

Regional Planning Advisory Council & Imagine Central Arkansas Partners

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Minutes

RPAC & ICAP Members Attending:

Name	Representing	RPAC/ICAP
Jack Bell	City of Conway	ICAP
Charles Cummings	Freight & Trucking	RPAC
Gary DalPorto (nonvoting)	FHWA	RPAC
Steve Eichhorn	Benton Public Housing Authority	ICAP
Joshua Fout	Pulaski County	ICAP
Paul Hastings	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Todd Larson	City of North Little Rock	RPAC
Matthew Long	CATA	Both
Robert Markman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Jim McKenzie	Metroplan	ICAP
Buckley O'Mell	LRRCC	RPAC
Tim Ragsdale	Disabilities community	RPAC
Bernadette Rhodes	City of North Little Rock	ICAP
Dan Roda	City of Little Rock	RPAC
Kim Romano	AHTD	RPAC
Carolyn Shearman	Sierra Club	RPAC
Mitchell Simpson	Arkansas Energy Office (AEO)	ICAP
Vanessa Smith	Partners for Inclusive Communities	ICAP
Patrick Stair	Sierra Club	RPAC
Jack Stowe	City of Maumelle	Both
Tom Sutton	Clinton National Airport	RPAC
Regina Taylor	Youth Outreach	RPAC
Amy Whitehead	University of Central Arkansas (UCA)	ICAP
Mary Louise Williams	Pulaski County	RPAC

Metroplan Staff, Consultants, and Guests Attending:

Casey Covington	CARTS Planning Director
Susan Dollar	Transportation Planner
Nelson Galeano	Transportation Engineer
Tionna Jenkins	Clinton Foundation
Daniel Holland	Planner
Jonathan Lupton	Research Planner
Richard Magee	Deputy Director
Brian Mitchell	Research Planner
Judy Watts	Outreach Coordinator

1. Call to Order

RPAC-Partnership Chairman Charles Cummings called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Mr. Patrick Stair introduced two new members, Ms. Carolyn

Shearman and Dr. Robert Markman. Both will represent the Sierra Club as alternates to Mr. Stair. Mr. Cummings and the Council-Partnership welcomed the new members.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of April 3rd were deferred until the next meeting.

3. Vision, Goals and Objectives (VGO)

Mr. Richard Magee presented the initial recommendations of the VGO Committee, and explained the genesis of the revised goals:

Working independent of each other, the RPAC developed six goals all relating to transportation, and the ICAP developed four goals that addressed issues pertaining to health, housing, environment and energy, and economic growth. The VGO started with those ten goals and their objectives and looked for commonalities. Goal 1 (Economic Development) was combined with Goal 10 (Economic Growth) and became **Goal 1, Economic Growth and Vitality**. Goal 9 (Energy and Environment) merged with Goal 2 (Environmental Quality) to become **Goal 3, Environmental Quality and Sustainable Energy**. Goal 4 (Land Development) was combined with Goal 7 (Housing) to become **Goal 4, Land Development and Housing**. Goal 5 (Quality Transportation Corridors) was combined with Goal 2, Equality of Access and Transportation Choices, and was renamed **Goal 2, Quality Corridors and Transportation Choice**.

Ms. Susan Dollar drew the group's attention to the matrix that was developed as a cross-referencing tool to the objectives and sub-objectives. It is organized by key word and can be expanded as an index with pagination to include the entire plan. Aside from the immediate work that is being done by the VGO committee, the advantage of having an index is that many people will first seek out the information that is important to them—for example, “biking”, “renewable energy”, “freight”, and so on. Ms. Dollar emphasized that like the VGO, the matrix is a working draft.

Mr. Patrick Stair stated that he appreciated the format and presentation of the VGO. Although there are areas that will require clarification and conciseness, the process is well presented.

There was some discussion regarding the fine line between repetition as justifiable emphasis, and as mere redundancy. Consideration will be made on a case-by-case basis. The VGO Committee will begin grappling with that and other issues of clarification, between now and the next full Council-Partnership meeting.

Mr. Dan Roda reminded the group to think of resources that will help to implement the goals and objectives. Ms. Dollar added that the lined notes area under each goal is to inspire ideas. In response to a question regarding type of resources, she said that it could be a service (for example, the

availability of free energy audits), or information on grant possibilities, or any other useful idea.

Mr. Todd Larson commented that the term “land development” implies new development, whereas much emphasis is given elsewhere in the plan to infill and redevelopment. “Land use” is more direct, but also carries connotations that may not appeal to everybody.

MOTION by Mr. Stair, second by Mr. Larson

“To approve the six goals as the framework for further developing the objectives.”

PASSED

Mr. Cummings requested staff to reiterate the next steps in preparing the goals and objectives. Mr. Magee replied that members are asked to review the VGO has currently drafted, with an eye toward, (1) eliminating or adding language to the objectives/sub-objectives/strategies; and, (2) adding possible resources—financial or otherwise—that could help to advance the goal or objective.

Ms. Amy Whitehead commented that she saw several areas in first goal (Economic Growth and Vitality) that she would recommend revising. Mr. Steve Eichhorn added that he, too, saw places relating to housing and energy that need clarification. Ms. Dollar replied that those are exactly the sort of edits staff and the VGO committee are looking for.

Mr. Magee stated that copies would be sent out via email so that people will have their choice of how to work on the edits.

4. Update on Deliverables

Mr. Casey Covington briefly reported that the 18-20 page summary document is nearing completion. This document will summarize the 240+ pages that comprise the long range plan.

5. Other Business and Next Meetings

The next meeting is set for Thursday, May 1st. On the agenda: recommendations for the Central Arkansas Livability Index, and time permitting, an update on the VGO.

Other meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, May 20th Final recommendations for the VGO
- Thursday, June 19th Final Report

All meetings will be called to order at 12:00 noon, with lunch and socializing at 11:30.

There will be additional meetings for the VGO Steering Committee, prior to May 1st.

7. Adjourn

With no further business brought forward, the Council and Partners adjourned at 12:46 p.m.