Rd. may need retail and commercial uses.
  - Hwy. 37 will be greatly impacted by future improvements and could be an office corridor.
  - Brooks Chase should complement surrounding neighborhoods.
  - Southeastern Pkwy., Prairie Baptist Rd. and 136th St. could make a great mixed use node.
  - The airport could be a makers place.
    - The Task Force recommends a similar concept as what the Transportation Task Force proposed.

- Land use will attract the jobs, wages and character desired to sustain Fishers.
- What do we want and are we willing to wait to get what we want?
  - It will take a little while to build up a highly attractive community. At times, it may seem easier to allow any business to develop in Fishers.

- Multifamily homes with high density will be the driver to accomplishing City goals.

Parks and Open Space Update:

- Community surveys indicate that more active amenities are needed in the City.
  - Parks will be needed in the eastern portion of the City.

- Parks and Open Space should offer many options for all ages and ability.
  - There is an opportunity to add interactive play, Wi-Fi and smartphone apps.

- New parks should be constructed with universal design in mind.
  - Parks can be repurposed to meet needs of changing demographics and be useful year round.
  - An inventory and objective review of all parks and open space is needed to meet the needs of the community.

- Access to Geist Reservoir and the White River would be a great addition to the amenities offered in Fishers.

- Greenway networks are key to connectivity within the City.
  - The Duke Easement would allow for a Monon-like trail.
  - Parks should connect to one another via trails and linear parks.
Open space standards need to be more thoughtful.
  - The UDO should allow for a la carte amenity and payment in lieu of.

Maintaining parks will be difficult as impact fees diminish.
  - Programs and volunteer groups, such as Keep Fishers Beautiful, business sponsors and Friends of..., can help fill in the gap.
  - Funding will be difficult to obtain as there are three levels of government that oversee parks – Hamilton County, City of Fishers and Fall Creek Township.

ACTION ITEMS
- Update all minutes on Fishers2040 website and distribute to members — Staff
- Finalize recommendations — Task Force Co-Chairs