

Meeting Notes
Newton Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Formal Meeting
January 17, 2022

Members present: Showalter, Michener, Yeager, Messinger, Otto, Lundberg, Jenkins

Members absent: Triplett, Kahn, Robinson, Illingworth, Moran

Others present: Shannon Gapp, Emily Huston, Brian Dunkelberger, Danielle Rogers, Erin Chambers

Meeting began at 12:05 PM.

Dunkelberger reviewed recent engagement efforts that staff had conducted as well as the specific events planned for the next few weeks. He shared that the intention would be to wrap up the input portion of the planning process by the end of February.

Shannon Gapp with MSA reviewed the meeting agenda and shared a presentation with the steering committee. She reviewed MSA's 3-step approach to completing the project: Community engagement; community profile, vision, and framework; and creation of the Newton Comprehensive Plan. Gapp then shared a graph portraying Newton's projected population growth and how it compared to the Des Moines metro area. Next, she presented results that had been collected by the online survey and crowdsource map to date. Gapp concluded by reviewing the existing land use map and plan for the housing assessment that will be tied to the final comprehensive plan.

After the presentation, Gapp distributed a worksheet that would provoke ideas for specific goals or "action items" for specific focus areas (e.g., economic development, housing, transportation, etc.). Staff then utilized a real-time digital poll to survey the steering committee. Results were displayed as answers were submitted via mobile phone and brief discussions occurred after all answers were submitted for each question. It was decided that this interactive tool would be utilized for future engagement events.

At the end of the meeting, staff asked steering committee members if there were any additional input opportunities that had been missed. There were several focus groups already planned and scheduled along with intentions to coordinate with school leaders to get in front of students, but staff wanted to make sure no "stone was left unturned." Discussion ensued about various opportunities to maximize public input and feedback. Messinger shared several names with staff for coordinating youth engagement.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.