

Regional Plan Advisory Subcommittee

April 9, 2013
3:00 – 4:30 pm
NRPC Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Update on Regional Plan Progress
 - a. Housing Workshop – summary of February event
 - b. Economic Development/Community Vitality Workshop – May 31 event discussion
2. Outreach and Engagement
 - a. April 30th Listening Session plans
 - b. Website and social media updates
 - c. Neighborhood Conversations
3. Regional Visioning Process
 - a. Local Master Plan Vision Review
 - b. Scenario planning and how do we tell our story?
4. Committee Schedule of meetings
5. Comments
6. Adjournment

Granite State Future Regional Advisory Sub-Committee
April 9, 2013
3 to 4:30 PM
Nashua Regional Planning Commission Office
9 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH

ATTENDEES:

Beth Todgham, Southern NH Services – Community Action Program
Liz Racioppi, Nashua Art Commission and the NH Creative Communities Network
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Kathy Hersh, City of Nashua
James Vayo, Visualize Nashua
Kerrie Diers, NRPC
Jen Czysz, NRPC
Mary Brundage, NRPC
Kim Goddu, NRPC

Meeting Start: 3:10 PM

Czysz opened the meeting and introduced Kim Goddu, Environmental Planner for NRPC. She then reviewed the agenda items.

Update on Regional Plan Progress

Housing Workshop

Czysz discussed the Housing Workshop that was held on March 29. Approximately 30 people attended. The workshop started with presentation from NRPC plus two guest speakers, Ben Frost from New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and Chris Wellington, a fair housing consultant. Three major themes were discussed in small group breakout sessions: Supply, Demand, and Existing Conditions, Affordability and Access to Opportunity. Czysz mentioned that some comments from the Supply, Demand, and Existing Conditions went into Affordability and had to move the comments to the appropriate place after the session.

Some of the issues that we heard include:

- Shift of housing patterns with changing demographics
- Younger generation “bunking up” (having roommates) for longer
- More flexibility – make single family homes into other types housing while keeping the look of a single family home
- Zoning rules

Hersh mentioned that also housing should be looking at what people want, not necessarily what they currently have. She also mentioned that two family homes in the Tree Streets neighborhood sold for \$90,000 but because of real or perceived safety issues, people don't necessarily want to live there – that affordability is relative.

Economic Development Community Vitality Workshop/Master Plan Vision Statement Review

Diers discussed the Economic Development/Community Vitality workshop tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 31. She mentioned that she, Bill Parker, Sarah Marchant, Tom Galligani, and Mark Connors met to brainstorm some themes for the workshop. Some speaker ideas included Plan NH on Vibrant Villages and Stay, Work, Play. There was discussion on ideas to include in workshop such as the economic impact of cultural events, components of vibrant communities.

Diers mentioned the handout on common themes between Master Plan vision statements. Brundage discussed how she used the NH Livability Principles to filter master plan goals and how these and vision statements match up to the principles. Hersh asked which Nashua Master plan was used and said that they were other documents that could be used such as the Mt. Auburn Plan. She mentioned that this region is top three regions in the country for technology and employment.

Brian Gotlob was mentioned as a potential speaker. Diers also mentioned she was interviewed by NHPR Exchange about downtowns.

Vayo mentioned that we should try to understand why people are choosing to leave, what resources are we lacking? This information could be found through real estate agents, alumni associations, Annual Economic Outlook report from PSNH.

Diers stated that they may need a bigger venue for this workshop. A couple places mentioned were the Nashua City Hall Auditorium and Harbor Homes.

There will be a staff meeting next week to discuss the details.

Outreach and Engagement

April 30 NH Listens Event

Diers showed the handout for the NH Listens Event and encourage the committee to spread the word the event. Brundage will also send an email to be forwarded to their networks. Czysz had a list of participants, there are about 20 people signed up so far.

Social Media Update

Brundage mentioned that Granite State Future Facebook page had 88 Likes so far. Vayo suggested capturing updates to the online forum to page to get more input on the forum. He also suggested informing the Telegraph and Patch.

Neighborhood Conversations

Diers talked about meeting with the Continuum of Care and asked about other groups that we should be reaching out to. The idea is to go to an existing meeting and give a brief presentation and solicit input. She also mentioned that the RAC can also facilitate these conversations themselves. Some groups mentioned were Visualize Nashua, Sculpture Symposium, City Arts Nashua, iYOGU and Rotary Clubs.

Regional Visioning Process

Scenario Planning/How do we tell our story?

Diers discussed the scenario planning process scheduled for this coming fall. It would take place tentatively at the end of August/September with three workshops. Each workshop would have a regional map showing where the current resources are and show different possible scenarios. She mentioned at conference she attended in Utah she learned about the EnvisionUTAH plan. They used four scenarios and ended up with a blend of two scenarios for the plan. The goal is to have our plan drafted in 2014 with the first draft completed by June 2014.

Other Comments

Racioppi mentioned that the Governor's Conference on Tourism is coming up on April 23 and 24.

Future Meeting Dates/Times

The next meeting will on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.