

May 2, 2008

Task Force Colleagues:

I agree with the sentiment expressed at our meeting Monday night. Being expected to recommend a preferred alternative to the city council in August, only four meetings from now, we need to move on from information-only meetings. Our Task Force needs to take an accelerated *proactive* approach, focusing our energies on what we know to be the needs and challenges of our city.

Importantly, we already have an excellent general plan and 33 years of experience working with its strengths and weaknesses. We're not starting from scratch. That's a *huge* advantage, one we need to take advantage of.

We (not staff) have been asked to author Envision 2040. Keep that in mind. We certainly have the talent and resources to succeed—that fact was recognized when the council appointed us to this task.

However, we won't be able to accomplish that goal on schedule with once-monthly meetings or as a 37 member committee-of-the-whole.

I suggest that we break our Task Force into working subcommittees of eight or ten members. Each committee would be responsible for developing scheduled recommendations to the Task Force on a major strategy component of Envision 2040. Task Force members would not be required to join a committee, but those who wish to could join one or more of them based upon their own interests.

Committee meetings would be open to the public and be held between regular Task Force meetings. Each committee would elect its own chair. Planning staff would not *have* to attend committee meetings.

Forming subcommittees could hopefully be done in time for a launch at our May 27 meeting. Our co-chairs could work with staff to identify committees and their focus, forward their preliminary recommendations to the Task Force, and be ready to approve the process and form committees.

I hope you generally agree that it's time to get to the heart of our task and that doing so will take more than just listening to expert testimony. We need to build upon today's reality and our city's 33 years of experience in general planning; we need to start *writing* Envision 2040.

Thank you,

Dave Fadness
Task Force Member

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