

Implementable Comprehensive Plan for the Town of McCandless

Meeting Notes

Date, Time, and Location: Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room, Municipal Building, 9955 Grubbs Road, McCandless, PA 15090

Attendees: Steering Committee; Toby Cordek, Town Manager; Andrew Hartwell, Allegheny County; and Jim Pashek, Pashek+MTR

Discussion Items:

1. Introductions:

After introductions and reviewing the Agenda for the meeting, Jim Pashek described the planning process and how tonight's meeting fits into the big picture. The process for this project involves two phases:

Phase I – Determining the Community's Needs

Phase II – Drilling Down for Solutions

Phase I includes:

Public Outreach

Defining and prioritizing Key Issues

Presenting the Steering Committee's recommendations to the public

2. Review of Public Input:

A. Community Day

- Lots of recreation-oriented suggestions
- Interest in Community Center
- Connections to North Park
- Trees are valuable

B. Steering Committee Brainstorming Key Issues on December 6, 2017

- Visual Appearance of the Town
- Growth, Business Development, Traffic and Safety
- Connectivity
- Community Building

C. *Public Meeting on January 30, 2018*

- What I like about the Town of McCandless:
Parks and Recreation
Community Services
Township Government
Family Life
- Things that could be improved:
Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Transportation, Traffic and Safety
Government and Community Services
Redevelopment, Zoning and Code Enforcement

D. *Questionnaire status as of 3-5-2018:*

- 1,698 completed and submitted digitally via surveymonkey.com, a free software platform. 79 more submitted since 3-5-18, and more hard copy versions that were turned into Township have not been digitally entered (but will be by the deadline).
- School Superintendent Bob Scherrer said the North Allegheny School District would try to encourage additional responses via email blast flyer to elementary schools in McCandless and to older students via the student newspaper.
- Through a review of the responses, it became obvious that someone(s) had entered multiple times. Easy to identify. 218 identified as invalid and will be removed from the tabulation at the end. All of the invalid submissions were against the Town's getting involved in developing a community center.
- After subtracting the invalid responses and adding the responses entered since 3-5-18, we have about a 13% response rate community-wide.
- 61% of respondents have lived in McCandless for 15 or more years. The response of the questionnaire may be skewed toward an older segment of the population than is represented by Census. A more thorough review of the respondents' ages as compared to Census data will be done once the questionnaire is closed.
- Most of the responses were fairly predictable, with reasons why they like McCandless being its convenient location, School District, North Park.
- On the Community Center Question 11, as of 3-5-18, 55% thought additional room or a community center was a good idea, and 45% thought there was no need.
- More information was provided in a handout to the Steering Committee. Once the questionnaire closes on March 16, we will prepare a complete tabulation for distribution.

E. *Interviews*

- Seventeen of the people identified for interviewing have discussed McCandless with us.
- Renee Waibel provide an additional contact person at St. Alexis. Township will provide contact info interviewees at the police department and public works.
- Jim provided a few brief highlights from the interviews with more information to be provided the Steering Committee after the interviews have been concluded.

F. *Additional Public Input:*

Deawna Alfonsi volunteered to coordinate a few more public input initiatives in the

next month. She, Renee, Debbie Sagan and Nicole Hanson offered to staff a table in the lobby of the Library. They have tentatively set 9:30-12:30 on Tuesday, March 20 and Wednesday, March 21 from 5-8pm. Pashek will develop a poster for use at the table. Those representing the steering committee will be asking people what they like about the Town of McCandless and what could be improved. There was discussion about doing a similar event at CCAC. Ted Meinert will contact the appropriate person at CCAC. Renee will ask the Pine Creek Giant Eagle manager if the steering committee may solicit input in or near the store.

3. Review of Prior Studies:

A. 2005 Comprehensive Plan

Many of the recommendations were accomplished. Most were traffic oriented. In addition to the few remaining recommendations, Jim included for reference only the 2005 Community Development Objectives.

B. Planning efforts regarding the Harmony Trail

Planning has been ongoing for a trail from Wall Park on the southwestern portion of the Town northward to Pine Township. Recent planning under the auspices of the Town's EAC. Bruce Betty hoped that the Harmony Trail would extend to a trail connecting into North Park eventually.

4. In closing:

- Remember to encourage residents to complete the questionnaire up to March 16.
- Review the material provided at this meeting in preparation for the next Steering Committee meeting on April 2, 2018. We will spend the entire meeting developing key issues and prioritizing them. This will be an important discussion that will form the basis for the Implementable Comprehensive Plan.
- **Please try to attend the next Steering Committee meeting on Monday, April 2 at 7:30 pm.**

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: Jim Pashek

Date Prepared: 3-8-2018

Distributed to: Attendees plus those steering committee members that could not attend, Mary Lopus, Heather Cuyler, Elaine Kramer