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## COLORADO SPRINGS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### STEERING COMMITTEE KICKOFF MEETING NOTES

8:30 – 10:30 am, 28 June 2016

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#### ATTENDEES

##### Steering Committee

Merv Bennett, *Chair*  
Jill Gaebler, *Vice Chair*  
Lynette Crow-Iverson  
Bob Cutter  
Charles Deason  
Kent Fortune  
Kevin Kratt  
Carly Hoff  
Eric Phillips  
Jim Raughton  
Harry Salzman

Tim Seibert  
Robert Shonkwiler  
Doug Stimple  
Taj Stokes

##### City of Colorado Springs

Jeff Greene, *Chief of Staff*  
Peter Wysocki, *Planning & Community Development Director*  
Carl Schueler,  
*Comprehensive Planning Manager*

##### Consultant Team

Bruce Meighen, *Logan Simpson*  
Megan Moore, *Logan Simpson*  
Miriam McGilvray, *Logan Simpson*  
Pier Davis, *Logan Simpson*  
Susan Watkins, *Kezziah Watkins*

#### MEETING MINUTES

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##### BACKGROUND A. Welcome, Introductions & Ice Breaker | Merv Bennett & Carl Schueler

Jeff Greene welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in such an important committee, one that will make serious decisions and policy recommendations.

For an icebreaker, committee members went around the room and answered two questions: *Where do you live/work/play within Colorado Springs? Why did you move to Colorado Springs? Or, why have you never left?* The most common themes are as follows:

- Natural Setting
- Family
- Active Lifestyle
- Education
- Quality of Life

##### B. Roles & Responsibilities | Bruce Meighen and Peter Wysocki

The overview of roles and responsibilities included the Steering Committee, as well as the Technical Support Team, Co-Creators, consultants, and staff. The Steering Committee is the ambassador and advocate for the community.

Steering Committee members will be asked to:

- Weigh in on decisions in a positive/constructive way; find an equitable solution that represents your community
  - Listen, and let everyone speak
  - Offer ideas, especially about public involvement
  - Be creative; think big and out of the box; think about the next 30 years
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Co-Creators are:

- Other community members that want to volunteer and engage meaningfully; they care about where this community goes
- People who are willing to go one step beyond public engagement

Technical Support Team will be asked to:

- Bring technical knowledge to the process
- Advise on direction and content by auditing the plan

### C. Overall Process + Schedule | Megan Moore

The first phase of the process sets up the planning process through branding, logos, website content and getting the word out. This first phase also includes a series of stakeholder interviews. The Committee was asked to submit names of people throughout the community to interview to look at big issues and opportunities for the future.

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## EXERCISE

### A. Questions + Discussion | Bruce Meighen

Committee members were asked to respond to three questions to help frame the expectations for the planning process.

**What are your goals for the Comprehensive Plan? For example, complete this sentence: “This Plan will be a success if \_\_\_\_\_.”**

- Our local leaders will implement the direction toward a work/life balance
- Return on investment
- We're united with a single direction and vision
- Enables Colorado Springs to optimize health, environmental health and sustainability
- Guides policy not just bureaucratic process
- We can get to the best idea from all the public input
- Represents all values of our community
- There are actionable steps to engage community
- It's useful for Planning Commission
- It educates the public about real issues.
- We do this right, to break down barriers, to build trust
- The Steering Committee acts as ambassadors.
- We can reach out to community to have strong vision for City Council to use – Strategic Vision
- Recognizes market realities. Ideals are great, but market gets a vote
- We actually use the Plan. Shouldn't gather dust. Engage people!
- It's a document that we can use. Use it to embrace new ideas
- It engages people that wrote last Plan. What worked? What didn't?
- Strengthens every part of our city (geographically)



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- It guides policy for every agency of City. Creates Vision to set agenda and budget priorities
  - We build and rebuild city infrastructure: roads, alleys, stormwater
  - We think strategically about specific areas.
  - Create a guide post for what we should be.

### **What are our biggest issues and opportunities for the Plan?**

- Youth/talent retention
- Southeast communities are at risk
- Revitalization/infill
- Walkability
- Tech/incubators/next infrastructure generation
- Upgrading infrastructure
- Social component of communities
- Aging demographics
- City revenue base with sales and property tax – split is a challenge
- Needs more jobs
- Parks and roads infrastructure
- Focus on investors/tourist (Pikes Peak
- Opportunity to find things to do
- Growth workforce
- Infrastructure
- Infill
- Keeping local talent
- Infrastructure up to par before going forward (transportation and water)
- Hidden parts of economy – arts and history of arts
- Change mindset of building (NIMBYism)
- Transportation is issue as we grow - for young people
- Break down development barriers to people coming here
- Aging workforce/demographics
- Educating demographics – aging population
- Erosion of military base – impact on land and community
- Linking plan to other plans
- Workforce that attracts talented people and new job sectors
- Change attitude of not wanting to reinvest in itself
- Market Plan and have it be focused on by city council

### **What will Colorado Springs look like in 2035?**

- Thriving/changing/working city
  - Revitalized and desegregated but neighborhoods that are diverse and connected to a larger community
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- Setting Pikes Peak as keystone to City
  - Transformed Oklahoma City is a precedent for positive change
  - Cyber Capital of the World
  - Airport – lead aviation industry and become employment center
  - Make North Nevada revitalized
  - Colorado Avenue Corridor as gateway to mountains
  - South Nevada cleaned up
  - Reduce disparity and more unity across various component and areas of city
  - Work/life balance
  - Parks and good roads
  - 2-3 synergistic job employers to create live/work/play balance
  - Robust, thriving community
  - Thriving economy, with primary employers here
  - Denser
  - Multi-generational
  - Vital/strong neighborhoods
  - Unique identity but connected through mobility

**General Discussion Comments:**

- There should be a one-sentence response to “why should I get involved in the Comprehensive Plan process?”
  - Can you elaborate on “vision”? The Plan Audit will allow us to be respectful of other plan visions that exist in other areas of the City. The Comprehensive Plan encompasses everything, land use and beyond.
  - Neighborhoods are very diverse and need specific plans. This process will set up a template for future neighborhood planning efforts.
  - This comprehensive planning process will replace the Mayor’s strategic planning council
  - What is the rate of return for this project? What will it cost the City and what will the community expect back from this process?
    - An economic analysis will be done as part of this Comp Plan. This plan impacts our policies, our neighbors, our zoning, and the City resources.
    - June 15th Article in CO Real Estate: real estate enjoys the planning process of city, implied benefit to development if we do it effectively; economist in article argues it (planning process) works.
    - Lack of planning can negatively impact cities: \$.05 sales tax removed in 90’s, millions lost, stormwater infrastructure damage, if we don’t have a plan we can’t value our resources accurately.
  - To create a plan with actionable next steps, bring in support from private and non-profit organizations; create a rallying cry to bring everyone to table
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- Take voices of community and promote the ideals of the neighborhood community plans, create neighborhoods that are more mixed-use, more walkable, more vibrant and create more of a community feel, those are the things the community have said they want.

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## HOMEWORK

### A. Next Steps | Bruce Meighen and Megan Moore

- Look for an email about upcoming stakeholder interviews
  - Start getting the word out
  - Provide a photo and short bio to go on the website
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