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Strategic planning board report 1-25-02

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Strategic planning board report 1-23-02

HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Strategic Planning Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Lesly Smith at 10:50 a.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, in the meeting room at the South Fire Rescue Station. On roll call the following Board Members were found to be present: Chair Lesly Smith, Vice-Chair Bruce McAllister, Board Members William Cooley, Alec Flamm, and William Watchman Jr. Board Member William E. Hutton III was absent from the meeting. Also present for all or a portion of the meeting were: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Councilman William Brooks, John Fersnler of Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, and Deputy Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved through motion of Vice-Chair McAllister, seconded by Board

Member Alec Flamm. On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONTINUED DRAFTING OF VISION STATEMENT, INCLUDING REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS' WRITTEN COMMENTS

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Chair Smith commented that the importance of having the vision statement one page in length must be determined, in addition as to whether there should be an introduction statement (such as included by Board Member McAllister in the last paragraph of his prepared vision statement), and whether the conclusions of the forums should be mentioned; as well as the possibility of the need for additional forums. She questioned whether the public fully understood the purpose of the vision statement, and noted that the Strategic Planning Board members must be prepared to explain it to the public if necessary.

Vice-Chair McAllister commented that if the vision statement was one page there may be the need for a separate document with an introduction and epilogue; a quick review of the four phases of the process could also be included; it should be explained that the vision statement came from the results of the forums, and that another forum, or at least a public meeting, was needed to review the vision statement.

Board Member Flamm commented that the three steps mentioned as guidelines for the vision statement prepared by Board Member Watchman were very worthwhile and if agreement could be reached on those guideline parameters the vision statement could be more easily accomplished.

Board Member Cooley commented that the vision statement should encompass two pages, and that the guidelines proposed by Board Member Watchman were very appropriate.

Mr. Fernsler agreed that it would be necessary to have an introduction to the vision statement in order to answer the questions that would be on the minds of the public. He urged caution in making the vision statement too generic.

Board Member Flamm suggested that repetition be avoided, and that the vision statement stand on its own, and not be a restatement of where the Board was in the process, etc.

Mr. David Barton commented that the vision statement must be hopeful, not too clinical, and that the history of the Town should be acknowledged, as well as its identity.

Mr. Fernsler suggested that there be a phrase or a word that would sum up the posture that the vision statement would reflect.

Vice-Chair McAllister suggested that the directives in the current Comprehensive Plan should be referred to in the vision statement – i.e., the town will take all technical and administrative measures legally available to lower the pattern of density where possible and to minimize tourism inflow.

Town Manager Elwell cautioned against the use of verbs in the vision statement such as improve, fix, etc., as that would indicate that some action would be taken on the issues being specified.

After further detailed discussion and editing regarding the format/content of the vision statement, Town Manager Elwell clarified that the draft vision statement document provided by Board Member Cooley, as modified, with the insertion of an opening statement that would be a combination of all of the other draft vision statements submitted, would be presented at the next meeting for the review of the Strategic Planning Board. He suggested that if the Strategic Planning Board decided on the detailed vison statement that had been created today, an epilogue should be included in order to alert the public that some items may not be achievable, or may be in conflict with one another and would need further resolution in the future.

Mr. Fernsler advised that he would do his best to piece together the blended vision statement for presentation to the Board members as soon as possible.

Town Manager Elwell advised that the Fernsler draft vision statement would be circulated to the Board members, who could then individually make comments, if so desired; he anticipated that the draft vision statement would be circulated approximately one week in advance of the February 14, 2002 meeting in order for the Board members to be prepared to discuss it at that time.

V. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

VI. NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2002, AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Town Manager Elwell clarified that the focus of the meeting would be the vision statement.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Chair Lesly Smith

Prepared by:
Susan Eichhorn
Deputy Town Clerk
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Next Scheduled Meeting:
February 14, 2002 - Town Council Chambers