



City of Lawrence
Douglas County
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Horizon 2020 Steering Committee
City Commission Room
4:00 – 6:00pm
July 28, 2014

AGENDA

- 1) Approve July 14, 2014 Meeting Notes**
- 2) Receive communication from the Douglas County Food Policy Council**
- 3) Presentation by Mark Hecker & Roger Steinbrock on Parks/Open Space**
- 4) Presentation by Susan Tate on Arts & Culture**

Update on Public Input Process

a. Open House Meetings/Survey

i. Status update on 5 Open House Meetings held to date.

April 16th – LHS

16 Attendees

15 Surveys Received

5 Steering Committee members attended

April 29th – Lawrence City Hall

20 Attendees

18 Surveys Received

3 Steering Committee members attended

May 7th – Lecompton

10 Attendees

8 Surveys Received

1 Steering Committee member attended

May 29th – Aquatic Center

26 Attendees

24 Surveys Received

1 Steering Committee member attended

June 4th - Baldwin City

5 Attendees

4 Surveys

0 Steering Committee members attended

June 19th - Eudora

2 Attendees

0 Surveys

0 Steering Committee members attended

June 30th - Douglas County Courthouse

8 Attendees

7 Surveys

3 Steering Committee members attended

July 16th – Douglas County Fairgrounds

16 Attendees

13 Surveys

1 Steering Committee members attended

ii. Open House Survey on Web: <http://lawrenceks.org/2020survey>

a. Available May 27-August 1

iii. Surveys received are posted on web:

<http://lawrenceks.org/boards/horizon-2020-steering-committee/2014-open-house-meetings>

**Horizon 2020 Steering Committee
July 14, 2014
Meeting Notes**

Members Present: Comm. Thellman, Comm. Amyx, Dr. Rick Doll, John Gascon, Clay Britton, Lisa Harris, Stan Rasmussen, Charlie Bryan (ex officio)

Members Absent: Kyra Martinez, Bill Ackerly, Scott Zaremba

Staff Present: Scott McCullough, Jeff Crick, Amy Miller, David Corliss

Others Present: Several members of the public were also in attendance.

Amyx welcomed everyone.

The meeting notes from the June 9, 2014 meeting were discussed. Motioned by Harris and seconded by Britton to approve the June 9, 2014 notes. Motion passed 6-0-1. Gascon abstained since he was not present at that meeting.

McCullough introduced the next item, which was to receive written communication from the Sustainability Advisory Board. The group discussed that written communication in that concise format is beneficial to the group. Staff indicated that these comments will be incorporated into the issue prioritization phase of the process. Motioned by Harris and seconded by Gascon to receive the written communications from the Sustainability Advisory Board. Motion passed 7-0.

McCullough introduced the next item, which was to receive written communication from the North Lawrence Improvement Association. Staff indicated that these comments will be incorporated into the issue prioritization phase of the process. Motioned by Thellman and seconded by Harris to receive the written communications from the North Lawrence Improvement Association. Motion passed 7-0.

McCullough introduced the item regarding the presentation on the ETC Survey.

Ron Vine from ETC Institute gave a presentation to the committee about the survey that was performed.

Staff also presented the committee with an updated presentation schedule for their meetings through the end of October 2014.

Motioned by Rasmussen and seconded by Harris to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

To: Horizon 2020 Steering Committee
From: The Douglas County Food Policy Council
Date: July 21, 2014
Re: Suggested revisions to Horizon 2020

The Douglas County Food Policy Council (FPC) is a 23-member joint city-county advisory board whose mission is to identify the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Douglas County. The FPC focuses on economic development opportunities in the food sector, supporting agricultural producers, and ensuring access to healthy food for all residents, regardless of income. The FPC serves as a forum for discussion and coordination for community-wide efforts to improve our community’s access to local food supply and distribution networks.

Over the course of several months in early 2014, the FPC reviewed the comprehensive plan, Horizon 2020. We reviewed key chapters that pertain directly to food systems, and are offering some suggested areas for improvement:

Chapter 7: Industrial & Employment-Related Land Use

The Food Policy Council recognizes the need to balance the preservation of agricultural land with land needed for new business and industrial development. Generally, we recommend that the chapter be updated to reflect recent developments in industrial and business park land availability (i.e. Venture Park, completion of the SLT, and development near K-10 at Rock Chalk Park). We anticipate that many of these expanded opportunities will alleviate pressure to develop on our region’s high quality agricultural land. We support maintaining the current language in the chapter that identifies preservation of high quality agricultural land as a priority for the community.

The FPC would also like to recommend the following specific language modifications:

Chapter & Page:	Recommendations:
7-1 (Intro)	The last sentence of the first paragraph should read: “Of particular interest to the community is the attraction of industries and employment-related uses that are based in biosciences, agriculture and natural resources, <i>food systems</i> , technology and telecommunications.”
7-2	In the bulleted point that starts with “Minimize impacts to the natural environment...” add “gardening” as a purpose for open space that should be protected.
7-4 to 7-5	Under Lawrence- New Industrial Areas: Locational Criteria for Industrial developments, add a bullet to the existing list locational criteria that says: “minimize development on high quality agricultural land” This can be under the general or specific list of criteria, as the steering committee sees fit. This addition will help standardize the chapter and ensure that there is consistency with the language later in the document.
7-13	Under Policy 2.1, add “minimize development on high quality agricultural land” to ensure that the policy is consistent with language earlier in the document.

Chapter 9: Parks, Recreation & Open Space

9-1	Introduction states that "It is important that the County take an active role in preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and historic sites that present recreational opportunities." Suggested edit: "It is important that the County take an active role in preserving unique landscapes, promoting agritourism to preserve family farms, open spaces...."
9-2	Under "Strategies" the last bullet states "Coordinate with private property owners to provide additional opportunities..." The FPC is interested in who could facilitate this "coordination" role, and if an inventory of private properties could be catalogued and made available to the public.
9-2	Create a new bullet under "strategies" that states "Coordinate with the County to promote agritourism operations to preserve land in agricultural use and educate citizens and tourists about Douglas County's rich agricultural heritage."
9-6	Under "Unincorporated Douglas County" heading: It refers to "prime agricultural lands," but this should be "high quality agricultural lands" to reflect later language in the document. Also, ECO2 is no longer working in this area. Could the Douglas County Food Policy Council be named as the entity to assist with implementation of this section?
9-6	Under Public Involvement, add to #3: "Additionally, there are number of historic sites in unincorporated Douglas County that ..." This should reference the County's Heritage Conservation Council as a key resource in identifying and restoring these historic spaces.
9-13	Under policy 1.3.e., edit it to state: "Investigate feasibility of utilizing impact or development fees for financing land acquisition of new park, recreation, open space, or high quality agricultural land..."
9-15	Under policy 2.3 c, "Incorporate the use of native plant materials and naturalistic landscaping, including fruit trees and gardens, to promote educational awareness..."
9-16	Under policy 3.1.e: "Encourage open space....Such uses could be for playfields, trails, passive recreation, orchards, gardens, ..."
9-16	Under policy 3.1.h: The FPC felt that "reach out to" was very vague language. Who specifically will be responsible for being a liaison with ag property owners? Could Extension or the FPC be that entity?

Chapter 10: Community Facilities

The Food Policy Council is interested in specific language about the value of the food system for our economy, environment, and community. The FPC determined that Chapter 10, with its focus on community-wide assets, would be a likely location for food system-specific language. The FPC is open to other locations for this language, but as the food system includes so many stakeholders and community assets - from farms to restaurants to schools - they felt that Chapter 10 provided a logical home.

Therefore, the FPC recommends the addition of the following section to Chapter 10:

4. COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM

The community food system consists of the network required to link the producer of food to the consumer. The essential components of this supply chain are production, processing, aggregation, storage, distribution, retailing, and marketing. Ensuring the effective development and maintenance of this food system infrastructure is vital to promoting community health and livability. Not only does this infrastructure serve the community's nutritional needs, it also presents a promising economic development opportunity.

STRATEGIES: FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

The following strategies identify methods through which Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County can support the maintenance and development of food system infrastructure:

- Support efforts to develop the community food system with the goal of providing all residents of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County with access to healthy local food.
- Review both city and county regulations for opportunities to enable the equitable development of the community food system.
- Encourage economic development related to the community food system.
- Coordinate with private and non-profit entities to address community food system issues.
- Task the Douglas County Food Policy Council with exploring options to increase the viability of food production for local consumption in both Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County.

LAWRENCE AND UNINCORPORATED DOUGLAS COUNTY

Food Production

The City of Lawrence currently encourages urban agriculture through its Common Ground community garden program and its incubator farm. The Plan recommends that the city conduct a review of its ordinances to determine the impact they might have on private urban agriculture efforts. The Plan also recommends that Douglas County encourage the preservation of high quality agricultural land in unincorporated Douglas County. Additionally, the County should seek to enable the development of agritourism in Douglas County, and support Extension's educational efforts to educate producers on agricultural best practices.

Food Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution

The Plan recommends that the City of Lawrence and Douglas County support the creation of a food hub for the aggregation and processing of locally produced/processed

food products. A food hub would connect producers with new markets for their products and meet the increasing consumer demand for local food. The Plan recommends that Douglas County continue to support the incubator kitchen at the Fairgrounds, as a space for new food businesses and food processors to get started.

- ***Food Retailing and Marketing***

The Plan recommends that Lawrence encourage grocers and other healthy food retailers to locate in areas of the city that lack easy access to healthy local food. Additionally, Lawrence should review comprehensive plans and zoning codes to identify potential areas to influence the location of food retailers. The Plan acknowledges the presence of food deserts in east and north Lawrence, and recommends that these areas be a particular area of focus when encouraging the development of food retail. The Plan recommends that both Lawrence and Douglas County support and enable farmers markets, farm stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

- ***Food Consumption***

The Plan recommends that the City of Lawrence and Douglas County adopt local percentage policies for city and county food purchases and encourage other institutions (i.e. school districts and hospitals) to do the same. The Plan also recommends that the city and county support the development of a "Buy Local" campaign. Lawrence and Douglas County should continue to support social service organizations that enable access to healthy local food such as food banks and extension services. The City of Lawrence and Douglas County should support programs that encourage and enable access to, and consumption of, healthy, local food.

- ***Food Disposal***

The Plan recommends that the city and county encourage and enable gleaning programs as a method to reduce food waste. The Plan recommends continued exploration by the City Solid Waste Division of the feasibility of city-wide food waste composting programs.

Chapter 16: Environment

Generally, the Food Policy Council supports Chapter 16, and believes that it is mostly current. The Council would recommend a few updates to the Chapter:

16-2	<p>Under Strategies section: Bullets under "Identify and protect important environmental features in a manner that also:"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supports our agricultural economy and builds the local food system.
16-14	<p>Policy 2.6. Amend d. to read: "Promote and encourage eco-tourism and agritourism to sustain open space and natural areas."</p>
16-15	<p>Policy 2.7. The FPC supports this section as written.</p>
16-23	<p>Under Summary of Issues, the section on Local/Regional Food could use some data updates, as we now have more recent data. Please eliminate the references to the "Eastern Kaw River Region's Local Food and Farm Economy" as that study is outdated, and regional in nature. Thanks to the recently conducted (2014) Food Hub Feasibility Study, we have significantly more up-to-date figures. A potential re-write of this section could include:</p> <p>Local and regional food programs support our local economy, encourage healthy eating, increase equitable access to healthy food for all residents, and have environmental benefits such as reduced fuel emissions related to long-distance food transportation. Since the formation of the Douglas County Food Policy Council in 2010, great strides have been made to build a robust local food system in our region. A recent study commissioned by the Douglas County Food Policy Council and USDA Rural Development found that significant potential growth still remains – with roughly 2/3 of the \$271 million in annual household food consumption met through imports. Douglas County ranks 2nd in the state in production of fruit and berries and 6th in production of vegetable crops, and has the high quality soils and agricultural knowledge needed to meet increasing demand for local foods. The Douglas County Food Policy Council is working with stakeholders to develop strategies to grow the local food economy, encourage diverse forms of food production such as community gardens, increase access to local food in our Lawrence "food deserts," and support development of food system infrastructure such as food hubs.</p> <p>For more Food Hub Feasibility Study data, see: www.douglas-county/sites/fpc</p>
16-26	<p>Policy 6.7. The general language of the policy is OK, however the FPC believes that the specific subpoints (a-c) should be updated. Therefore, the following proposed edits will update this policy and mirror the recommendations made in Chapter 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Food Production: The City and County should support the production of local food by providing land for community gardens and urban agriculture, and reviewing codes and ordinances to ensure that they support all agriculture efforts. The City and County should also support agritourism efforts and support KSU Research and Extension's effort to educate our producers with research-based best practices in agriculture.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Food Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution: The City and County should offer economic development incentives to develop food system infrastructure such as food warehousing facilities and cold storage, a food hub for aggregation of locally-produced foods, food processing businesses, and distribution networks. c. Food Retailing and Marketing: The City and County should encourage grocers and healthy food retailers to locate in areas of the city and county which lack access to healthy local food. The Plan recommends that plans and codes are reviewed to ensure that they support and enable farmers markets, farm stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. d. Food Consumption: The City and County should adopt a local percentage policy for city and county food purchases, and encourage other community facilities (i.e. school districts, hospitals, etc.) to do the same. A "Buy Local" campaign should be developed to support these efforts throughout the community. e. Food Disposal: The City and County should encourage gleaning programs that reduce food waste in farmers' fields, and assess the feasibility of food waste composting programs.
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And finally, we noted that Chapters 7, 16, and the final glossary have some differing definitions of "sustainability" and "high quality agricultural land." The FPC recommends that these be standardized throughout the document. We noted that the Douglas County Food Policy Council is referred to as the "Local Food Policy Council" in the document. Please correct all references to say Douglas County Food Policy Council. We are a joint city-county advisory board, created by the County in 2010 and "adopted" by the City in 2013.

The Food Policy Council is grateful for the opportunity to provide comments and feedback regarding our community's future vision. Please contact our chair, Jill Elmers, (jelmers@moononthemeadow.com) or staff liaison, Eileen Horn, (ehorn@douglas-county.com) with any questions.