

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 2/8/16

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

PREPARED BY: Stacy Merten, Historic Resources Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update Status Report

Summary

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

Background

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to set forth goals and policies for sustainable growth and development over the next 10-20 years and beyond. The plan will establish a vision for Asheville and include policy guidance, reflecting the community's vision for the location and form of future development, while ensuring sufficient infrastructure, parks and other community services.

Update

Staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit planning consultant services to assist the City in updating its Comprehensive Plan on November 9, 2015, with a deadline of December 21, 2015 for submission of proposals. A committee consisting of the following participants was formed to review the proposals and select a consultant team: Todd Okolichany, Director of Planning and Urban Design; Alan Glines Assistant Director of Planning and Urban Design; Stacy Merten, Project Manager; Amber Weaver, Chief Sustainability Officer; Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Manager; Al Kopf, Parks and Recreation Manager; Jeremy Goldstein, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission; and Kristy Carter, Vice Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission.

The City received nine proposals in response to the RFP. The selection committee met on January 12, 2016, to review the proposals and identify the top scoring firms for interviews. Four firms were selected for in-person interviews, which occurred during the week of February 1, 2016. The interview process resulted in the identification of two top scoring firms for further review.

The selection committee is planning to meet once more in mid February in order to make the final decision. Staff will then bring a contract for services with the highest ranking firm to City Council for consideration and approval.

Financial Impact/Resources

There is a current budget of \$200,000 to hire consultant services in FY 2015-2016.

Goal Alignment

The Comprehensive Plan Update is directly linked to the City Council Strategic Operating Plan Focus Area 1: Economic Growth and Sustainability; Goal 3: Create economic development and community investment opportunities through partnerships, planning and incentives; Action Item: Update the Comprehensive Plan 2025.

Recommendation

Not applicable. The information provided in this report is for information purposes only. Staff anticipates bringing forth the selection committee's recommendation to City Council in March of 2016.