

Steering Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Information**

Date: → January 15th, 2020
Time: → 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: → Huntersville Town Hall, Town Board Chamber
101 Huntersville Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

- **Agenda Items**

- **Call to Order & Chairman's Remarks**
- **Public Comments**
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Steering Committee Orientation – 10/01/2019
 - Steering Committee Meeting #1 – 10/30/2019
- **Meeting Summaries Discussion**
- **Community Profile / Analysis Highlights**
- **Public Survey Preview**
- **Preview of February Public Workshops**
- **Conclusions / Next Steps**

- **Meeting Summary**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.
- Steering committee members introduced themselves. Attendees included:
 - Eric Rowell
 - Dan Murphy
 - Kim Aichele
 - Erin Gillespie
 - Kristen Ingram
 - John Carbonell, Chairman
 - George Solomon
 - Ross Boner
 - Randy Brawley
 - Chris Edwards
 - John Forehand
 - Scott Harrington
 - Kaitlyn Sisson
 - Tim Bender
- Chairman John Carbonell discussed document sharing on the website and the need to schedule upcoming steering committee meetings well in advance.
- Applications for vice-chair position were requested.
- Chairman Carbonell called for a public engagement subcommittee. Volunteers for the subcommittee included Dan Murphy, Randy Brawley, and Erin Gillespie. John Carbonell also volunteered to assist.
- Meeting minutes from 10/01/2019 and 10/30/2019 were approved unanimously.

- Jake Petrosky provided an update on additional stakeholder interviews conducted before the steering committee meeting. Town staff and consultants met with the police department, fire department and representatives from Mecklenburg County Storm Water services department as well as a landowner downtown. Updated stakeholder notes incorporating meeting summaries from these meetings will be provided in advance of the next steering committee meeting.
- A presentation was provided that detailed the project schedule and provided a community profile of the Town that included an analysis of demographics, land use, economics and real estate for the town.
- Comments and questions from the steering committee during the presentation included:
 - Is it anticipated that the watershed boundaries set up by the county will change?
Answer: This is not likely in the near future.
 - Discussion around town services.
 - Clarify parks – typically county supplies land and Huntersville develops and programs the parks;
 - Fire – served by nonprofit volunteer department, town pays for part-time staffing and builds stations and capital improvements;
 - Electric – town is served by ElectriCities (town), Duke Energy and Energy United, depending on your geography;
 - Sanitation – contract service to Waste Connections;
 - Streets – local roads (primarily neighborhood streets) – town public works vs major roads/highways are maintained by NCDOT
 - Need to add private and charter schools to list of education providers.
 - Study conducted related to potential for town charters should be reviewed.
 - Concern over new students projected and school capacity.
 - Questions about the affordability statistics. Need to be clear about sources and potentially use raw statistics from the census instead of information from the HTC index due to usage of median income in affordability benchmarks.
 - Question about the need for looking at retail trends in the Town. Are these still valid due to Amazon, etc. Consultants responded the retail surplus/leakage statistics are part of a “scan” of economic indicators and they indicate a surplus and Huntersville’s position as a regional center. This also factors into having a balanced tax base due to sales tax and property tax from commercial establishments. Huntersville has a good mix of big box and experiential retail, which is where the market is trending.
- The consultant provided an overview of the draft of the public survey. Committee members provided feedback on changes necessary, and were advised that they would have another opportunity to review the revised survey before it goes live.

- A draft schedule for the public meetings was also presented and planned outreach efforts were outlined and include:
 - Social Media
 - Website posts (facebook, twitter, nextdoor)
 - Advertise via Town’s social media outlets
 - Staff/Consultant Efforts
 - Mailing list email blast
 - Flyers and post card (or modified bus. card) handouts
 - Speaker’s Bureau
 - Steering Committee Role
 - Tell your friends and neighbors
 - Hand out flyers and/or business cards
 - Potential subcommittee
 - Plan Ambassadors
 - 28 Volunteers – Staff and subcommittee will discuss how to have them assist in getting the word out
- Chairman Carbonell provided closing remarks and acknowledged Town Board members in attendance.
- Dave Hill, Senior Planner provided a meeting summary:
 - Public Engagement subcommittee was formed
 - Steering Committee #3 will be Wednesday February 26th at 3:30
 - Community Profile will be updated based on comments
 - Survey will be updated and released to the Steering Committee and then the public
 - Additional plan ambassadors meeting will be held
- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.