

# **Borough of Carlisle**

## **Workshop Meeting Minutes**

### **May 31, 2023**

Present at the meeting: Councilors Crampsie, Hicks, Mellen, Perry, Stuby, Deputy Mayor Landis and Mayor Shultz. Also present were: Borough Manager Armstrong, Assistant Borough Manager Snyder, Public Works/Engineer Malarich, Sustainable Community and Economic Planning Director Woolston, Finance Director Juday, Parks & Recreation Director Crouse, Human Resource/Risk Manager Berrier, Fire Chief O'Donnell, Public Information Coordinator Taylor and Secretary Stone.

#### **I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Shultz called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained that the purpose of this Workshop meeting is to discuss the strategic planning that has been ongoing for the past several months.

#### **II. Citizens to be Heard**

No Citizens were heard.

#### **III. Strategic Planning Discussion and Update**

Julia Novak, Executive Vice President of Raftelis, and her colleague, Catherine Carter, presented an overview of the community feedback received from a draft strategic planning framework. This framework was developed during a Council Strategic Planning session in March.

Catherine Carter provided a summary of the various community outreach meeting that were held over the past two months.

- Three in-person community input sessions were held in March with about 46 participants
- Engage Carlisle surveys were provided to the community both electronically and by mail, with 250 responses being received
- Local high school students did strategic planning exercises and provided feedback.

The discussion ensued with the focus on finalizing the words and phrases to be uses in laying out the vision for the strategic plan. The two areas were:

- Vision: Our desire future state
  - What is it that we hope to achieve over the next 5-10 years and beyond
  - What are the kind of key foundational elements that help us to know that we are going in the right direction
- Strategic Outcome: The “big buckets of things” that must go well in order for the Borough to achieve its vision.

The following is a proposed vision that was developed at the March meeting and distributed in surveys.

Carlisle, Pennsylvania is a thriving and vibrant community:

- Where small town charm meets daring ideas
- Where everyone feels safe, connected and welcomed
- Where compassionate public servants care
- Where people are proud to call home

Feedback from the surveys were 80% positive and also provided input on improvements to the statement.

The following proposed Strategic Outcomes suggested by the community were:

- ✓ Caring and Professional
- ✓ Vibrant and Thriving
- ✓ Dynamic and Responsible
- ✓ Healthy and Sustainable
- ✓ Welcoming and Livable
- ✓ Agile Transportation

The complete overview of the recommended concepts are attached to these minutes.

Discussion was held among Council with each member providing potential revisions to the purposed vision statement. Borough Council, Staff and audience members then broke into three work groups. Each group was assigned two Strategic Outcome statements and asked to provide revisions to each statements.

The groups then shared their revised Strategic Outcome and Vision Statements

- **Caring and Professional**
  - Ensuring responsive, quality services by our knowledgeable and committed staff
- **Vibrant and Thriving**
  - Building an inclusive and engaged community by fostering creative opportunities, community connections and a diverse economic base attractive to residents, businesses, and visitors
- **Dynamic and Responsible**
  - Responsibly managing the financial resources necessary to advance innovative initiatives, provide essential services, and build a stronger community
- **Healthy and Sustainable**
  - Growing a healthy community supported by thoughtful neighborhood spaces, that is socially and environmentally sustainable, improves quality of life, protects ecosystems, and conserves natural resources.
- **Welcoming and Livable**
  - Building and maintaining inviting and safe neighborhoods through affordable housing and engaging recreational opportunities where residents and businesses flourish
- **Accessible and Connected**
  - Investing in safe pedestrian-, bike-, and transit-friendly options that connect people to the places they need to go, with convenient, accessible infrastructure that reduces car dependency.

**Updated Vision Statement:** Carlisle, PA: where our history inspires innovative ideas to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming, community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and make a difference

## **To set the long term intention**

Raftelis will work with Borough Staff on implementation over the upcoming months and then will be bring back recommendations to Council for adoption at a future meeting.

## **IV. New Business**

No new business was heard.

## **V. Public Comment**

Angela Smith, a resident of Carlisle for 33 years, spoke about her participation in the previous community meetings where discussions were held on the developing the Strategic plan. She expressed her concern that the process was too fast and that there should have been a greater outreach to the community. Ms. Smith suggested that church and civic leaders should have been included in the outreach. She asked to reconsider the vision statement and reach out the community again to request more input, which would make residents feel like stakeholders. She thanked Council for caring enough to hear what she has to say tonight.

Mayor Shultz thanked Ms. Smith for her comments and that it was her comment during one of the first community meetings that generated action to reach out several of the community groups, business owners, and non-profit organizations, including Carlisle Bridge Builders, an organization that includes many churches and community stakeholders. He noted that copies of the survey were distributed to neighborhood associations, Hope Station, and Bosler Library, as well as mass emails through Citizen Lab.

Julia Novak explained the public input received will be used to inform the next phase of implementation work that will occur with staff on the established framework. The leadership team will work with the ideas provided by the public and then bring them back to Council for final adoption. She noted that Council could change language in the proposed information but no further public outreach will take place.

Angela Smith asked that the process for public input process be extended and for Council to spend more time to consider the language.

Mayor Shultz explained that Council and Staff have spent hours of time preparing for this point in the process. He noted that 1.5 percent public input was better than the average public response to an outreach and very meaningful comments were received. Mayor Shultz remarked that revisions can be made to the statements before final approval.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

---

Sean M. Shultz, Mayor

---

Joyce E. Stone, Borough Secretary