

Annapolis Comprehensive Master Plan Update
Public Engagement Meeting: Presidents of Neighborhood/Civic Associations
Pip Moyer Recreation Center

Thursday January 23, 2020

Sally introduced the evening by discussing what the comprehensive plan was and what the update would include.

- State mandated requirement, County is updating their General Development Plan at the same time. Topics covered in the plans are state mandated and cover such topics as: Transportation, Land Use, Housing, Sensitive Areas, Open Space, Community Amenities etc.
- Visionary document that helps set the path for shaping the community in the future, prioritizes needs and goals, also helps the city organize and allocate resources

Planning Commission representatives defined their role and asked the community to give feedback and attend an upcoming discussion on February 6, 2020. It was further requested the community give feedback on topics and items which could be addressed with more specificity in the comprehensive plan update.

What has happened to date:

- To date working with planning commission to evaluate the Market Analysis and Demographic Information
- Moving into the outreach stage
- Met with boards and commissions in December - 30 boards and commissions covering a range of topics, all are volunteer
- Resilience work with university of Maryland - still in draft format and will be polished and shared with the community for comment and feedback
- Housing workgroup taking place - focus on needs of transitional housing, housing for the homeless, workforce housing
- Survey on website, new survey being added soon
- Weekly updates being shared - can sign up for the newsflash

What is ahead:

- Building toward a big meeting on April 30, 2020 to share the feedback and goals heard from the community
- Asking the community to give goals - lofty and big ideas, also asking for strategies to accomplish these goals, and finally targets and measures to help evaluate the progress toward reaching the goals. Example:
 - Goal: Improve traffic safety
 - Measure: number of crashes
 - Strategy: eliminate substandard intersections where a high rate of accidents occur.
- Timeframe for feedback - Sally indicated mid-April as a target date
- Looking into forming a work group that would meet every other week to work through the details of the plan and evaluate and comment on the work completed.
- On the Table - reviewed the document and intended use, requested community leaders share On the Table with their community members and provide feedback as they gather it.

Participant Question:

Question: Participant asked if the Anne Arundel GDP and Annapolis Comp Plan are interrelated documents and prepared together?

Response: The two plans do try to work together, and each team communicates with the other, but each municipality has its own resources and needs, so while they work together they also operate independently of each other.

Question: How is the plan used and put into action once complete?

Response: once the plan is complete the recommendations are put into action – two significant ways is through changes in law and capital budget. Need money and political support.

1. If the plan calls for a certain building height, then the zoning ordinance would be updated, or a law may be changed.
2. Larger projects identified in the plan would be put into the city budget and funded by City council for implementation.

Question: Does the plan account for situations where policy in the plan is not accomplished or becomes outdated, ie., How is the plan flexible?

Response: some plans allow for and facilitate an iterative process for a checks and validation of the plan to confirm progress or the need for updating the direction and possibly redirecting the plan or initiative. A process can be looked into and discussed as the team moves forward with the plan update.

Question: Has the City considered having focus groups for the Comp plan to allow individuals with specific interests to participate and give feedback.

Response: City Staff indicated they would be meeting with various existing stakeholder groups and commissions around specialized topics but could also use look into facilitating additional group meetings to speak about specialized topics or dedicate each meeting of the Nitty Gritty Committee to a specific topic.

Question: Is public safety a topic in the comp plan? It is a top tier topic in many communities.

Response: the City is looking into including a public safety topic in the Healthy Community chapter of the comp plan.

Question: what impact feedback from individuals who own homes vs. renters have on the plan and how does this fact play into how the input is taken into consideration?

Sometimes, renters are less engaged, and would there be any consideration to how a renters feedback would be taken into consideration?

Response: Feedback from anyone who provides it will be considered and taken with the same weight.

Comment: The group had a brief discussion on the topic of accessory dwelling units and the challenges currently facing the community.

Comment: it was indicted a lack of communication and collaboration between city, state, and county and indicated additional communication was needed and is being sought

Comment: Planning Commissioner - reinforced the City's commitment to involving the public in the planning process and asked for feedback from the community to ensure a robust process and an update to the plan that reflected