



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Tuesday, January 2, 2018
6:00 PM

Pre-Council

Conference Room
1A/1B
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Treece called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 pm.

Present: 5 - Trapp, Peters, Treece, Skala, and Pitzer

Absent: 2 - Ruffin, and Thomas

Vision Commission Recommendations

Attachments: [Correspondence from Vision Commission](#)
[October 2, 2017 Vision Commission Recommendations](#)
[October 16, 2017 Council Memo](#)

City Manager Mike Matthes introduced Toni Messina, the staff liaison to the Vision Commission. Ms. Messina added that four members of the Vision Commission were also in attendance and they introduced themselves. Ms. Guardi, Chair, stated that the Vision Commission started over ten years ago with a specific purpose. Most of those goals and metrics are winding down, but the mandate for the commission is completed. Over the last year, the members have discussed ways they could be of value moving forward. She stated that she spoke to Council Member Thomas and he suggested they play a role in the Strategic Planning process and reconciling plan alignment. They felt the key focus would be to help get more community input on strategic planning. They feel there could be a need to get specific feedback for the strategic plan or other needs the council may have. They feel there are two outcomes, one being to dissolve the commission as it has served its purpose; or to assign a new scope of work to a group who is excited and passionate to continue participating on the commission.

Mr. Skala stated that the commission is well suited to help the council on strategic plan. He felt that this group could be "the feelers" in the community on the strategic plan and other plans as well. Mr. Trapp felt that this group having a role in the strategic plan would be helpful as the current and previous plans have been driven more by council and department heads. A better understanding of our operating environment and how citizens feel about things would be beneficial and more inclusive especially to those that don't have a voice in the current process.

Mr. Pitzer agreed that outreach on the strategic plan is important, but most of the input the council hears is from staff. He felt that having more feedback from citizens would provide better insight to the council moving forward. He asked if this

would be in addition to other feedback mechanisms. Ms. Guardi stated that this would be in addition to other mechanisms and more of a collaboration and alignment rather than reinventing the wheel. Mayor Treece asked when the current strategic plan ends. Mr. Matthes stated that the last and current plans were both for three years. The current strategic plan embraced the community more than the first plan and looked beyond the needs of the government. The citizen survey has been relied heavily on for benchmarking and input. The current plan should wrap in September 2018. We will need to decide if we want to handle the process in the same way as before or take a bit longer and have a more robust planning process. Mayor Treece asked if we plan to have a new strategic plan. Mr. Matthes stated that he feels having a plan is helpful for government and that we have made good progress on the current plan. Mayor Treece suggested that the Vision Commission could be the body that gathers information to help create input for the next plan. He felt that we may also want to consider a Community Strategic Plan instead of, or in addition to, a City Strategic Plan and perhaps the Vision Commission may want to help with gathering input and crafting a Community Plan.

Ms. Peters felt that now is the time to have a discussion about another strategic plan rather than waiting with lag time. She liked the concept of inviting other community stakeholders to participate, but does not feel the down time would be beneficial. Mr. Matthes noted that the planning process begins in spring and it may be possible to give the Vision Commission the trend statements to review. Mr. Skala didn't feel that this group should be limited to just the strategic plan. They could work with other groups to focus in on issues. Mr. Trapp suggested that the Vision Commission look to recruit someone that has focus group experience to apply for the vacant position on the commission. He added that running the current plan through the rest of the calendar year is reasonable since it's been a good plan and there are still tasks to complete and that would give everyone a chance to look for a more robust strategic plan in another year. Mr. Matthes stated that suggestion resonates with him as there are still items to complete, while we begin to produce the next plan.

He added that an ordinance does need to be produced in order to either change the scope of the commission or dissolve it. There was consensus among council to have staff bring back a report regarding a proposed ordinance to change the scope of their work.

II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:32 pm.