

Blue Ribbon Commission
October 25, 2006
Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Notes

Summary notes of the meeting:

- Master Plans – what are the assumptions regarding general fund, dedicated funds and new taxes? Trends and more analysis will be provided in future meetings.
- How can we structure the conversation around level of services and their associated expenditures? Is it possible to do a base plus X%? It does not seem possible to talk stability by only looking at revenues without knowing the trend of expenditures and how each performs. What will the impact of increases in pensions, medical and other costs that will exceed the expected rate of inflation? The upcoming presentations will include this information.
- Look at dedicated funds. Will dedicated funds work in the future if we are trying to attain stability? Should the city continue down this path? Needs shift over time. Could we receive a list of all the dedicated funds and what they are used for? Staff will prepare the list of dedicated funds for review at a future meeting.
- Fiscally constrained doesn't necessarily mean that we are meeting needs. Everyone agreed with this statement.
- Need assumptions that are clear around three levels of funding: constrained, action and vision. While service levels and standards may not be available for all services it is important that the commission members know the assumptions made. Staff will follow up on this request and place it on a future agenda.
- Are we looking at taxes or does it include fees and other revenues? What is the policy on cost recovery? Can changes be proposed? A report completed a few years ago states growth fees do not cover all costs can this topic be visited? City Manager Bruno stated that there was not a restriction of only looking at taxes. It was not clear from the discussion if fees will include utilities.
- Additional clarity is needed regarding Council's role and how the Commission is to present information to them. It was suggested it is easier for the BRC to do their work if the Council does not control the work of the Commission. It was recommended that it would be helpful to have a couple of the Commission members and Council members meet to discuss progress and determine if a meeting is needed with the full Council to discuss the path being taken by the BRC.
- The work of the commission needs to be a roadmap for the future not just today. It should be work that this Council and future Councils can use to implement recommendations and how to attain stability.
- Staff's professional insight and help will be needed to make a candid assessment of the levels of service in the master plans since the commission does not know if the vision plans are realistic. Staff will provide the needed information.
- Brad Power, Redevelopment Director for the city covered the history and current status of redevelopment in the city of Boulder.
- The next meeting is at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Downtown Library in the Boulder Creek Room.