

Municipal Moments – Week 5



04/16/2017 - I've written a lot about the results of our community survey over the last several weeks and the important conclusions we can draw from that survey. The data itself is very interesting – but some of you may be wondering how we're going to put all this information to use.

That's where our Comprehensive Plan comes in. Many may not realize just how important a comprehensive plan is, or how it impacts your life and the life of the community. The comprehensive plan is a single legal document that guides the growth and development of a community. It is one of the most important policy documents any community can develop. It helps the city anticipate community needs to support future growth, which can include new roads, water and sewer lines, storm drainage, public safety facilities, parks, and other services. The most important function of a comprehensive plan is to assist community leaders in evaluating future proposals to decide if they reflect and share the community's goals and vision for the future.

The process of creating a comprehensive plan is long and involved. The city's previous comprehensive plan, adopted in 2002, was hundreds of pages long. It was divided into 11 different sections and in each section specific issues, goals and action items are clearly detailed. Much has changed since 2002, and even since 2008 when the comprehensive plan was last revised.

The City Council has recently discussed using a two part process to create a brand new comprehensive plan. The first step will be to adopt a vision for the future. In other words, how do we see the community in 10 years? 20 years? From there the city will develop goals and objectives to attain that vision.

We've been laying the groundwork for the first part of that process over the past several months by gathering and analyzing your feedback. The first important step when engaging in any planning process like this is to assess where we are, how we got here, and then determine where we want to go. That's why all this data I've been talking about is so important. Based on the feedback from our community survey, we've learned what Kerrville citizens really value about our community and where we still have room for improvement. That doesn't mean our work is done.

The data gathered through that survey is a general snapshot of the community's thoughts on a number of city services and community characteristics. It's a great starting point, but we want to know more. We will soon be working to gather additional data from other community partners. We want to know what students, visitors and businesses also think. We want to get a clear picture of your vision for the future so we can properly plan to accommodate that.

Your feedback is vital to this process. We are just entering the beginning stages of the planning process and if you didn't have a chance to weigh in on the community survey, there should be other

opportunities to share your thoughts in the near future. Keep an eye out as this process continues to unfold – and try to stay involved. The goals and priorities that ultimately get adopted will set the course for the Kerrville community for the next decade, and beyond.

- Don Davis
Interim City Manager, Kerrville