



MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

**DeFuniak Springs Board Room
Strategic Planning Workshop**

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Chairman Michael Barker, Vice-Chairman Danny Glidewell, Commissioner Boots McCormick, and Commissioner Trey Nick

ABSENT: Commissioner Tony Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Tony Cornman, Interim County Administrator, and Mary King, Interim Deputy County Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Barker welcomed all those in attendance and called the workshop to order. He talked about the process that has been followed to produce a strategic plan for the county and expressed his gratitude for all the hard work that has been done so far.

STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

Institute for Senior Professionals Introduction

Mr. David Underwood, Institute of Senior Professionals-Project Team Leader briefly introduced the ISP team members present and talked about the pro-bono work the group does for the surrounding counties and organizations.

Project Description

Mr. Wayne Smith, Institute of Senior Professionals-Facilitator talked about the task of the ISP to create a strategic plan for the county. He stated that the mission, vision, core values, and strategic priority areas would be covered. Mr. Smith said that the four elements should guide both the county in completing the plan and its employees as they perform their day-to-day duties.

First Four Elements of the Strategic Plan

i. Mission

ii. Vision

iii. Core Values

iv. Strategic Priority Areas

Mission

i. Current Mission Statement - "To provide efficient and effective government services through responsive leadership, ensuring pride, preservation, and conservation for Walton County."

ii. Suggested Mission Statement - "To efficiently and effectively serve the citizens of Walton County by providing a safe community and sustainable economy while preserving our quality of life and natural resources."

Mr. Smith reviewed the purpose of a mission statement and talked about the ISP's suggested changes to the current mission statement. The board agreed with the suggested changes to the mission statement.

Vision

i. Current Vision Statement - "Sustain and enhance Walton County's vitality, environment, and community character."

ii. Suggested Vision Statement - "Become THE county in which to live, visit, work, and play."

Mr. Smith reviewed the suggested vision statement. Commissioner McCormick recommended adding the word premier before the word county. Chairman Barker commented on the word "become" and suggested using "Continuing to be." Commissioner Glidewell suggested shortening "Become" and using the word "Be." A discussion was held on the work-related reasons people leave the county and the need for better workforce opportunities. The board concurred to change the statement to read: "Be the premier county in which to live, visit, work, and play."

Core Values

i. Definition: "An organization's deeply held beliefs that guide employee actions and decisions."

ii. Previously Suggested Ten Values: Transparent, Integrity, Accountable Ethical, Service-Oriented, Professional, Responsive, Respectful, Credible, and Proactive

iii. Updated Suggested Six Values: Transparent, Proactive (includes Responsive), Service-Oriented, Integrity (includes Ethical and Credible), Professional (includes Respectful and Responsive), and Accountable

Mr. Smith covered the core values list that was compiled at the April 27th workshop. After a brief discussion was held, the board agreed with the six core values as presented.

Strategic Priority Areas

i. Definition "Major areas of actions needed to carry out the mission and realize the vision"

ii. List of Suggested Areas: Planned Growth with Sustainable Infrastructure; Economic Diversification; Organizational Performance and Asset Management; Public Information and Communication; Workforce Housing, Transportation, and Training (Focus is to have a qualified workforce to attract industry); Preservation of Natural

Resources, Historical Heritage, and Natural Beauty; Safe, Clean, Proudful Communities; Visitor Experience Diversification; and Cultural, Arts, and Recreational Experience Expansion

Mr. Smith talked about the combination of the suggested strategic priority areas and the recommendations that were presented at the last workshop. He said the list had not been prioritized. The board concurred that the updated priority list was acceptable.

Chairman Barker asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Smith said there was more information to be gathered, an official acceptance by the board of what has been presented would be needed, and then a review of the functional areas and operations to see how they are supported. Specific goals for those areas would be developed to fulfill the statements and priorities.

Commissioner Glidewell talked about the county motto "Pride, Preservation, and Conservation" and that the strategic goals would expound on those three principles. Mr. Smith recommended re-examining the motto which could be included as a part of the process. Commissioner Glidewell agreed that this should be reviewed.

Public Comment

Mr. Uriah Matthews spoke in favor of what was presented. He talked about challenges in the workforce and maintaining industries. He encouraged the board to build upon the current motto. Mr. Matthews spoke on the need for more technical schools in the county. Chairman Barker noted there were currently two vocational/technical schools in the county and talked about the need to capitalize on the schools to support the businesses.

Mr. Dan Cosson asked if the time limit for comment could be dispensed. Chairman Barker said that it would not be feasible since a time limit was implemented at the last workshop. He talked about how this is a big step for the county and that public input is wanted.

Mr. Smith addressed the feedback received at the last workshop about senior citizen services and access to health care. He asked if these two concerns should be added for consideration. The board talked about how these two areas fall under the quality of life and how the board can only be responsible for program support efforts. The board concurred to leave the list as is.

Chairman Barker readdressed the remarks about the comment time limitation and suggested that each commissioner hold public meetings within their districts to gather additional input in a less formal setting. The remaining commissioners spoke in support of the district meetings. Chairman Barker encouraged the citizens to also call or email their commissioners with their suggestions or recommendations.

Commissioner McCormick asked if there was a hard line for this process to be completed and if there would be time to hold community meetings in each district. Chairman Barker responded that there was no set deadline to complete the strategic plan process and noted that scheduling meetings can be difficult. Mr. Smith said it would take some time for the ISP to review all of the functional areas and that they would have time to hold the community meetings.

Mr. Matthews commented on the benefits of having a mediator for public workshops.

ADJOURN

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Mike Barker, Chairman



Alex Alford, Clerk of Court