

# City of Northville Master Plan Review/Revision

1<sup>st</sup> Update from the

Subcommittee on Public Engagement

December 17, 2019

# Charge to the Subcommittee

- May review all aspects of public input regarding the amendments to the City's Master Plan, including surveys, workshops, focus groups, and similar events or techniques
- May meet with the City's planning consultant
- Advisory capacity only; no decision-making authority
- Shall provide its written recommendation to the full Planning Commission which reserves the right to accept, reject, or modify any of the recommendations

# Subcommittee Members

- Commissioner Thomas Barry
- Commissioner Jeffrey Gaines
- Commissioner Andrew Krenz
- Commissioner Donna Tinberg

# Guiding Beliefs

(which drive suggestions for a process)

# Guiding Beliefs

- The review/revision of the Master Plan is both **urgent** and **important**. Meaningful public engagement must be highly structured and tightly scheduled, because **timely completion** is imperative if we are to exert any control over our collective future.
- **Meaningful, early engagement** of stakeholders minimizes confusion/dissent later in the process. Taking time on the front end of the process will allow us to proceed more efficiently on the back end.

# Guiding Beliefs

- **Well-informed stakeholders** provide more viable input; therefore, education/information efforts should precede input opportunities.
- Early formal opportunities for public input should cast a wide net for ideas. Subsequent opportunities for public input should focus on distilling those ideas into a **common vision** that can serve as a basis for Master Plan content.

# Guiding Beliefs

- **Trust** from the community will be enhanced when we are transparent with our processes and deliver on what we promise.
- Consensus should be defined as:
  - *Everyone has had an opportunity for their voice to be heard, and the will of the group is apparent.*

# **Suggested Public Engagement Process**

(Conceptual Discussion)



# Phase 1: “Understanding Existing Conditions” Seminars

- Series of **5 thematic seminars** on topics such as:
  - Finances/Legal Issues
  - Infrastructure
  - Demographics and Schools
  - Traffic/Walkability and Parking
  - Future Land Use

# Phase 1: “Understanding Existing Conditions” Seminars

- Different “**content experts**” share information about existing conditions for each topic
- Each presentation followed by **facilitated small group conversations** with the community
- Suggest **videotaping** seminars and archiving on City website
- Follow up to questions to be posted on City website
- Timeframe: weekly on non-PC meeting days, mid-January through February

# Phase 2: Public Input on a Shared Vision for Our Future

- Multiple **structured dialogue/“open house”**-type opportunities
- Parallel **online survey** available to all community members (with **paper alternative**)
- Timeframe: late February/March

# Phase 3: Preliminary Planning Review

- Planning Commission retains responsibility for developing **language changes** relative to identified subareas of the Master Plan
  - Informed by comments during public engagement activities
- **Public presentation** of draft language/revisions with structured opportunity for **community comment/feedback** (specific engagement strategies to be determined)
- Timeframe: April/May

# Phase 4: Implementation

- Planning Commission finalizes language relative to identified subareas
- PC submits language to City Council for distribution to neighboring communities
- PC reviews/revises as necessary based on comments from neighboring communities (if any)
- **Formal (mandatory) public hearing** after comment from neighboring communities
- Timeframe: June

# **Communication as a Component of Public Engagement**

# Master Plan Webpage

- Consider dedicated webpage on City website to house all reports, data, schedules, opportunities for input, and other information related to the Master Plan review/revision process
- Subcommittee willing to support City staff as necessary to keep the website current

# Consider a FAQ Document

- Posted on City website
- Updated continuously as the process evolves
- Subcommittee willing to author the FAQ with editing by City Manager/Planning Consultant



# Anticipated Ongoing Subcommittee Work

- Continue to develop the process as roughly outlined tonight, in coordination with City Manager and Planning Consultant, pending go-ahead from full Planning Commission
- Updates to be provided to the Planning Commission at regular meetings as information becomes available

# Comments/Questions/Feedback from the Planning Commission

- Are we generally heading in a direction that makes sense to the Planning Commission?
- Suggestions for subcommittee consideration?