



Memorandum

To: Lee's Summit 360°
From: Derek Okubo, National Civic League
Date: September 17, 2008
Re: Kick-off Meeting, Next Meeting

Congratulations on an extraordinary start to this exciting process. With roughly 270 people participating, it easily surpasses all previous records for community planning efforts that I have done. This illustrates a different sense of belief of what can occur because of the remarkable success realized from the previous planning efforts in Lee's Summit over the last 16 years. Having such large numbers presented a few challenges, such as my attempt to draw on a flip chart for all to see, but we will be able to address such things in the future. I appreciate your resilience.

This purpose of this first meeting was to orient folks on why we approach strategic planning processes in this inclusive manner. In addition, we took our first cut at creating the vision themes. The themes that you developed will be used to develop the vision statement that will provide that ideal state that all our planning will strive to achieve.

We started the process with small group discussions on the pressing issues facing Lee's Summit and why it is difficult to address the issues. The answers are listed and clustered at the end of this memorandum.

The answers were used to provide a context for our approach. Complex (Type III) problems cannot be addressed with a Type I approach. (For more information on Problem Types, please review the PowerPoint slides on the project website). The issues that we will tackle in this process will require a common definition of the challenge with shared solutions and multiple parties to effectively impact the issue.

We ended the evening with small groups discussing the ideal state of Lee's Summit. Common themes were identified at each table and shared with the entire group. As a result of this exercise, stakeholders found that despite the diversity of interests, they shared common desires of what they wanted their community to be like in the future. The themes were collected and will be drafted into a vision statement that will be reviewed by stakeholders in the third meeting.

At the next meeting, we will assess Lee's Summit's civic infrastructure. The civic infrastructure is the basis for how community's make decisions and solve problems. Issues don't stop communities as much as communities stop themselves in how they fulfill key roles and work together in solving problems. Our assessment will play a key

role in identifying certain areas where we can utilize our strengths and enhance other areas to help us be more effective in the development and implementation of our plans.

Again, congratulations on an excellent start to this process. It is an honor and a privilege for me to work with Lee's Summit again for the fourth time over 16 years.

Small Group Responses from Exercise 1

Note: This record was transcribed verbatim from the notes of the recorder at each table. The categories were clustered according to interpretation and are subject to change.

Question 1: What are the pressing issues facing Lee's Summit?

Related to Economic Development

Economic development to balance tax base and provide jobs

Economic employment plan for all ages in Lee's Summit
Economic employment plan Need more corporate industrial and investment development to increase tax base and shift the weight off the residents
Economic development growth with correct management
Recruit more corporations to help tax base
Diversify economic base
Diverse local economy – wholesale, retail, wide range mix
Corporate businesses
Recruiting corporate businesses
Bring in business
Industry/tax base
Economic Development (tax rate too high)
Balance tax resident and business
Balancing the tax burden
Business development to support community
Business development proximity to community transportation
Diversity in commercial businesses and housing
More commercial and industrial
Commercial and industrial growth
More commercial development – restaurants, shops
Economic development and commercial growth
Increasing the number of businesses
Attracting the right type of businesses
Lack of area businesses
Local jobs
Quality jobs
Jobs
More manufacturing jobs are needed

Move up in ranking for most desirable cities
Small businesses going out of business
Arts – an avenue to bring in revenue
After kids graduate, what then?

Hotels and Convention Center

More hotels
More hotels/convention center (missing out on tourism dollars)
Small convention center
Full service hotel with convention center

Airport

Airport expansion
Airport expansion – draw and develop more of the solid businesses the will develop our city
Airport improvements
Airport runways
Airport
Airport

Destination City

Making LS a destination city
Make LS a destination city; “Why come to LS?”
Employers base – rooftops and retail; need the corporate office structure; significant retail leakage

Downtown Development

Downtown development
Ensuring health of downtown
Downtown-lack of identity; nightlife/restaurants/retail

Redevelopment

Revitalize all areas
Re-development of eyesore strip malls and older commercial property
Redevelopment of older communities
Entertainment in LS – want to stop going to Overland Park or KC for bars, a drink or a nice restaurant
Supporting older neighborhoods
Older neighborhoods

Related to Transportation

Traffic
Traffic
Traffic (road improvement)
Transportation
Transportation

Transportation
Transportation
Transportation – rail
Transportation (air and ground); Airport-bus travel-trains to downtown, etc.
Light rail – expansion or moving the LS Airport
Transportation with cities and counties
Traffic/transportation
Transportation
Transportation and planning
Transportation
Bike/pedestrian safety
Traffic
Walkable livable city, not just driving
Making LS walkable and bikeable
Walkable city
Walkable
Make a walkable city – maybe have “sub-communities”

Related to Infrastructure

Aging Infrastructure (roads and storm water)
Maintenance of infrastructure
Infrastructure
Storm sewers/flooding
Flooding, high water
Infrastructure needs
Basic services
Infrastructure – storm water with growth; roads that lead to nowhere; subdivision roads do not connect
Storm water area and green ways collaboration
Infrastructure
Infrastructure
Road infrastructure
Infrastructure – roads, water, sewer
Infrastructure-solid waste, storm water and housing
Infrastructure-supporting growth; keeping all areas healthy and attractive
Infrastructure

Related to Growth

Responsible growth
Growth and expansion
How to deal with growth from an educational standpoint
How to keep quality of life with the growth we are experiencing
Managing growth – land and people
Growth – how to manage
Balancing residential and developmental growth
Manage the growth of LS (from storm water run-off to transportation)

What is LS going to do with the land the city owns?

Quality development

Controlled growth

Managed growth – something for everybody

Control growth – keep small town atmosphere

Rate of growth

Population growth

Size of city (land and number of people)

Related to Amenities

Culture

Too few restaurants

More places for entertainment dollars (e.g., movie theatre)

Performing Arts Center

Performing arts

Arts and culture

Cultural arts center

Performing arts center

Sports arena

Cultural arts

Opportunities for young teens to have fun and engage them in community and cultural events

Performing Arts Center

Related to Education

Education (science, math, arts)

Education

Maintaining high quality education

Maintaining high school standards

Higher education

Maintaining high standards of schools

Schools – dealing with increasing diverse populations

Other higher education choices

Schools

Help education keep up with the children

School services needs a new building

School district strain

Education – treatment of teachers

Related to Health and Human Services

Health and Wellness (community supporting activities)

Recognition of care for the less fortunate

Care for the less fortunate

Healthcare for uninsured

Plan for growth in human service needs

Human services

Health and safety

Social services – focus on helping low and mid-income folks; balance resources and find partnerships; alcohol/drug abuse recovery

Helping the needy

Helping the needy

Related to Sustainability

Sustainability

Green issues

More resources for recycling; no recycle bins in our parks

Sustainability- improving participation in recycling and green initiatives

Going green

Green issues

Recycling

Land use

Related to Public Safety

Public Safety

Safety in school and neighborhoods

Increasing crime

Gangs

Related to Image

Things aren't maintained, letting vegetation on roads die

Maintain identity and community feel

Need identity of LS (image)

Make LS more inviting – Gateways to the community (when driving into town – 291 and 50 highway)

Related to Youth Activities

Positive activities for youth and families

Need community center in south side, especially for teens

Ice rink

Positive activities – sports/play

Related to Changing Community Demographics

Diversity in our community

Changing demographics

Diversity

Future – culture of community diversity

Change in diversity; want social activities in LS for all cultures in our community

Diversity

Diversity

Diversity

Demographic change

Faces are changing/diversity

Related to Historic Preservation

Historic preservation
Historic preservation within city planning and awareness
Historic preservation
Historic preservation
Historic preservation

Related to Affordable Housing

Affordable housing
Housing
Work force housing

Related to Taxes

Taxes
Maintain the tax base of LS
Tax structure
TIF use
Affordability
High property taxes – reassessment, roll back operating level

Related to Community Responsibility and Participation

Continue path of promoting responsible pet ownership and making LS pet friendly
Leadership variety
More thought about what needs to be done
Encouraging inclusive community participation with old and new residents
Latch key kids – activities needed for them – get them involved in community
Agency cooperation

Question 2: What makes it difficult to solve these issues?

Knowledge about issues and ways to address them

Lack of knowledge about what is being done and what is needed
Inexperience
Being informed on issues
Awareness
Education

Limited Resources

Money
Money
Money
Money
Funding
Funding management

Funding
Limited resources
Lack of revenue
Economy
Resources – time, energy and money due the competition and a lack of awareness and motivation
Time, energy, people
Time and energy
Lack of human and monetary capital
Tax base

Communication and Information Sharing

How to communicate
Communication
Communication

A need to come together as a community

Sense of community
Bring segments of community together – how
Prioritizing
Fragmentation
Support and participation
Everyone has an opinion
Lack of connection between all areas/parts of the LS
Changing demographics

More Collaboration Across Parties

More collaboration among schools, government and businesses
More agency partnerships, coordination and communication
Collaboration
Council approval
Mormon Church – need a group to talk and negotiate; who is willing to buy; what do we do when we own

Mindset

Identify
Motivation
People to support the present (bidders, investors: “I don’t want to be the first one.”)

Issues

Growth/non-growth of airport
Global impact on local issues
Ways to attract new business
Land
Landlocked –running out of land for commercial jobs)
Redevelopment

Safety to match growth
Tracking professions to match with what jobs are needed
Quality of Life

Next Meeting:

Please remember to try and sit at the original table listed on your name tag. After this meeting, we will have a better idea of how many people will be attending and seating will be adjusted for the meeting on October 21st. If you cannot remember your table number, The Coordinating Committee will assist you at the registration table when you arrive.

