

Implementable Comprehensive Plan for the Town of McCandless

Please note the following adjustments considered after the meeting on April 2, 2018

Key Issues were developed during this steering committee meeting. As these were broad in scope, with little detail as to what was specifically included under any one issue, the steering committee naturally found it difficult to assign levels of feasibility for each. For example, a potential community center could be part of “a Sense of Place” or part of “Parks and Recreation.” The community center could be a large facility with indoor/outdoor pools costing many millions of dollars, or a few added meeting and performance rooms attached to an existing structure like the municipal building.

Jim and Elaine suggest that we be allowed to further clarify and cluster topics – consistent with all public input and discussion at the steering committee on April 2. Then the committee could continue the conversation about the key issues at a **steering committee meeting to be scheduled in May**, instead of in the June-July time frame as stated at the April 2 meeting. This should better allow the committee to be comfortable with the key issues before they are discussed at a public meeting in June.

We have contacted Town staff to identify a meeting date for that fourth steering committee meeting, and will get that information out the committee as soon as possible. The following meeting notes have been modified to reflect that change in plans: moving the next steering committee meeting to May.

Meeting Notes

Date, Time, and Location: Monday, April 2, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room, Municipal Building, 9955 Grubbs Road, McCandless, PA 15090

Attendees: Steering Committee; Toby Cordek, town manager; and Jim Pashek and Elaine Kramer, Pashek+MTR

I. Setting the Stage:

1. Jim Pashek provided a handout showing the firm's scope of work for the project as an illustration of how tonight's meeting fits into the planning process. Phase 1 is almost complete. In this phase, the consultant and the steering committee have been striving to identify the community's “Key Issues.” During Phase 2, the consultant will develop and provide strategies and specific steps for addressing the Key Issues.
2. Recapping the role of a comprehensive plan, Jim outlined how communities are expected to update their long-term plans every 10 year. Pashek+MTR roots the focus of the plan in strong public involvement and an interest in solving problems or building on strengths. While there might be many, many ideas a community could pursue, our goal with this

planning process is to narrow down the list and emphasize high priorities and what is feasible.

II. Key Issues Discussion

1. Elaine Kramer reviewed the forms of public input so far
 - a. Citizens at Community Day
 - b. Steering committee at first meeting
 - c. Public meeting
 - d. Questionnaire
 - e. Key Person Interviews
 - f. Pop-ups (one of three or more is finished)
2. The steering committee listed the issues it saw as themes that ran through many of the means of community input.
3. The steering committee then reflected which issues it felt were priorities for citizens, using dots as indicators.
4. The goal of this Key Issues discussion was to establish a baseline understanding of Issues that are high-priority and high-feasibility as a means of suggesting which issues should be addressed in the comprehensive plan. Pashek+MTR will review the list, continue grouping like topics, and add feasibility to the thought process. Concurrently, the Steering Committee should mull over the list in the next month in preparation for the next steering committee meeting in May.
5. This chart reflects the steering committee's input:

Topic	Priority (# of dots)
Protect the natural environment, and add sustainable development so these areas can be accessed and used	5
Create activities and places that foster a sense of community and cohesion	3
Enhance interconnectivity	5
Pursue infill and redevelopment, with a particular focus on Blazier Drive, South McCandless and other specific locations, and foster <i>local</i> businesses	11
Identify a community "brand," and improve communications around this brand to create sense of identity for current and future residents	7
Engage citizens in civic life through improved two-way communications	1
Improve collaboration with community institutions (private, public, non-profit, education, etc.) and neighboring communities	4
Address traffic congestion issues, particularly at specific intersections and at specific times of day	3
Add/improve transit, trails, sidewalks and bike lanes	11
Develop community center(s)	5
Add recreation programs and activities	3
Protect the highly valued mix of commercial and housing, including varied types of both	3

III. What's next

1. Group will wrap up public input in April with a few more "popup" opportunities.
2. Jim will update Council on April 9 and sometime in May-June, and will provide a Planning Commission update.
3. The steering committee will meet in May.
4. A public meeting will be scheduled as we wrap up Phase 1, possibly June 19, and possibly at a school cafeteria. The group expressed interest in conceiving this as a community ice cream social, and listed many ways it should be publicized. Several people didn't see/receive the postcards about the questionnaire, so there's doubt on the part of some about postcards' effectiveness. Other suggested means for publicizing the community meeting were: electronic sign at McCandless Crossing; yard signs; school district; houses-of-worship bulletins; robocalls; normal Town communication channels.

IV. Pashek+MTR will provide a written summary of Phase 1

The information contained in these minutes was recorded by Pashek + MTR and represents our interpretation and understanding of the discussions that occurred during the meeting. Please notify Pashek + MTR within one week of distribution.

Prepared by:	Elaine Kramer and Jim Pashek
Date Prepared:	4-3-2018
Distributed to:	Attendees plus those steering committee members that could not attend, Mary Lopus, John Bojarski, Heather Cuyler