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By ERIC APALATEGUI

Of the Argus

Vision plan enters final stage

Up to now, Hillsboro's "visioning" process has been a little bit like planning a major trip.

The first three phases of the ongoing project whittled down the destination options to arrive at the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Statement.

The final phase then, said consultant Steven Ames, is to draw up the road map to actually get the greater Hillsboro community where its citizens want to be.

"This is the time when the rubber hits the road," said Mayor Gordon Faber.

Faber believes the visioning process could be more important than any other development he's seen in seven years as mayor, including the coming of Westside MAX light rail, he told more than 80 people gathered Thursday evening for a workshop on the Hillsboro 2020 action planning phase.

The previous phase, shepherded by citizen members of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Task Force plus city staff and hired consultants, culminated in the formulation and June adoption of the Vision Statement. The vision incorporates ideas from 1,500 residents of Hillsboro and the surrounding community.

"No stone was left unturned to get people involved in its creation," Ames said.

The general statement describes "Hillsboro: Hometown for the Future" in these terms: "In the year 2020, Hillsboro is our home town. Within a rapidly changing metropolitan region and global economy, we live in a dynamic community that sustains our quality of life. Here, neighbors, generations and cultures connect. We live and work in balance with nature. Hillsboro is a safe and affordable community, a place our children and their children will be proud to call home."

Beyond that, the Vision Statement divides into six focus areas: Strengthening and Sustaining Community, Creating Economic Opportunity, Expanding Educational and Cultural Horizons, Enhancing neighborhoods and Districts, Preserving the Environment and Promoting Health and Safety.

In this fourth and final phase of visioning, members of the Vision Task Force join other interested citizens to form six "action teams," one for each focus area.

At action team meetings scheduled in the coming months, participants will develop strategies to implement at least a half dozen specific ideas associated with each focus area. The strategies will identify potential partners and timelines to achieve each goal, possible funding sources and barriers.

After the action teams finish their work, the Task Force will reconvene early next year to assemble an overall Vision Action Plan. The Hillsboro City Council is expected to consider adoption of that plan in April.

Vision action teams set meets

David Edwards and Shirley Huffman will continue their roles as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Task Force.

Following is a list of the six action teams, the team leaders and team meetings scheduled to date:

- Creating Economic Opportunity, Bill MacKenzie: 7-9 a.m. Oct. 19, Intel Jones Farm Conference Center, 2111 NE 25th Ave.; and 2-6 p.m. Nov. 22, Tillicum Retreat Center, 15321 N. Valley Road, Sherwood.
- Enhancing Neighborhoods and Districts, Kay Demlow: 6-8 p.m. Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18 and Dec. 2, all at 641 E. Main St. (meeting room at residential office).
- Promoting Health and Safety, Tom Hughes: 6-8 p.m. Oct. 11 and Oct. 20, both at Tuality Community Hospital, 335 SE Eighth Ave. (Conference Room 6).
- Preserving the Environment, John Coulter: 7-9 p.m. Oct. 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 4, Nov. 16 and Dec. 9, all at the USA Lab, 2580 SW Hillsboro Highway.
- Strengthening and Sustaining Community, Shirley Huffman and Rick Van Beveren: 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 and Jan. 6, all at Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, 334 SE Fifth Ave.
- Expanding Educational and Cultural Horizons, Sarah Lynn: 6-8 p.m. Oct. 20, Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Road, Portland (room to be announced).

Some groups will announce future meetings, all of which are open to the public. For schedules or other information about the visioning project, call Project Manager Erik Jensen at 503-681-6418 or follow the visioning link on the city's web site: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us .