

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

Tuesday June 17, 2025

1. ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

If you could instantly master any skill, what would it be?

The first mayor of Auburn was Edward Little. Where is he buried?

ROLL CALL: Committee Members, City Staff, and Consultants

Denis Bergeron, Riley Bergeron, Heidi Bertels, Kelly Butler, John Cleveland, Becky Conrad, Jane Costlow, Matt Duvall, Jeff Harmon, Paul Jacques, Rex Rhodes, and Rick Whiting.

Absent: Tim Cowan, Virginia Keel, Adam Lee, Bruce Rioux, and Dana Staples.

Staff Members Present: Lauren Caffé, David Hediger, and Natalie Thomsen.

Consultant Members Present: Kerri Ouellette, Kevin Price, and Ali Tobey of BerryDunn.

2. MINUTES: Review and Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2025

Motion to Approve: Matt Duvall **Second:** Becky Conrad **Vote:** 12-0 **Motion Carries**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY: Data Summary; Discussion by BerryDunn

Ali Tobey reviewed the student survey results stating that they received responses from 285 middle school students and 143 high school students. She also reviewed the vision survey stating they received 484 responses.

The committee suggested finding out what students want to do in the future and what the goals are of the community. They also discussed the need for broader community engagement.

5. JULY OUTREACH: Focus Group Meeting and Visioning Sessions

Focus group meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, July 9th, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the E.L. High School cafeteria. These meetings are designed to gather targeted feedback from various community organizations and members, with specific questions tailored to each category to identify issues and future goals.

Other engagement events scheduled:

Natural Environment Visioning Saturday, July 19th 10 am–12 pm Long Grove Park

People & City Services Visioning Wednesday, July 23 6-8 pm Edward Little HS Cafeteria

Built Environment Visioning Wednesday, July 30th 6-8 p.m. Senior Community Center
Banquet Room

The importance of engaging diverse communities was strongly emphasized. Suggestions included providing education, childcare, interpretation, food, and transportation to encourage participation, especially from immigrant communities. The need for trusted community members to welcome participants was discussed and it was suggested that participants be welcomed at the door upon arrival to make them feel important and comfortable.

Visioning sessions will be conducted in an open house style to gather ideas and challenges from the community.

6. OTHER OUTREACH: Meetings-in-a-Box, Tabling Events, Social Pinpoint Poll
Questions; Committee Ideas

Lauren Caffé said she has been meeting with city staff and community leaders to discuss ways to reach out to new immigrant populations, the unhoused, and youth services. Plans include a listening session for the unhoused on August 6th and an ideas wall at the drop-in center for the entire month of July.

Engagement with youth services is planned through meetings with leaders of organizations serving youth in Auburn. This might involve a 'meeting in a box' approach, where questions are provided to organizations to ask the youth they serve, potentially alongside shorter surveys.

There was discussion regarding various methods to collect feedback, such as shorter surveys, ideas walls, listening sessions, and tabling at farmers markets. The possibility of offering multiple-choice or other question formats was also considered. Suggestions for broader reach included placing surveys in high-traffic community venues like laundromats, Roy's Foodland, or Rolly's Diner.

7. SUBCOMMITTEES: Progress of Meetings to Date

Paul Jacques gave a report on the Built Environment sub-committee. They met June 9 and discussed economy, housing, and transportation.

Denis Bergeron noted the comprehensive planning process has statutory limitations to our own community but acknowledged the relationship between Auburn and Lewiston and the importance of addressing inter-community dynamics for it to be successful.

Riley Bergeron gave a report on the People and City Services sub-committee.

John Cleveland gave a report on the Natural Environments sub-committee. They met June 16 and discussed agriculture and forestry and water and natural resources.

8. NEXT STEPS: Summer/Early Fall Timeline from BerryDunn, Vision Statements

- Focus & Visioning group meetings
- The August meeting will be a workshop style meeting to discuss the results of work and develop a draft vision statement.

9. AUBURN SOCIAL PINPOINT DATA

Ali Tobey reviewed social pinpoint data indicating 603 individual unique people have visited the site 900 times, 51 people contributed to email sign-ups and the idea wall, 39 people signed up for email, 1000 total engagements and input, 38 posts to the idea wall, and 487 survey responses.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 22, 2025

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 7:36 to adjourn: Dennis Bergeron **Second:** Rick Whiting **Vote:**
12-0 **Motion Carries**