

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 3/7/16
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

The selection committee consisting of: 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, met on February 15, 2016, and have recommended Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) as the firm to work on the Comprehensive Plan update.

Planning and Urban Design staff notified SOM of the selection committee's decision and initiated negotiations on a contract. Planning staff also consulted with the City's Communication and Public Engagement (CAPE) staff to review language for incorporation into the contract, reflecting the services CAPE will provide.

Planning and Urban Design staff reviewed the draft contract, which was received on March 1, 2016, and are scheduled to further refine the contract language in consultation with SOM on March 8, 2016. Staff will continue to negotiate the contract and anticipates that a final document will be ready for presentation to City Council in early April.

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 April of 2016.