



City of Lawrence
Douglas County
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Horizon 2020 Steering Committee
City Commission Room
4:00 – 6:00pm
October 13, 2014

AGENDA

- 1) Approve September 22, 2014 Meeting Notes**
- 2) Presentation by Chris Tilden on Community Health**
- 3) Discussion on Public Forum Questions/Process**
- 4) Receive Staff Memo regarding Possible Additional Meeting**
- 5) Receive State Statute 12-747: Comprehensive Plan Requirements**

Upcoming Items

Public Forums

- Wednesday, November 5th, 2014, 6pm to 8pm – Lawrence High School Cafeteria
- Thursday, November 13th, 2014, 6pm to 8pm – Lawrence High School Cafeteria

November 10th, 2014 – Meeting Cancelled

2015 Meeting Dates

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| ○ January 12 | ○ July 13 |
| ○ February 9 | ○ August 10 |
| ○ March 9 | ○ September 14 |
| ○ April 13 | ○ October 12 |
| ○ May 11 | ○ November 9 |
| ○ June 8 | ○ December 14 |

**Horizon 2020 Steering Committee
September 22, 2014
Meeting Notes**

Members Present: Comm. Thellman, Mayor Amyx, Clay Britton, Kyra Martinez, Dr. Rick Doll, John Gascon, Stan Rasmussen, Bill Ackerly, Lisa Harris, Scott Zaremba, Charlie Bryan (ex officio)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott McCullough, Jeff Crick, Amy Miller, David Corliss

Others Present: Several members of the public were present.

Mayor Amyx welcomed everyone.

The meeting notes from the September 8, 2014 meeting were discussed. Two minor typos were identified and corrected by staff. Motioned by Britton and seconded by Doll to approve the September 8, 2014 notes with the two minor corrections. Motion passed 6-0-3. Harris, Zaremba and Rasmussen abstained since they were not present at the September 8, 2014 meeting.

The committee then received the additional information from Tenants to Homeowners, the additional petition from the Lawrence Affordable Housing Coalition, the memorandum from Kirk McClure regarding Housing Issues in Lawrence and communication from John Gascon.

(John Gascon and Charlie Bryan joined the meeting)

The committee then received a presentation from planning staff regarding demographics.

Mayor Amyx brought up a concern regarding the amendment process and next steps. The committee discussed the item and decided that they would revisit the conversation after the public input phase and through discussions regarding the issue prioritization.

(Rick Doll left the meeting)

Meeting adjourned.

Welcome to the Public Forums

These Public Forums are an opportunity to talk with the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee about key topics that citizens & the Steering Committee have identified as being important to the future of our community. Please join us to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns about these topics.

November 5th, 2014: 6 to 8 PM

Lawrence High School Cafeteria

1901 Louisiana St., Lawrence

November 13th, 2014: 6 to 8 PM

Lawrence High School Cafeteria

1901 Louisiana St., Lawrence

TOPICS

- Maintaining Agricultural Uses in Douglas County
- Quality Housing for All Incomes
- Downtown Lawrence Issues
- Growth Management

TOPICS

- Creation of Employment Opportunities
- Retail Issues
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- Arts & Cultural Amenities

WHAT TO EXPECT

Each Forum will be divided into four, 20-minute discussion sessions. Each table will be moderated by a member of the Committee or staff who will take notes to share with other Committee members.

WHAT TO DO

Tell us your thoughts and ideas! The selected topics were brought up frequently during the Open Houses and Surveys, so we want to know more about what the community thinks about these topics.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

In the weeks following the two Forums, the Committee will weigh the input received and begin developing a foundation document called the Issues Action Report. This document will help outline the necessary revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. The input you provide tonight will directly impact the level and scope of the revisions.

Find more information on our website Lawrenceks.org/pds or call **785.832.3150**



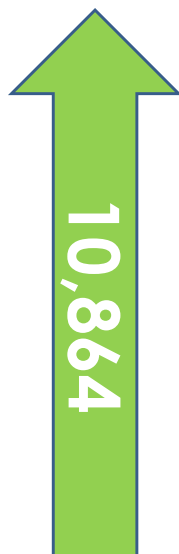
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Key Demographics

Douglas County: Since 2000

Total Population

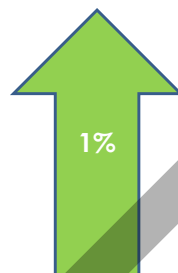


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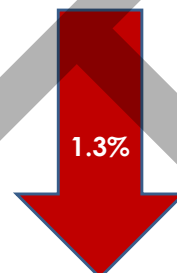
Median Age



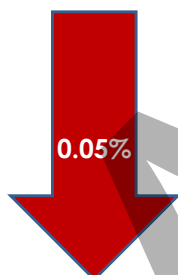
Population 65+



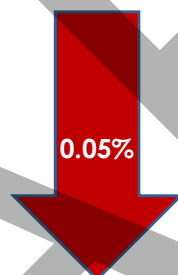
School Age Population



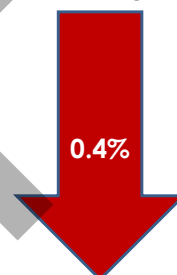
Labor Force



Household Size



Owner-Occupied Housing



Lawrence: Since 2000

Total Population



9%

Median Age



Population 65+



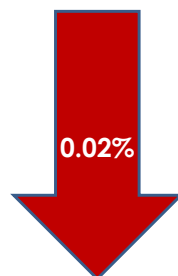
School Age Population



Labor Force



Household Size



Owner-Occupied Housing



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Forum Topic Groupings

Wednesday, November 5th, 2014

1. Maintaining Agricultural Uses in Douglas County
 2. Quality Housing for All Incomes
 3. Downtown Lawrence Issues (stability, expansion)
 4. Growth Management (including increasing height/density of developments)
-

Commissioners Attending:

1. Lisa Harris
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
-

Thursday, November 13th, 2014

1. Creation of Employment Opportunities
 2. Retail Issues (In-Fill, small neighborhood)
 3. Parks, Recreation & Open Space (including sidewalks/trails/walking paths)
 4. Arts & Cultural Amenities
-

Commissioners Attending:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

1. Maintaining Agricultural Uses in Douglas County (WEDNESDAY)

- Since 1980, Lawrence has expanded 70% in size, Baldwin City 93%, Eudora 139%, Lecompton 83%
 - Unincorporated Douglas Co. has seen a decrease of over 1,000 agricultural acres since 1980.
 - As municipalities anticipate continued population growth, municipal boundaries are expected to continue growing.
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1. How vital is it to manage urban growth in an effort to ensure the preservation of agricultural uses throughout the county?
2. Given how important agriculture is to the local economy, should the review of permits for removing land from agricultural uses for development purposes be more or less stringent?
3. What key step(s) and/or policies should be explored to ensure farmland is protected in the coming years?
4. What incentives would be appropriate to offer the community in order to maintain prime farmland for agricultural uses? What measures, if any, should be used to determine how much growth into prime agricultural land should be permitted at a given interval?

2. Quality Housing for All Incomes (WEDNESDAY)

- In 2013, Median Family Income for Douglas County was \$70,800. To be considered low income, a single-person household had to earn below \$39,700, a family of four would earn less than \$56,650.
 - 23% of Lawrence households have to spend more than 50% of their monthly income on housing alone.
 - Given the current economic climate, the need for affordable housing is expected to grow.
 - Affordable housing is defined as housing units where the occupant is paying no more than 30% of their gross income, including taxes and utilities.
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1. What role should Douglas County and the City of Lawrence play in ensuring affordable housing is available throughout the community?
2. Should affordable housing be a requisite for receiving public subsidies for residential development projects?
3. What factors should be required of projects to meet the definition of quality housing for our community?
4. Should affordable housing be defined strictly by the cost of housing, or should its definition include the ability to live & work in the same municipality?
5. Should new subdivisions be required to include a certain percentage of affordable housing as a requirement for development?
6. Should affordable housing be concentrated in certain areas or scattered throughout the community?

3. Downtown Lawrence Issues (stability, expansion) (WEDNESDAY)

- Massachusetts Street was named one of the Great Places in America: Streets by the American Planning Association in 2010.
 - In 2012, retail comprised 34% of all businesses in Downtown Lawrence
 - In 2012, non-food, non-retail services make up 41% of total square footage in Downtown Lawrence.
-

1. Should Downtown Lawrence continue to be a diverse mix of uses for Lawrence over the next 20 years?
2. What is the primary aspect (such as housing, transit, retail emphasis, etc.) that Downtown Lawrence lacks that would help improve its stability as Lawrence's central business district?
3. Should the focus on Downtown Lawrence include the edges to help buffer and protect neighborhoods or should Downtown Lawrence be allowed to naturally develop?
4. What do you believe is the one key facet Downtown Lawrence is missing that would strengthen its place in the community?
5. To help maintain and encourage continued retail and housing expansion in Downtown Lawrence, should incentives be provided?

4. Growth Management (including increasing height/density of developments)

(WEDNESDAY)

- The land mass of the City of Lawrence has grown by 45% since 1990. Baldwin City – 82%, Eudora – 97%, Lecompton – 91%.
 - Population throughout Douglas County is expected to continue to grow.
 - Residential zoning comprises 47% of Lawrence, (Commercial: 8%, Industrial: 12%)
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1. Should an emphasis be placed on promoting density to maintain a more centralized urban center?
2. How stringent should the limitation be on Lawrence's outward municipal growth?
3. In order to achieve a more compact Lawrence, buildings must either be taller or be built closer together. Which option do you prefer?
4. If buildings were to be built taller in an effort to create a more compact Lawrence, what should be the maximum height allowed? Or should there be no limit?
5. What concessions would you feel are acceptable, if any, to promote changes in Lawrence's development patterns to slow outward growth?

5. Creation of Employment Opportunities (THURSDAY)

- The three highest employment sectors are 1) Accommodation & Food Service, 2) Health Care & Social Assistance, 3) Retail Trade.
 - Lawrence is consistently ranked as one of the most educated cities in the U.S.
 - Recently, Douglas Co. ranks 39th in nation and 2nd in Kansas with percent of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher.
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1. How can the City/County most effectively foster and develop the diversity of employment opportunities?
2. What incentives/concessions would be appropriate to utilize in encouraging major employers to locate within the community?
3. Should a dedicated funding source be created as a source to attract employers to Douglas County/Lawrence?
4. What actions could be undertaken to nurture new and existing small business in the community?

6. Retail Issues (In-Fill, small neighborhood) (THURSDAY)

- Neighborhood Commercial zoning equates to 7.4% of all the commercial zoning within the City of Lawrence.
 - 55% of all retail in Lawrence are location in 3 locations (South Iowa: 22.8%, Downtown Lawrence: 17.6%, West 6th St.: 14.1%)
 - In 2012, 7.2% of all retail space in Lawrence was vacant.
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1. How important do you feel it is to accommodate smaller, more neighborhood-centric retail today and in the coming years?
2. How much retail would you like to see incorporated into your neighborhood?
3. Do you think Lawrence has too little, too much, or just enough?
4. How much retail expansion should be considered at a single time? How should this be determined?

7. Parks, Recreation & Open Space (including sidewalks/trails/walking paths)

(THURSDAY)

- 4.9% of Lawrence is designated as parks or open space.
 - The City of Lawrence includes over 3,400 acres, over 25 miles of recreational trails, and over 50 miles of both on- and off-street bicycle routes.
 - This includes 62 parks or facilities, including 9 future parks.
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1. What aspect of the parks do you find missing presently today?
2. Which is more important: the destination of paths or the connectivity of them?
3. Do you feel that you can easily access a park from your neighborhood?
4. What level of dedication should be given to the enhancement of park space along the waterfront of the Kansas River?

8. Arts & Cultural Amenities (THURSDAY)

- In Kansas annually, \$153.5 million in total economic activity is generated by arts and cultural organizations.
 - The National Endowment for the Arts ranked Lawrence 12th among cities in the U.S. with the largest percentage of professional artists in the workforce.
 - Lawrence Arts Center employs 120 visual & performing artists a year.
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1. Should promotion of the arts & culture be a key part of Douglas County and Lawrence's economic development?
2. What role should Lawrence and Douglas County have in developing and fostering the arts & culture community, and how active should they be?
3. How important of a role do you feel the arts and culture play in creating Lawrence and Douglas County's sense of community?
4. Should Lawrence's unique character be more strongly expressed in the architecture of new development and redeveloped properties?
5. What else would enhance these aspects of Douglas County and Lawrence?

Memorandum

City of Lawrence/Douglas County

Planning and Development Services

TO: Horizon 2020 Steering Committee

FROM: Planning Staff

Date: For October 13, 2014 meeting

RE: Additional Steering Committee Meeting to Discuss Public Forum Proposal

The recent rescheduling of presentations onto the December 8th, 2014 agenda has created a situation for the Steering Committee to consider an additional meeting on November 17th, 2014. This additional meeting would permit for the timely discussion of comments and ideas brought forward by the community at the Public Forums on November 5th and 13th. Currently, the Steering Committee's tentative schedule would have availability to discuss the Public Forums on January 12th, 2015, two months after the forums.

If appropriate, staff would recommend moving to approve an additional Steering Committee meeting on November 17th, 2014.

12-747. Same; comprehensive plan; contents; procedure for adoption; annual review of plan. (a) A city planning commission is hereby authorized to make or cause to be made a comprehensive plan for the development of such city and any unincorporated territory lying outside of the city but within the same county in which such city is located, which in the opinion of the planning commission, forms the total community of which the city is a part. The city shall notify the board of county commissioners in writing of its intent to extend the planning area into the county. A county planning commission is authorized to make or cause to be made a comprehensive plan for the coordinated development of the county, including references to planning for cities as deemed appropriate. The provisions of this subsection may be varied through interlocal agreements.

(b) The planning commission may adopt and amend a comprehensive plan as a whole by a single resolution, or by successive resolutions, the planning commission may adopt or amend parts of the plan. Such resolution shall identify specifically any written presentations, maps, plats, charts or other materials made a part of such plan. In the preparation of such plan, the planning commission shall make or cause to be made comprehensive surveys and studies of past and present conditions and trends relating to land use, population and building intensity, public facilities, transportation and transportation facilities, economic conditions, natural resources and may include any other element deemed necessary to the comprehensive plan. **Such proposed plan shall show the commission's recommendations for the development or redevelopment of the territory including: (a) The general location, extent and relationship of the use of land for agriculture, residence, business, industry, recreation, education, public buildings and other community facilities, major utility facilities both public and private and any other use deemed necessary; (b) population and building intensity standards and restrictions and the application of the same; (c) public facilities including transportation facilities of all types whether publicly or privately owned which relate to the transportation of persons or goods; (d) public improvement programming based upon a determination of relative urgency; (e) the major sources and expenditure of public revenue including long range financial plans for the financing of public facilities and capital improvements, based upon a projection of the economic and fiscal activity of the community, both public and private; (f) utilization and conservation of natural resources; and (g) any other element deemed necessary to the proper development or redevelopment of the area.** Before adopting or amending any such plan or part thereof, the planning commission shall hold a public hearing thereon, notice of which shall be published at least once in the official city newspaper in the case of a city or in the official county newspaper in the case of a county. Such notice shall be published at least 20 days prior to the date of the hearing. Upon the adoption or amendment of any such plan or part thereof by adoption of the appropriate resolution by a majority vote of all members of the planning commission, a certified copy of the plan or part thereof, together with a written summary of the hearing thereon, shall be submitted to the governing body. No comprehensive plan shall be effective unless approved by the governing body as provided by this section. The governing body either may: (1) Approve such recommendations by ordinance in a city or resolution in a county; (2) override the planning commission's recommendations by a 2/3 majority vote; or (3) may return the same to the planning commission for further consideration, together with a statement specifying the basis for the governing body's failure to approve or disapprove. If the governing body returns the planning commission's recommendations, the planning commission, after considering the same, may resubmit its original recommendations giving the reasons therefor or submit new and amended recommendations. Upon the receipt of such recommendations, the governing body, by a simple majority thereof, may adopt or may revise or amend and adopt such recommendations by the respective ordinance or resolution, or it need take no further action thereon. If the planning commission fails to deliver its recommendations to the governing body following the planning commission's next regular meeting after receipt of the governing body's report, the governing body shall consider such course of inaction on the part of the planning commission as a resubmission of the original recommendations and proceed accordingly. The comprehensive plan and any amendments thereto shall become effective upon publication of the respective adopting ordinance or resolution.

(c) An attested copy of the comprehensive plan and any amendments thereto shall be sent to all other taxing subdivisions in the planning area which request a copy of such plan. Such plan or part thereof shall constitute the basis or guide for public action to insure a coordinated and harmonious development or redevelopment which will best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare as well as wise and efficient expenditure of public funds.

(d) At least once each year, the planning commission shall review or reconsider the plan or any part thereof and may propose amendments, extensions or additions to the same. The procedure for the adoption of any such amendment, extension or addition to any plan or part thereof shall be the same as that required for the adoption of the original plan or part thereof.

History: L. 1991, ch. 56, § 7; L. 1997, ch. 147, § 4; May 1.