

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 11/7/16

FROM: Todd Okolichany, AICP, LEED AP ND, Planning & Urban Design Director

PREPARED BY: Stacy Merten, Project Manager and Historic Resources Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update Status Report

Summary

This is a status report from the Department of Planning and Urban Design on the Comprehensive Plan update for the City of Asheville.

Background

The Comprehensive Plan is a tool that the City uses to establish a high-level vision to guide policy decisions over a 10-15 year period. The update to the Comprehensive Plan will provide a visionary framework to help guide Asheville's long term development and provide an essential tool that will be used across the City's many departments.

Update

The first Public Workshop for the Comprehensive Plan update was held at the Asheville Collider on October 10, 2016. Approximately 60 individuals participated in the event, which was organized around the six themes of the plan.

- 1) Livable Built Environment
- 2) Harmony with Natural Environment
- 3) Resilient Economy
- 4) Interwoven Equity
- 5) Healthy Community
- 6) Responsible Regionalism.

There were stations set up with graphical boards designed to provide participants with an overview of the comprehensive planning process and explain how the Vision will be used to inform the future work of the City. Additionally, the stations, based on the six themes of the plan, provided preliminary data gathered through the on-line survey and invited participants to provide input as part of a Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results (SOAR) analysis.

Staff and the consultant team met with the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, following the Public Workshop, and asked for continued guidance on the public participation process. The Advisory Committee also focused in on the list of stakeholder groups to narrow down the list, so that the Planning Team could move ahead with additional focus group input sessions.

Work is now underway to organize the next round of Public Workshops, which will be held over a two day period on December 6th and 7th. There will be multiple workshops held in all regions of the City and the public process will build on data gathered from the SOAR analysis. Staff is also working with the consultants to arrange a series of focus groups, which will be designed to gather input from the list of stakeholder groups identified with assistance from the Advisory Committee.

Staff continues to work with the CAPE team on redesign of the website and expects to have the initial Assessment Report on-line within the week in addition to the survey results and background information from the Public Workshops.

Financial Impact/Resources

The Comprehensive Plan contract was approved with a total budget not to exceed \$264,345.

2036 Council Vision

This Comprehensive Plan update aligns with the 2036 Council Vision in the following area:

- **A Well-Planned and Livable Community.** The Comprehensive Plan update aims to promote community through thoughtful, resident-led planning that will result in strategies related to land use, multimodal transportation, economic development, infrastructure, housing, livability, place-making, open space, streetscapes, climate change, sustainability and resiliency.

Recommendation

Not applicable. The information provided in this report is for information purposes only.