



City of Clearwater

Clearwater Planning & Development, Post Office Box 4748, Clearwater, Florida 33758-4748
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Development Board Members
FROM: Jayme Lopko, AICP, Long Range Planning Manager
CC: Gina L. Clayton, Planning & Development Director; Matthew Mytych, Assistant City Attorney; Attorney Jay Daigneault; Rosemarie Call, City Clerk; Nicole Sprague, Deputy City Clerk
DATE: May 2, 2023
SUBJECT: Clearwater 2045 – Comprehensive Plan Update

A comprehensive plan is a long-range policy document that guides future decisions on the future growth and sustainability of the city. The City of Clearwater has had adopted comprehensive plans to guide growth and preservation of natural resources long before the State's growth management statutes, but beginning in 1986, the State of Florida enacted laws requiring municipal governments to have a comprehensive plan for the purpose of growth management. Over time, laws and the vision and direction of the city has changed signifying a need for amendments and updates to be made to the comprehensive plan.

The Planning and Development Department is currently rewriting the city's *Comprehensive Plan* (2008) to update the vision, goals, objectives, and policies covering a wide range of topics including land use, transportation, housing, utilities, recreation and open space as well as many others. As part of this rewrite process, staff is proposing to change the overall format of the document to make it easier to use for City Council, staff, and the community.

The process of rewriting the Comprehensive Plan began in late 2020 with a detailed review of the current plan leading into public engagement activities. With assistance from consultant HDR, the Planning and Development Department worked with the community to identify current community assets and concerns, share thoughts on opportunities for improvement, and discuss priorities for the future. Public engagement involved over 300 participants in the following activities:

- Online Questionnaire – 5 Key Questions
- Zoom Sessions
- In-Person Community Conversations
- In-Person Youth Conversations



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Staff utilized the feedback from public engagement to develop a vision and common themes for Clearwater 2045, the city's new comprehensive plan. Building on the vision and common themes, HDR and staff developed a Preliminary Framework Plan which was presented to the Community Development Board (CDB) on October 18, 2022. The Preliminary Framework Plan was used as a guide to draft the chapters and the goals, objectives, and policies contained within them.

Recently, staff has hosted four public meetings to provide an update on the rewrite process and draft chapters, which also allowed for input from the community. The first two meetings were held on April 10th and 13th and covered the Quality Places and Mobility Chapters. The last two meetings were held on May 1st and 3rd and covered the Parks & Public Spaces, Conservation & Coastal Management, and Support Services Chapters. The draft chapters were made available online at the Clearwater2045.com website prior to these meetings. Feedback was solicited online as well as through email blasts and social media postings. Comments were received via email and discussion and questions were addressed during the public meetings.

Staff will present the draft Quality Places and Mobility Chapters of Clearwater 2045 to the Community Development Board for their input on at a special meeting on May 10, 2023. Then at their regular meeting on May 16, 2023, the Parks & Public Spaces, Conservation & Coastal Management, and Support Services Chapters of Clearwater 2045 will be presented to the Board for feedback.

The Planning and Development Department is seeking input from the CDB prior to bringing the full draft of Clearwater 2045 before them for public hearing and recommendation to City Council, which is anticipated to occur in August of 2023.

Attachments:

Quality Places, Mobility, Parks & Public Spaces, Conservation & Coastal Management, and Support Services Chapters