



Ironwood Comprehensive Plan

Planning Commission Agenda Memo

To: Ironwood Planning Commission

From: Brad Scheib, HKGi – Project Manager
Michael JD Brown, Community Development Director

Re: ***Comprehensive Plan Agenda Memo #5***

Date: 7 May 2014

At our next meeting on Wednesday, we will have 1 hour. In that hour it is our objective to cover the following:

1. **Project Status Update**

Since the April Planning Commission meeting, an initial distribution of the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan has been completed. The initial distribution of the plan has been to City Boards and Commissions including the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority, and to local and regional agencies following the processes outlined in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act 33. By the time the Planning Commission will meet next Wednesday, the plan will have been presented to the following groups:

- April 7th - Parks and Recreation Committee
- April 24th – DIDA
- April 28th – City Commission
- May 7th – Economic Development Corporation

At the meeting, staff will provide a brief update on initial feedback and comments received through this initial review and discussion on the plan.

Approximately 10 minutes

2. **Review Draft Plan**

Planning Commission Members have had the initial draft plan for a month. To this point, “spark plans” have not been included with the draft plan. It is staff’s intention to distribute a copy of the completed “spark plans” prior to the meeting next week to include in the discussion. The primary purpose of Wednesday’s Planning Commission meeting is for the consultant team and staff to take comments and questions from the Commission in preparation for making the draft plan available to the entire community for public input. Following the meeting on Wednesday, the consultant team will make a round of edits to the plan, post the draft plan on the project website, and announce the availability of the draft plan for review to the Ironwood Community.

Approximately 30-40 minutes

3. **Review Strategy for May 19th Public Meeting**

A public open house is currently scheduled for May 19th at the Memorial Building from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Presentation boards will be set up to highlight key plan components, draft copies of the plan will be available for review, a presentation will be set up to enable one-on-one or small group discussions with staff, and various forms of comment/input will be available. Staff is working on additional media/press release material to promote the meeting using newspaper articles, radio announcements, email blasts, posters/flyers, and word of mouth. As a public body that has overseen the development of the plan, your presence at portions or all of this meeting is very important. We will discuss the format and approach to the May 19th public meeting on Wednesday.

Approximately 10 minutes

Packet Materials:

- Draft “Spark Plans” to be distributed via separate email prior to the meeting.

The background features a detailed illustration of a town with various buildings, streets, and a river. Overlaid on this is a semi-transparent image of a group of people, likely a community or planning commission, engaged in discussion. The title text is prominently displayed in the center.

Ironwood

Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning Commission Meeting
May 7, 2014

Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.

Planning • Landscape Architecture • Urban Design



Agenda

- **Project Status Update**
- **Review of Draft Plan**
 - Review and discuss by key topics
- **Review Strategy for May 19th Public Meeting**
 - Time, location, materials, participation expectations



Project Status Update



Project Status

- **Draft Plan presented:**
 - April 7th - Parks and Recreation Committee
 - April 24th – DIDA
 - April 28th – City Commission
 - May 7th – Economic Development Corporation
- **City Commission authorization to distribute plan per MPEA on April 14th – Plan distributed on April 15th.**
- **Spark Plans Distributed (Friday)**

Remaining Schedule – Key Dates

- **May 12th** - post draft plan online for public review
- **May 19th** – host public open house
- **June 4th** – PC Meeting to reflect on comments
 - Agree on any modifications
- **June 20th** – Deadline for Agency Comments
 - Soft deadline for general public comments
- **July 2nd** – public hearing PC Public Hearing
 - Plan approval and recommendation to the City Commission
- **July 14th** City Commission consideration



Review of Comments to date



Key Discussion Topics

1. **Formatting/Editing - photos - functionality**
2. **Vision –**
 - bigger play on regional hub/trail
 - move vision statement up in the document
 - Consider a strategy that establishes a brand or renews the motto – works in conjunction with other strategies such as wayfinding
3. **Land use**
 - Minor tweaks to district descriptions: corner store in Low Density areas – existing single family in east gateway district
 - Strengthen and clean up relationship between land use districts and existing zoning

Key Discussion Topics

1. Trails and Parks

- Overall stronger emphasis
- need parks north of US 2 (conflicts with public input)
 - Modify legend of park diagram Figure 5-1
- Stronger references to regional draws (Copper Peak – Governors Trail)
- “Greenway” corridor from Depot to Curry Street High School
- Strategy to budget separately for O&M costs and park capital investment costs

2. Transportation Systems – Do we emphasize improvements and aesthetics sufficiently – extension of the complete street pilot projects

3. Community Development

- Strategy for budgeting for community branding/marketing/promotion

4. Spark Plans - Review



Public Open House May 19th



Approach/Strategy

- **Stations –**
 - **Vision and Guiding Principles**
 - **Land Use and Community Character**
 - **Community Development**
 - **Parks/Recreation/Trails**
 - **Transportation and Infrastructure**
- **One or two presentation boards and a copy of the plan at each station**
- **Post it notes, comment cards, staff/PC member at each station**
- **Computer available to zoom in, highlight, or access internet if needed.**
- **4:30 to 6:30 at the Memorial Building**



*Thanks for Your Time and
Commitment to the City!*