

Master Plan Update Committee 2023

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024, 6:30 PM

Third Floor Training Room

355 East Central Street

This meeting was available to be attended in person by all citizens. The meeting was also live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29.

Recordings have been made available on Franklin TV's "Franklin Town Hall TV" YouTube channel. Additionally, citizens were able to participate remotely via phone and Zoom.

Committee Members in Attendance: *Chair Glenn Jones; Vice Chair Cobi Frongillo; Clerk Melanie Hamblen; Kenneth Elmore; Joe Halligan; Ginelle Lang; Gino Carlucci; Rick Power; Eric Steltzer; Meghann Hagen; Bruce Hunchard; Jennifer Williams;*

Committee Members Absent: *Erin Gallagher;*

Others in Attendance: *Amy Love, Town Planner; Maxwell Morrongiello*

Chair Glenn Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Clerk Hamblen motioned to approve the minutes for the November 8 and November 29, 2023 Master Plan Meetings. Seconded by Member Halligan. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of approving both sets of minutes.

Subcommittee Updates

Member Elmore updated the Committee on when the next Housing and Economic Development subcommittee meetings will be. Vice Chair Frongillo provided an update on the CSFC subcommittee's meeting just prior to the main Committee meeting, and said that they are preparing to schedule a public hearing in collaboration with GATRA on January 25 at the Senior Center. Member Lang updated the Committee on the Land Use & Zoning subcommittee planning the dates for their future meetings. Member Hagen updated to say that the OSRP & NCHR subcommittee was confirming a date for its first public hearing at the Library on February 3 or February 17. Member Carlucci updated the Committee on the Sustainability subcommittee planning to schedule its future meetings and public hearings when he returns to Franklin. The Committee discussed how to schedule and provide notice of upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Survey Results

Town Planner Love presented to the Committee the results of the survey, starting by saying that over 700 responses were received. Comments and responses indicated a desire from respondents to see more activity in the downtown area. Other trends showed an interest in maintaining current facilities and open space. The largest source of survey respondents was

from participants seeing a Facebook post about it, to which Member Elmore commented that such a figure may hint at the demography of the survey sample being skewed away from being representative.

Mr. Maxwell Morrongiello from 127 Central Park Terrace commented that the survey results could be weighted in such a way that the Committee could better see what survey participants from potentially undercounted groups responded with. The Committee then reviewed the demographic information of the survey results, and Mr. Mondale asked if they might possibly reopen the survey and try to focus on making it available to potentially underrepresented groups, to which Chair Jones said that public hearings would likely be the way that the Committee gathers additional information going forward. The Committee Members then discussed the survey results and whether or not they could be considered reflective of the Town. The Committee Members discussed the option of keeping the survey open, but decided against doing so. Mr. Mondale asked what could be done to reach out to those community leaders/representatives or cultural events to find people who might have been overlooked, adding that he believed residents of Central park Terrace may not have been accurately represented in the survey, so having a hearing there might be helpful. He also offered to help the Committee in work relating to several software programs if they needed it, which Chair Jones thanked him for his engagement with the Committee. Chair Jones asked the Committee if they wanted to take time to review the survey results more in depth. Clerk Hamblen answered that she believed it would be good for the subcommittees to review the survey and provide their collective input there. The Committee agreed to wait until the Consultants had transferred the data from the survey results into Excel spreadsheets that each subcommittee could more easily work with. Vice Chair Frongillo commented his opinion that the Committee should be careful not to invest too heavily in the results of the survey because of the sample size and the issues he viewed with the results it showed.

The Committee then commenced the drawing of gift cards available for participants in the survey to win via raffle. The \$100 gift card to The Shed restaurant and the \$100 gift card to Bellagio Nail Bar & Lashes were each awarded to people randomly selected from the list of survey participants.

Chair Jones then expressed his acknowledgement of each of the Committee Members' responses to the survey results. He then reiterated what Member Lang said in that it is but a single element of the data collection for the Master Plan process. He added that the process requires accepting that not everything the Committee might want to include can be done, so they will have to choose what they are willing to forego. Chair Jones also emphasized having to make sure the goals and objectives of the Master Plan are feasible to be achieved over a period of ten years. Chair Jones also said that he has chosen a date that the Committee will ultimately submit its Master Plan to the Planning Board and Town Council, which will be on September 9 and September 18, 2024 respectively, but he is confident that the Committee will come up with a great master plan in the end.

Next Meetings (Main Committee)

January 24, 2024 at 6:30PM

Public Hearing 1: February 14, 2024 at 6:30PM

Next Meetings (subcommittees)

Open Space & Recreation, Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources: TBD

Community Service, Facilities & Circulation: January 24, 2024 at 5:15PM

Land Use and Zoning: TBD

Housing & Economic Development: January 18, 2024 at 5:00PM

Sustainability: January 23, 2024 at 7:00PM

Additional Comments

Town Planner Love provided an update to the Committee on the public hearing they had planned for February 7, telling them that the final inventory assessment report will be ready by then. The Committee and Town Planner Love then agreed that February 14 would be a better date for the hearing.

Chair Jones mentioned that the Consultants, BETA Group and Barrett Consulting, are still looking for photographs to be sent in from the Committee Members. He also thanked Town Planner Love for her work helping the Committee.

Adjourn Meeting

Member Hunchard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Clerk Hamblen. There was a unanimous vote in favor of adjourning. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Tyler Paslaski

Administrative Assistant

--Master Plan Update Committee Approved Minutes at February 7, 2024 Meeting