

GROWTH POLICY UPDATE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - DRAFT 7.26.16

Introduction

In June of 2016, Park County Staff, members of the Planning and Development Board and the consultants organized and executed a series of public open houses and workshops to gather feedback on the first draft of the key issues, goals and objectives for the Park County Growth Policy Update. Based on feedback from these meetings, the key issues, goals and objectives were revised. The revisions are represented in this document.

Methodology

The open houses, held in Cooke City, Gardiner, Emigrant, Wilsall and Livingston, were designed to allow participants to review the draft key issues, goals and objectives at their own pace, ask questions, and talk freely amongst themselves. Participants could indicate either positive or negative preferences by placing green or red stickers on a series of posters displaying the key issues, goals and objectives.

The purpose of this exercise was to gain a general understanding of whether the key issues, goals and objectives are heading in the right direction or need to be reworked. Items that received primarily positive ratings indicate the topic is generally heading in the right direction; items that received primarily negative ratings indicate the item should be revised. Items that receive a mix of positive and negative ratings indicate a potential controversial topic or that additional consideration may be necessary.

Participants also submitted more detailed written comments during the open houses. Written comments allowed participants to make specific suggestions on any topic or clarify their position. The planners evaluated and used the written comments to revise the key issues, goals and objectives, and to develop actions, alternatives and implementation strategies.

In addition to the open houses, in Emigrant and Livingston turnout was high enough to conduct more in-depth workshops. During the workshops attendees participated in series of exercises to consider and discuss the key issues, goals and objectives. These exercises allowed participants to engage with other Park County residents in small groups and discuss topics important to them in greater detail. The planners used the feedback to evaluate the general direction of the draft key issues, goals and objectives, and to develop actions, alternatives and implementation strategies.

Revisions and Additions

Feedback from the June meetings indicate the key issues, goals and objectives are generally headed in the right direction; however, some revisions are warranted. The following revisions and additions to the

first draft of the key issue, goals and objectives document dated 5/27/16 were made primarily based on public feedback:

Objective 1.3 – Revised based on written comments and from the number of “dislikes” from the open house posters, and on feedback from community workshops.

Objective 6.2 – Revised based on written comments.

Objective 10.1 – Revised based on verbal input from community members during the Cooke City – Silver Gate public meetings.

Objective 12.2 – Objective added based on verbal input from community members during the Cooke City – Silver Gate public meetings.

Objective 12.5 – Revised based on written comments.

Objective 13.2 – Possible additional objective added based on written comments – more clarification is currently being sought.

Objective 14.6 – Objective added based on written comments and from feedback from the community workshops.

Objective 14.7 – Objective added based on findings in the Existing Conditions Report

Objective 15.2 – Objective added based on written comments and feedback from the workshops.

Key Issue: Intergovernmental Coordination

Park County does not exist in a vacuum. There are a variety of forms of government from school boards and fire districts to federal and state agencies, all involved in providing services and impacting the County’s population and surroundings. The County Commission only has jurisdiction over a portion of what occurs in Park County, but where it does not have jurisdiction, it is likely another entity does. Non-governmental entities such as health care providers and community groups also play a critical role in providing services and contributing to Park County’s high quality of life. Coordination with other government agencies and non-governmental partners is critical to provide efficient and effective services to residents and visitors.

Goal 1 Plan for and encourage development in the area around Livingston

Objective 1.1 : Complete a joint planning exercise with the City of Livingston to develop a shared vision for the unincorporated area around Livingston

Objective 1.2 : Update the existing interlocal agreement between the City of Livingston and Park County to outline steps each jurisdiction should take to meet the shared planning vision

Objective 1.3 : Complete an infrastructure plan and adopt development standards that under state law provides incentives for planned development in the unincorporated area around Livingston

Goal 2 : Partner with state and federal agencies to reduce human-wildlife conflicts

Objective 2.1 : Develop and implement a shared strategy with wildlife management agencies and community organizations to educate the public on living with wildlife

Objective 2.2 : Identify critical wildlife corridors for development, infrastructure and conservation planning

Goal 3 : Support efforts of fire managers to manage fuels on public and private lands

Objective 3.1 : Implement the tasks in the 2014 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Objective 3.2 : Increase support for rural fire districts

Goal 4 : Become active partners in management of federal lands

Objective 4.1 : Establish Cooperative Agency status with the United States Forest Service and National Parks Service

Goal 5 : Encourage efforts of non-governmental partners to address community needs

Objective 5.1 : Facilitate and provide support to community groups

Key Issue: Water Availability and Water Quality

Water is a basic necessity of life and is critical for the growth and development of the County. As growth and development occurs, the County needs to understand the dynamics of this crucial resource and be prepared to make decisions on how to manage it to protect existing users, and provide for additional ones. In order to do this, the County needs to establish a foundation for future decision making.

Goal 6 : Be prepared to make decisions on how to manage water resources

Objective 6.1 : Conduct a water resource study that analyzes sources, long term availability, potential conflicts, and recommendations for management

Objective 6.2 : Build on recent efforts to establish baseline water quality and quantity information for the major watersheds in Park County

Key Issue: Infrastructure

Infrastructure connects people to places. Without it, there are no businesses, no trade and no jobs. The County is a provider of infrastructure, and what we think of critical infrastructure is evolving. The County needs to ensure the infrastructure that enables commerce for today and for tomorrow is safe, effective and efficient.

Goal 7 : Increase availability of broadband internet

Objective 7.1 : Partner with educational providers, health care providers, the City of Livingston and the business community to provide information and recommendations in order to make informed decisions about investing in broadband infrastructure and expanding its use

Goal 8 : Create a system of interconnected trails

Objective 8.1 : Prioritize and implement the recommendations in the Park County Active Transportation Plan

Objective 8.2 : Continue partnerships with the City of Livingston to develop Active Transportation facilities in and around the City

Objective 8.3 : Identify stable, long-term funding sources for trail planning, design, construction, and maintenance

Goal 9 : Provide for a safe and efficient County road network

Objective 9.1 : Update the subdivision regulations to ensure new subdivisions pay a proportional share of their impact when upgrading County roads to meet County standards

Objective 9.2 : Establish a baseline for the condition of County roads, and monitor their condition over time

Objective 9.3 : Prioritize the use of Rural Special Improvement Districts to upgrade substandard County roads in areas that are already developed

Objective 9.4 : Continue to secure federal funding sources to upgrade County roads that provide access to recreation areas on federal lands

Goal 10 : Support water and sewer districts in and around community centers

Objective 10.1 : Coordinate with the existing water and sewer districts to update water and sewer facilities

Objective 10.2 : Evaluate and support the development of public water and wastewater systems in community centers in order to accommodate new growth and existing development

Goal 11 : Collect, treat and dispose of solid waste as part of an effective and efficient waste management system

Objective 11.1 : Maintain a data base on the use of solid waste

Objective 11.2 : Continue partnerships with the City Livingston to manage solid waste

Objective 11.3 : Continue efforts to support and explore new options for recycling

Key Issue: Housing

The cost of housing in Park County is on the rise. Is the cost of housing outpacing wages? What does affordable housing mean for the workforce or low income households? How do housing prices impact

elderly residents, or people with special needs? Looking west, the cost of housing in Gallatin County is skyrocketing. Will it impact Park County? Park County needs to gain a better understanding of its housing needs, and lay the foundation to address affordability.

Goal 12 : Provide for affordable, low income and workforce housing

Objective 12.1 : Prepare a housing plan for all of Park County that identifies affordable housing needs, targets and identifies possible funding sources, and pinpoints implementation partners

Objective 12.2 : Work with Cooke City and Silver Gate residents to develop an affordable / workforce housing strategy

Objective 12.3 : Assist with implementing the strategies in the Gardiner Area Housing Action Plan

Objective 12.4 : Actively support and pursue grant funding to provide affordable housing to people with special needs and the elderly

Objective 12.5 : Evaluate the benefits and impacts of vacation rentals on communities

Key Issue: Growth and Development

Over the life of this Growth Policy Update, growth and development in Park County is certain to occur. Growth and development is positive, and will help to diversify and strengthen the County's economy. However, as growth and development occurs, conflicts will arise. The County Commissioners, County staff, and citizens need to be aware of changes in land use with both the positive and the negative impacts, and have the foundation ready to react in an acceptable manner.

Goal 13 Goal: Protect private property rights

Objective 13.1 : When making decisions regarding land use, uphold provisions of the US Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Montana that protect private property rights

Objective 13.2: To be determined based on feedback from the land use questionnaire.

Goal 14 Goal: Take an active role in the land use and development process

Objective 14.1 : Recognize the relationship between enhanced revenues generated by new growth, and the long term liabilities for maintaining infrastructure and providing services

Objective 14.2 : Identify the current mechanisms for addressing land use conflicts, and evaluate options for improvement

Objective 14.3 : Develop tools that will allow the County to respond to and address evolving land use issues

Objective 14.4 : Continue with and expand upon community outreach efforts that inform citizens of planning activities, while keeping planners aware of pressing issues

Objective 14.5 : Identify areas of critical agricultural importance, and implement mechanisms in these areas that enable agricultural land owners to continue operations

Objective 14.6 : Develop incentives to encourage planned development that will be served by existing or planned infrastructure near existing communities centers

Objective 14.7: Provide resources for and support efforts to provide for the needs of an aging population.

Goal 15 Goal: Diversify Park County's economy

Objective 15.1 : Provide resources and support to economic development agencies operating in Park County

Objective 15.2 : Recognize the value of Park County's unique natural amenities and recreational opportunities as competitive strengths, attracting talent and companies that diversify and strengthen the economy