

Strategic Plan Advisory Network (SPAN) September 11, 2013 Amended Meeting Minutes

The Strategic Plan Advisory Network met at Cecil College, North East Campus, in the Technology Building on September 11, 2013. The following members of SPAN were present:

Richard Bayer, Joyce Bowsbey, Richard Brooks, Steve Connelly, Denise Davis, D'Ette Devine, Bruce England, Patricia Folk, Mario Gangemi, Stephanie Garrity, Diane Lane, Donna Nichols, Scott Mesneak, Grove Miller, Elyse Murray, Chip Peterson, Mike Ratchford, Winston Robinson, Dan Schneckenburger, Eric Sennstrom, Dave Trolio, Clyde VanDyke, Wyatt Wallace, Lisa Webb, Al Wein, Ken Wiggins.

Al Wein, Chairman, called for an approval of the August minutes. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Diane Lane reviewed the group discussion findings from the August meeting, and opened the discussion for the County Vision statement.

After group guidance, discussion and wordsmithing, the group developed the following vision statement, noting that the vision statement will guide the county in what it desires to be in the future:

VISION: Cecil County is a place of opportunity for all, that encourages economic vitality, quality education, and safe communities, making it possible for current and future generations to live, work, play, learn, and grow.

Chairman Al Wein asked for a motion to approve the proposed Vision Statement. The Vision Statement was approved unanimously after appropriate motion, and second.

Diane Lane continued the meeting asking the network to keep in mind the aspirations of the Vision Statement when developing the Mission Statement. The mission statement is our purpose; it will drive what we do so that the Vision becomes a reality. Several members asked that we keep in mind the ideas of diversity, rural heritage and fiscal responsibilities.

The following Mission Statement was developed:

MISSION: Cecil County Government enhances the health, education, safety, economic well being and quality of life for all its citizens by providing public services in a fiscally responsible and efficient manner that is worthy of public trust and respectful of our rural heritage. The County embraces innovation, diversity and collaboration in meeting citizen and community needs. The County Government recognizes its stewardship role and lives by the rule: Do What's Right, Work as a Team, Get Results.

Chairman Al Wein asked for a motion to approve the proposed Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was approved unanimously after appropriate motion, and second.

Consensus Values were reviewed from the August meeting. Members were reminded of the Vision and Mission and asked to break into Groups and select four values, and three to five strategic priorities.

Group Results:

Group 1

Values: Integrity, Collaboration, Excellence, Accountability

Strategic Priorities: Infrastructure, Health & Social Issues, Education Issues, Workforce Issues, Regulatory and Government Issues (read: process – the way it works/does not work at the national, state and county levels).

Group 2

Values: Integrity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence, Evidence (fact based)

Strategic Priorities: Education, Sound Fiscal Management, Safe Communities, Infrastructure, Job Creation/Economic Development

Group 3

Values: Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, Civility, Community

Strategic Priorities: Infrastructure, Job creation/Economic Development/Poverty (stress that the Executive recognizes poverty as not only an economic development issue, but as a health and educational issue/an opportunity to raise up the standard of living in the county. A large percentage of our population receive assistance, we must be inclusive and keep this population in mind. A Community Services or Community Development Agency should also be recognized as a need in our County).

Safe and Healthy Communities, Education, Fiscal Sustainability, Citizen Involvement

Group 4

Values: Accountability, Integrity, Collaboration, Leadership, Responsibility

Strategic Priorities: Health & Mental Health, Educational Opportunities, Financial Sustainability, Conservation/Preservation/ Green & Clean Community/ Environmental Sustainability/ Sustainable Development/Historical Preservation, Public Safety/Crime/Safe Communities/Emergency Services/ Parks & Recreation/ Justice System

Diane Lane will compile the strategic priorities and begin research. This list will be sent out to the SPAN early next week, so that the network can also do research during the month prior to the October SPAN meeting.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.