

Meeting Notes

Meeting: Safety & Wellness Focus Group
Date/Time: November 20, 2014, 5:15 pm to 7:15 pm
Location: Jack Reidy Conference Room, 140 W. Pine St.
Notes by: Anita McNamara

Attended by: Anna Semple, Brent Hildebrand, Michael Dorshorst, Terry Egan, Michael Painter, Lauren Stevens, Bob Wachtel, Beth Schenk, Laval Means (Facilitator), Anita McNamara (Development Services staff), Orry Hatcher (Facilitator Assistance/Intern)

Updates

- At the next meeting the group should appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair that will also serve as representative and alternate to the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee will begin meeting in January, so that will mean a second meeting during a few months overlap with the focus group work for the person acting as a Chair or Vice Chair.
- Draft Community Profile (existing conditions) is now online at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/27401>.

Background

Review a few key elements of the Focus Group Guidelines

- Inspiration section:
 - Overview of core pillars – they help to set up the process for this project
 - Overview of the City Council Resolution – In April, 2014, the Council passed a resolution in support of the process and starting point being exploration of policies that delve into the meaning of “focusing inward” for our community.
 - Draft Value Statement – this document describes the background for the focus inward concept and lists many core values to consider. This document will be revisited by the Steering Committee toward the end of this process to see whether we need to make any adjustments to the statement.
- Goal/Objective/Action section:
 - The definition and examples of goal statements are shown in the guidebook

Focus Group discussion

Staff identified discussion areas under the safety and wellness theme. The list of staff suggested topics include Recreation, Human Health, Bicycle/Pedestrian support, Fire, Police, Emergency Management, Water/Sewer, and Local Food Systems.

Group members were asked if there are other discussion ideas that should be covered as a part of Safety and Wellness that had not been identified previously. The group suggested that Homelessness and Personal Safety are important and relevant topics in Missoula.



Overview of the Values and Challenges process:

For the past five months the planning group has been collecting comments from community members through many topic-based listening sessions regarding values and challenges and ideas to address the challenges. The notes from the listening sessions are available on the website. The Summaries from the notes are the tools used tonight to help guide the process of developing Goals.

Goal Development Task:

Each group member Identified key topics that they felt best relate to the focus group subject by reviewing the Summary Values material and circling five topics and reviewing the Summary Challenges material and circling five topics.

Group members shared their top priorities for the focus group from the Value topic list and the Challenge topic list.

High priority topics were chosen from the Values topics and the Challenges topics. Each group member was asked to write goal statements for any of the high priority topics (whether they came from the Values or Challenges lists).

Group members read off goal statements and some questions and clarification were discussed.

Project staff collected the goals statements and grouped them under the related topics.

The purpose of this process is to collect as many initial individual goal statement ideas and then through the next few months expect to see the statements become refined, combined, sorted and even possibly moved to another group or level of policy development (such as objective or action).

Topics Identified and number of people interested in exploring the topic:

- Bikeable/Walkable 6
- Health and Wellness 6
- Social Services / Education 6
- Healthcare Quality 5
- Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation 4
- Bike/Pedestrian/Trails 4
- Friendly/Family Oriented 3
- Cooperation between Agencies 3
- Local Services 3
- Crime 3
- Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Services 3
- Infrastructure 3
- Local Food 2
- Coordination between Agencies
- Parks and Recreation 2
- Homelessness 2
- Transportation/Parking/Transit 2
- Open-minded 1
- Compact 1
- Natural Resources 1

- Education 1
- Transit 1
- University 1
- Community Involvement 1
- Parks/Open Space 1
- Growth Pressures/Sprawl 1
- Economy/Jobs 1
- Business Development 1
- Affordable Housing 1
- Environmental Quality 1

Focus Group members further refined and/or combined categories and identified sub-categories under each heading as follows.

Bike/Walk/Trail, including Natural Areas, Family-Friendliness, Parks, Infrastructure, Community Involvement, Education and Transit

Health Care Quality, including Family-Friendliness, Community Involvement, Homelessness & Poverty and Environmental Quality

Health and Wellness, including Natural Areas, Family-Friendliness, Parks, Local Food, Community Involvement, Homelessness & Poverty and Environmental Quality

Social Services and Education, including Quality of Local Services, Interagency Cooperation, Community Involvement, Education and Homelessness & Poverty

Emergency / Disaster Services and Crime Prevention, including Quality of Local Services, Interagency Cooperation, Infrastructure, Community Involvement, Transit and Homelessness & Poverty

Homelessness and Poverty (The focus group made this item a sub-category of Health Care Quality, Health and Wellness, Social Services and Education and Emergency/Disaster Services and Crime Prevention)

Initial Individual Goal Statements by Topic

Bike/Walk/Trail:

- Continue to develop non-motorized transportation routes in the community.
- Provide environment to enhance & promote biking & walking for all abilities.
- The entire Missoula community will be connected by a system of trails and/or alternate transportation that are safe & navigable for all.
- Connectivity between neighborhoods/shopping centers via all forms of transportation. Inviting open/recreation spaces equitable for all people.
- New bike infrastructure – protected bike lanes, bike lights, bike boxes, education for drivers & cyclists.
- Family-friendly recreational opportunities utilizing bike/walk/trail/ parks to encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Family-friendly open spaces for recreation that is accessible by bike/ped trails.
- Access to lots of safe, clean, beautiful trails for recreation and active transportation (so that no auto transportation is required in Missoula).

Health Care Quality:

- Access to high-quality, affordable health care for all.
- Access to convenient, affordable, high-quality health care for everyone.
- Ensure affordable access to quality health care for all.
- Help bridge inter-facility cooperation between St. Pat's & Community hospital to provide quality, affordable health care for all Missoulians.

Health & Wellness:

- Broad range of services (preventative health, mental health, aging, etc.); active lifestyle opportunities, nutritious foods, clean air & water for all.
- Expand Missoula's gardens / local food production capabilities.
- Develop replacement schedule & budget for Missoula's parks and urban forest.
- A community response to the health & wellness needs of citizens, including education, preventative services & active lifestyle options.
- Promote lifestyles that enhance personal health & safety.
- Missoula will be a community that promotes and supports health for all its members through access to healthy food, physical activity, and a healthy environment.
- Promote cooperative health practices initiatives in k-12 schools, UM, and general population.

Social Services / Education:

- Immediate education & intervention policies to address the issue of personal safety as it pertains to children in abusive homes, teens' respect for self and others, adults/families utilizing park/trail/streets and natural areas, UM institutional attitudes, the homeless & impermanently housed, and elders in abusive care relationships.
- Missoula residents of all ages & socioeconomic status will be aware of social services & understand the importance of physical & mental health, as well as healthy interpersonal relationships.
- Promote lifelong learning through access to social services to enhance health & safety.
- Broad range of services for poor and vulnerable with education about them and about supporting a just culture.
- Collaboration / cooperation among social services/agencies/business to provide for safety & wellness opportunities.
- Establish one process for providing social services to all in the community.

Emergency / Disaster Services & Crime Prevention:

- Feel secure in the community – sufficient lighting, maintained areas / infrastructure, feel safe walking at night or using public transit etc, safe neighborhoods.

Establish civic agencies funded to allow critical response to emergencies.



- Provide adequate emergency services (police, fire, emergency, medical) to the community.
- Responsive emergency & disaster services that provide for safe living environment.
- Well integrated emergency preparedness system to help create/maintain public safety: crime, wildfire, flooding, avalanche, disease, wildlife, hazmat.

Homelessness & Poverty

- People living in Missoula will have a permanent residence that is safe & supportive of their physical & mental well-being.
- Community-wide approach to affordable housing, nutrition safety net, livable wages, involving government, business, & non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Provide services to help assist/care for homeless persons, or disadvantaged families. Provide necessities such as food & shelter. (Could help mitigate crime / panhandling).

Environmental Quality

- Maintain constant protection of natural resources (air, water).
- Provide healthy environment for all.
- Commitment to maintain a clean and healthy environment, it is fundamental to health and wellness. (clean air, water, food).
- Strict environmental quality standards. Building regulations, polluted runoff, etc. Maintain clean, accessible, open & public spaces. Redesign transit to decrease air pollution/emissions. Promote alternative energy sources within Missoula.

Parking Lot

Natural Resources

Growth / Sprawl

Discussion Notes:

The Safety & Wellness Focus Group created six topic areas. The group felt it important to keep some topic areas that were identified during exercise to choose 5 topics from each of the Values and Assets from the summer listening sessions by combining them or creating the sub-categories. Also, the group wanted to elevate the Homeless and Poverty topic as the topic of personal safety, along with homelessness, was identified as an important topic for Safety & Wellness that was not brought up at the listening sessions.

Discussion on specific topics included:

The difference between *Natural Areas* and *Natural Resources*: Natural areas are open space or undeveloped/conservation areas, while *Natural Resources* are things such as air and water, but can also be timber or minerals.

Homelessness/Poverty: Impermanence of housing, affordable housing. It pertains to each of the topics. So, instead of being its own category it falls under each heading.



Public Safety/Emergency & Disaster Services, Crime, infrastructure all inter-related and need to be grouped together.

Jobs/Economy/Business Development: Living wage impacts quality of life.

Family Friendly: Family recreating together, such as grandparent with grandchildren. This topic can go under any or all of the headings.

Air Quality/Water Quality: Impacts health and are the very important factors to local health in Missoula. Infrastructure is part of the conversation as well.

Interagency cooperation can include city government, with other local and government agencies such as aging services.

Bike/Walk/Trail: Natural areas can fall under this heading as can infrastructure as it is necessary. Compact development is needed to be more efficient with alternative transportation. Transit is somewhat related because it is a form of transportation, but should not be included under this heading.

Social service and education are linked and should be discussed together.

Personal safety crosses all topics and needs to go under each heading.

Local food is important and can fall under the *Health & Wellness* heading.

Health & Wellness and parks/open space are related because healthy activity requires parks and open space.

Community involvement can go under all headings because Missoula is an involved community.

Open minded and *University of Montana* impact all topics.

While writing goals statements, the focus group members discussed the following ideas.

Access to quality healthcare for everyone is very important.

Environmental Quality is important to health because it is difficult to be healthy without a clean environment.

Homeless/Poverty is an important issue and needs its own goal statements.

Next Steps

At December meeting: select chair and vice chair; review information from Asset Mapping project; review & discuss topics and goals statements from November focus group meeting; report on topics being covered by other focus groups; and move on to developing objectives.

Next Meeting Date: December 18, 2014 at 5:15pm in the Jack Reidy Conference Room, 140 West Pine St.

Public Comment on items not on the agenda:

None received