

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
PLAN COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 1, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM

Members Present: Dan Toland, Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Rebecca Prendergast, Chris Holtkamp, Mike Woolsey, Diane Odeen (virtual)
Staff Present: Amy Peterson, Emily Shively, Angie Bond
Others Present: Stephanie Falkers, SRF Consulting

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:31 p.m.

DISCUSSION

SRF Consultant Stephanie Falkers started off with introductions and explained the workshop goal will be to go over the results of the population projections and to begin to think about what River Falls should look like in 2040. The plan branding is Focus River Falls. This is the overall theme for the entire planning process. Engage RF is the online platform for the planning process. Bike and Pedestrian Plan held their kickoff meeting with an all-volunteer steering committee. Sub consultant, Alta is working on data collection and setting goals for the project. The Outdoor Recreation Plan is also working on data collection. Their steering committee is the Park and Rec advisory board.

Existing conditions and population projections along with community engagement will steer the Comprehensive Plan. SRF is looking at foundational information and is getting a report ready for staff to review. The goal is to look at who the population will be in 2040. Slide presentation showed the data collection on population. Population growth has continued to increase each year. Age, race, income, employment, housing, are data elements collected. Growth in the city and the growth in areas surrounding the city will be considered in the planning. Department of Administration DOA growth rate population projections data was shared. Commercial and industrial development in the City and how it will affect growth and housing needs was discussed. The University and its enrollment will also influence growth. The information will provide an estimate tool to ensure the comp plan will support the needs of the projected population. The presentation is attached.

Falkers explained two engagement tools for the project. The first is the online platform engagerf.org and the second is an Open House to be held on February 24, 2022 from 2:00-7:00 p.m. at the Public Library. The process is to inform the public that the City is planning for the next 20 years, why it is important and why they should be a part of the process. The Engage RF platform was launched on February 1. Residents don't have to attend a meeting or an event to participate, they can participate online. Currently the platform has the Focus River Falls Comprehensive Planning Projects, however the Engage RF platform can be used for other projects in the future if desired. The Open House will be staffed by SRF and City Staff, Plan Commission is invited to attend and participate.

NEXT STEPS

Falkers stated the next meeting will be to look at results from the Engage RF platform and the Open house and establish new goals from that information. SRF will send out an update on the plan progress once a month. Peterson stated two meetings each month will be likely throughout the planning process, most likely the third Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Bond, Community Development Assistant