

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201

February 28, 2017

Columbia City Council,

Members of the Council, as current chair of the Vision Commission, I am proud to lead a group of nine talented individuals with diverse skills and talents that have agreed to serve the City of Columbia. I write at this time to ask for your guidance in clarifying our specific vision.

In November, the Vision Commission presented its five-year review of the of the original vision report to the City Council. At that time, we noted that 2016 represents ten years from the start of "Imagine Columbia's Future" which resulted in the final report that is the foundation of this Commission's work. The final report states that "visioning is a continuing and evolving process where information in the final vision report is integrated with other ongoing activities within the community, new information is obtained, and new people become involved."

The Commission has essentially concluded any work in tracking progress on the original vision report. Virtually all strategies have been addressed to some level by pertinent stakeholders, and the city is in a dramatically different place than it was in 2006. As a result, the feedback from the Re-Visioning sessions was interesting, but most was not relevant to the current report as it reflects feedback to a situation that was never predicted.

And, Columbia has embarked on other significant strategic planning initiatives. Specifically, the strategic plan for the period 2016-2019 is excellent. However, it lacks the mandate for progress tracking that was included in the Vision process. This Commission would love to be charged with transferring efforts from the original Vision plan to others, with your directive and guidance. The Commission has experience benchmarking and tracking progress and in holding community feedback sessions. We can and are willing to be a valuable partner in continuing to advance Columbia's growth.

In conclusion, we thank you for the opportunity to serve and look forward to advancing the future of Columbia as directed by Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Gardi".

Lisa Gardi, Chair