

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 5/17/16

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

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 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

Following approval of the contract by City Council at their meeting on April 26th, staff finalized the documents and prepared them for signature by the consultant, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, PLLC (SOM) and the City Manager. Staff also initiated the formation of the Advisory Committee which is slated for discussion by the Governance Committee at their meeting on May 10, with a full hearing before City Council at their meeting, also on May 10, 2016.

Staff proposes that the Advisory Committee will have representation, at minimum, from the following organizations (in no particular order), plus three at-large members:

- Planning and Zoning Committee;
- African American Heritage Committee;
- City of Asheville Recreation Board;
- Asheville Downtown Commission;
- Historic Resources Commission of Asheville & Buncombe County (HRC);
- Public Art and Cultural Commission (PACC);
- Buncombe County liaison;
- Downtown Commission;
- Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE);
- Asheville Multi-modal Transportation Commission;
- Asheville Affordable Housing Advisory Committee;
- Neighborhood Advisory Committee; and,
- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Coalition.

The Advisory Committee will be involved throughout the planning process. The scope of the Advisory Committee includes, at a minimum, the following tasks:

- Attend a workshop with SOM's Planning Team and city staff during the Assessment Phase of the project to review deliverables related to data collection, benchmarking and public/stakeholder engagement.
- Attend 2 workshops with SOM's Planning Team and city staff during the Strategy and Vision Phase of the project to advise on strategies related to public engagement, economic development, physical opportunity scenarios and the establishment of Asheville's Principles and Goals.
- Attend a teleconference with SOM's Planning Team and city staff at the Draft Comprehensive Plan Phase of the project to review a draft progress package and attend a follow-up workshop with SOM's Planning Team and city staff to review and comment on the Final Draft of the Plan.
- Attend a workshop with SOM's Planning Team and city staff for a presentation on the Final Comprehensive Plan.

The first workshop with city staff and SOM's Planning Team to kick-off the planning process is scheduled for May 16-17th. This first meeting will include discussions with City Management and the City Technical Team to refine the scope, schedule and expected outcomes of the project. Staff is also arranging for a tour of the City with the Planning Team.

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.