

**Committee Members:**

- Jeff Wobser, at-large – Committee Chair
- Randy Greeno, at-large
- Dennis Hellmann, ward 2
- Grant Russel, at-large
- Beth Warnecke, ward 3
- Mayor Christina Muryn
- Jim Staschiak, Auditor

**Staff:**

- Jaclyn Houran*
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**Guests:**

*Haydee Sadler*  
*Ms. Leguire*

Meeting Start Time: *4:02 PM*  
Meeting End Time: *5:25 PM*

**Agenda:**

*Call to Order*

*Roll Call*

*Approval of Minutes*

*New Items*

Continue the Strategic Planning process.

*Adjournment*



Jeff Wobser, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO**

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** met on May 3, 2023 to continue the Strategic Planning process.

We recommend: *That the goals and objective of the Plan be distributed to the committee and forwarded to Planning Next so they can start their finalization process. \*The SP Committee will have a final vote for approval of the goals and objectives.*

Aye  Nay

  
Jeff Wobser, Chairman

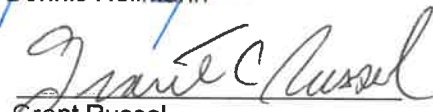
Aye  Nay

*Absent*  
Randy Greeno

Aye  Nay

  
Dennis Hellmann

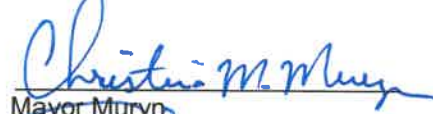
Aye  Nay

  
Grant Russel

Aye  Nay

  
Beth Warnecke

Aye  Nay

  
Mayor Muryn

Aye  Nay

  
Auditor Staschiak

LEGISLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: May 3, 2023

COMMITTEE: STRATEGIC PLANNING

**FINDLAY CITY STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 3, 2023**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Muryn, Staschiak, Hellmann

**ABSENT:** Greeno

**Staff:** Jaclynn Hohman

**OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Russel for approval of minutes from 4/18/23 meeting. Hellmann second.

6-0

Wobser would like to get major points of the document approved and then work to get the action items approved, asked the group for thoughts. Muryn noted that part of that would be the process and preamble items, it would be the entire strategic plan without the action items. Value in getting the main objectives and goals passed and then allowing Council to work on the action items of the goals. It would help the community understand the process for bringing forward additional feedback. Wobser said it also gives the ability to finish the process and end the formal engagement with PlanningNEXT. Russell said he would like their engagement to continue because of their implementation and feedback experience, he would like to get to the implementation process with them. Hellmann would have concern with cutting them loose completely, would we want to just put them on hold while we finish it out and they come back for the implementation process. Wobser said he can agree with that. Muryn said that a major reason we chose them is that they created a document that would be left to us to implement. We would not need them to put it into action. Staschiak questioned that we have a number of outstanding items to get their feedback on, he has not received anything. Muryn said they provided feedback on the "Safe Community" goal and Staschiak had requested us to not go to them on that point and that it was the responsibility of this committee. Muryn had sent out this information to the group multiple times over the past few weeks. At this point we are not waiting on anything from PlanningNEXT they are waiting on the group to make final decisions. Staschiak disagreed and asked what the process is, he wants this committee to stay involved in the community engagement process. If it is going to be forwarded to PlanningNEXT as it sits it should be clarified with this committee what the process will be for filling in the action items. Russell said that the purpose of PlanningNEXT is to present the information that was given by the community. Wobser confirmed the branches will go to PlanningNEXT so that they can start the process of their deliverable and define the process of how we should go about the action items process. Staschiak said if this moves forward it should be in written form so that it is all part of the communication process. Wobser said that there is a meeting with PlanningNEXT tomorrow to talk about logistics with him and the Mayor, there is an ordinance. Staschiak said for the record he abstained from the vote to approve additional funds. Hellmann responds that it was not PlanningNEXT fault that it has taken this much time, the committee is at fault, we asked them to guide us through the process and we burnt up the clock. Staschiak said the contact did not have a time stipulation. Staschiak does not support payment of additional funds to PlanningNEXT at this point in time due to outstanding items.

Wobser motion that we approve the goals and objectives of the document and send to PlanningNEXT in order to get that portion of the document finalized. Seconded by Muryn.

Staschiak said this brings conversation about ethics, Sunshine law, and Ohio Revised Code. He said he has exposure to Ohio Revised Code, the committee should take the course. Mayor Muryn has taken this course. Staschiak urged all members to take the course.

Staschiak motion to amend that the committee agree to take the ethics training as a prerequisite of this process moving forward.

Russell called to question.

5-1 (Staschiak)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Goal 1**

Muryn read proposed new language for goal 1 "A safe community where people feel secure because of proactive emergency planning, high quality response, and well-maintained physical appearance." Warnecke prefaced that she is tired of picking words to pieces, but would like to suggest removing "where people feel secure" and add "do to."

Warnecke motion to approve the language "A safe community because of proactive emergency planning, high quality response, and well-maintained physical appearance." Seconded by Muryn.

5-1 (Staschiak)

Warnecke amended to include word "recovery" after "response." Second by Muryn.

6-0

### **Objective 1.3**

Wobser motion to approve “Collaborate to ensure a continuum of services and facilities, for individuals involved in the criminal justice system for effective detention, support, and reentry.” Muryn second.

6-0

### **Objective 3.3**

Muryn motion to approve “Support organizations in their efforts to build, and sustain, community spirit.” Seconded by Wobser.

6-0

### **Objective 7.3**

Muryn motion to approve language “Support local organizations in an effort to identify, evaluate, and implement diverse mobility options.” Wobser second.

Russell questioned what if the organization is not local. Hellmann questioned if it makes a difference if they are local or not.

Muryn amended motion to remove the word local.

6-0

### **Goal 5**

Muryn suggested to change language to “An inviting place.” Warnecke agreed. Russell said that that the goal came out of public comment that they were looking for a City that looked well-maintained which by definition is attractive. If it expanding to say that we are going to have a welcome wagon and that it fits under the goal and is something the City wants to be part of. However, this is a community input driven goal, the words they used were attractive. Warnecke agrees based on what Russel said and it is what the community wants to see. Muryn agreed and said she just wanted to bring back some additional thoughts. Hellmann agrees with the word attractive and said there is work to be done as a community.

### **Goal 4.3**

Muryn brought up the documents that were sent out in advance of the meeting. The City of Findlay has a fiber optic loop which was originally built by FCS which was for better connectivity and services they provide. During that process they reached out to the City, County, and BVHS realizing we are all big users and doing it together would be less costly if partnered. Return on investment at that time was about nine years, the City entered into a 30yr contract which gives us the authority to utilize it no matter what regardless of it being considered a lease agreement. The City has a number of strands and showed a map of the legs and loop of fiber. The County is working to close one of the loops. When we are talking about fiber it is currently only being use for City functions. A lot of public responses talked about broadband and therefore PlanningNEXT had included this in the document. Muryn would like to have a discussion on this point because the City does not want to be an end user provider. This would pertain to if a business wanted to come in and contract with the fiber loop and connect to it and then they are not having to pay for it to be installed. Russell said the majority of the fiber conversations were people saying that they wanted it to be routed to their homes. Good thing we have Metronet, AT&T, and Spectrum laying fiber. He knows Metronet is making a big effort to do the whole city, the City should not be in competition with these private companies. He is not interested in providing it to businesses either but the hospital makes an interesting case. He looks at that as infrastructure that he would have to consider some more. He does not have an objection so long as the City is not providing private services such as trash, golf, etc. but the reason it is in there is because the citizens believe that the City should be providing fiber to the house. Wobser asked Muryn to clarify where we are at. Muryn tried to clarify it further with “leverage the existing fiber loop for business retention and attraction” and removing the residential part. Russell and Wobser oppose that concept. Russell said that business retention and attraction means that we ensure that we have private organizations that lay that infrastructure, again thank you Metronet, AT&T and other companies for investing in the City. Warnecke asked if the point came from PlanningNEXT. Muryn said the language did but the sentiment came from the public. Warnecke asked if we know on the City owned fiber how much of its availability we are using. Muryn said we are not using a huge portion of it, probably a quarter of current capacity. Russell said the goals under it are relatively OK but the statement of 4.3 is troubling. Staschiak said that they fit under goal 7.

Wobser motion to dispense with 4.3 and move the two action items to goal 7. Staschiak second.

Wobser said we don't want to be in the business of helping businesses beyond facilitating conversations. Muryn said she is fine with removing it but did want to clarify that the providers we rely on could be the people coming to the City to ask for a lease of the fibers. She is not arguing for or against it but wanted to clarify that the City could provide the fiber but would not be providing the service were that ever to arise. Wobser does not believe that the document would preclude someone from using our unused capacity for an amount of time.

6-0

Muryn said the goals and objectives have now been approved and asked if they should be voted out so that the document can go to PlanningNEXT. Russell would like to see the final draft and PlanningNEXT will be able to move forward with their portion. Warnecke asked when the copy would go to PlanningNEXT. Wobser said there are two weeks from this meeting and it is up to the group if they would like to review before. Muryn said that she will send out the red line and clean draft to the committee and PlanningNEXT. They will be able to approve the process and it can be discussed at the next meeting. Muryn reminded the group to keep an eye on their emails.

Staschiak motion to adjourn. Wobser second.

*This document organizes the sentiments heard from the public, Community Outreach Team, and Strategic Planning Committee into the plan's main organizing elements of Vision, Values, Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Actions. This document is a draft for discussion and will continue to be refined with input from the Strategic Planning Committee.*

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## **Community Vision**

*Community vision is the highest level—and therefore most general—expression of a community's future. Reflects the community's values. Sets the tone for more specific recommendations.*

### **The City of Findlay government aspires to be...**

A best-in-class city that leads in opportunities and innovation by welcoming new people, businesses and ideas while staying true to our people, our values, and small-city character.

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## **Values**

*Values are a reflection, at a high level, of what the community cares most about.*

### **The people of Findlay value...**

1. Small-city charm
  2. Unique assets
  3. Safety
  4. Belonging
  5. Fiscal responsibility
- 

## **Organizational Mission**

*The organizational mission is a statement used by an organization to explain, in simple and concise terms, its purpose(s) for being.*

**We serve all our residents, businesses, and institutions so that they can thrive.** In collaboration with our partners, we are dedicated to providing exceptional municipal services which...

1. *Provide the highest quality community with amenities and opportunities available to all ages and abilities*
2. *Respond to the needs and desires of our current as well as future residents*

3. *Protect sense of place in downtown and neighborhoods as the heartbeat of a complete community where we live, work, play, and shop*
  4. *Are thoughtful and transparent in our deliberations, communications, and utilization of all resources*
- 

## Plan Goals

*Plan goals are a desired outcome expressed in simple terms.*

**1. A Safe Community** because of proactive emergency planning, high quality response and recovery, and well-maintained physical appearance.

- (1.1) Maintain and enhance a safe community through the continued support of emergency services.**
- (1.2) Maintain support for accountable community policing.**
- (1.3) Collaborate to ensure a continuum of services and facilities, for individuals involved in the criminal justice system for effective detention, support, and reentry.**
- (1.4) Continually improve through training, technology, and good policy.**
- (1.5) Decrease flood risk.**

**2. A well- run City Government** that is transparent, easy to engage with, and prioritizes its employees and citizens.

- (2.1) Continue to lead in collaboration and operational efficiency with partners.**
- (2.2) Improve upon communications to ensure information is clear, accessible, and transparent.**
- (2.3) Modernize technology, software, systems, and processes.**
- (2.4) Ensure that the City of Findlay government is an employer of choice in the region.**
- (2.5) Continue to ensure the City's long-term financial strength and stability while protecting the 1% income tax rate.**
- (2.6) Model values of being open and friendly to all through city operations.**

(2.7) Maintain, plan, and invest in capital assets to ensure they are safe, affordable, and high quality.

**3. A Caring Government** that supports all community members and looks for opportunities to strengthen community spirit and belonging.

(3.1) Support the coalitions in their work to address social service needs of the community.

(3.2) Support a culture of community belonging.

(3.3) Support organizations in their efforts to build, and sustain, community spirit.

**4. A Thriving Business Environment** that takes care of existing businesses, attracts new businesses, supports local entrepreneurs, and is economically sustainable.

(4.1) Continue to strengthen economic development through ongoing partnerships.

(4.2) Support businesses and entrepreneurs through various initiatives.

(4.3) Support education, skilled trades, and workforce development

(4.4) Build a Findlay, Ohio brand and partner with other stakeholders to promote it.

(4.5) Promote and preserve the Findlay Airport as a vital community resource.

**5. An Attractive Place** to live, learn, work, play, invest, and raise a family.

(5.1) Maintain Findlay's small city character as the community evolves.

(5.2) Protect and enhance Findlay's downtown as the heartbeat of the community.

(5.3) Reimagine the Riverfront throughout the community.

(5.4) Care for the natural environment

(5.5) Care for the physical environment in the City's residential neighborhoods, commercial, and industrial districts consistent with the character of the community.

(5.6) Support safe and diverse housing options for all.



**6. An Active Community** with a wide variety of amenities, parks, and recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.

**(6.1) Strengthen partnerships for the long-term planning and provision of amenities.**

**(6.2) Communicate available recreational programs and other activities more efficiently and effectively**

**(6.3) Continually improve accommodations and accessibility of existing parks and recreational facilities**

**(6.4) Provide programming and events that support active lifestyles, health, and wellness**

**7. A Connected City** where people are linked to destinations and each other in a variety of ways.

**(7.1) Continue to improve street maintenance, traffic flow, and safety**

**(7.2) Identify, evaluate, and execute opportunities to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure**

**(7.3) Support organizations in an effort to identify, evaluate, and implement diverse mobility options.**

**(7.4) Support the expansion of private communication networks to encourage competition and accessibility.**