

## MEETING SUMMARY | Steering Committee Meeting 5

February 1, 2019

The following is a summary of the fifth meeting of the steering committee for Tuscaloosa's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Update process, which was held on January 16. Attached to this summary is the meeting attendance sheet, agenda, and presentation slides.

### Outcomes at-a-glance

1. There is a desire among some committee members to engage larger numbers of the community, particularly those groups that were underrepresented at the Forum on the Future. Staff and consultant team considered options and a recommendation is described in section 3 below.
2. The committee heard and discussed relevant land use and utility service conditions and how they relate to where and how the community could grow. The committee discussed several potential clarifications to the information, which will be addressed in written reports. These written reports with maps will be made available in late January.

### 1. Welcome

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No notes

### 2. Process Updates

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The process update included an outline of future meetings through November 2019. These meeting dates are contained in the presentation slides. The next steering committee meeting is:

- **Steering Committee Meeting 6: March 20, 2-4pm, Tuscaloosa River Market.**

### 3. Forum on the Future

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The team shared highlights from the Forum on the Future summary report (which is posted on the Framework website). The event was widely viewed as a success based on

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feedback from participants, observers, and city officials. While attendance was near the capacity of the River Market venue and was overall demographically and geographically diverse, representation was somewhat skewed to older, more affluent and more educated members of the community. This disproportionate demographic representation is common in planning engagement throughout the country. It should also be noted that participants self-selected to attend, and that participation is not expected to be a statistically valid sample of the community. Some members of the committee brought forward two concerns:

1. The results of theme rating activities and group discussion reflected those who participated. Some issues, such as “a more complete transportation network” may have ranked differently if more young or low-income people attended. The steering committee has a responsibility to consider such issues and advocate for those who did not directly participate.
2. While the Forum was successful, more engagement is desired. Multiple steering committee members felt that larger numbers of participants should provide input into the plan, particularly groups that were underrepresented at the Forum. The team proposes two adjustments to address this concern:
  - A. Within the next 60 days, steering committee members can convene small groups using a “meeting-in-a-box” kit prepared by the team. This may involve organizing small groups at a neighborhood location such as a coffeeshop, church, or at someone’s home. It could also involve attending a standing neighborhood or civic organization meeting, speaking about Framework and asking for input. The kit materials will include a simple agenda, talking points, attendance sheet, and question forms.
  - B. During the Open House phase, the team will organize a series of events in different locations throughout the city to allow more opportunities for feedback on and prioritization of the draft recommendations. This will take place in September and October once draft written recommendations and maps are ready for feedback. This community input will be used to refine the recommendations before the draft plan is complete.

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## 4. Share Conditions and Trends

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The team shared existing land use and utility conditions and engaged the committee in discussion of key issues implied by these conditions. Based on this discussion, the following items will be addressed in the forthcoming written reports:

1. PUDs should be shown on the map of recent subdivisions. This will change the narrative somewhat in terms of specific acreages reported.
2. Show utility service areas on the map of potentially developable land.
3. Show and calculate the developable vacant residential parcels by zoning classification (particularly R-1)

## 5. Next Steps

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The committee requested receiving notices of decisions related to the multifamily housing moratorium.

The Mayor plans to address the committee at a special lunch meeting on February 1, 2019.