

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Economic Development/Sustainability Partnership Group Meeting Summary
April 24, 2009, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- Mary Barber, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Brian Binn, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Eric Cefus, Catamount Institute
- Lisa Cochrun, City of Fountain
- Brian Grim, City of Colorado Springs
- Kate Hatten, PPACG
- Terrence Jackson, Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- Doug Jeavons, BBC Consultants
- Angela Joslyn, Office of Senator Michael Bennet
- Christopher Juniper, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Mike Kazmierski, Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation
- Megan Lane, GBSM Consultants
- Terrence McWilliams, El Pomar Foundation
- Andy Mountain, GBSM Consultants
- Rich Muzzy, PPACG
- Annie Oatman-Gardner, Office of Senator Michael Bennet
- Sarah White, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Jason Wilkinson, PPACG

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Phase 2 Update/Status:

a. Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC) Meeting Recap:

- i. Currently Fort Carson is seeing an increase of 75 Soldiers/day related to growth. One hundred people per day are being processed for normal replacement not Fort Hood related.
- ii. There are discussions of a possible mandatory renters' fee within city limits to off-set police/code enforcement costs associated with rental properties. Currently 64% of police calls are made at apartments. Fees will help decrease money spent on police calls, but are not in response to FC growth. This is in response to the funding gap due to ballot issue 1A not passing. Carl Schueler will check into the status.
- iii. Public safety group addressed the implementation of the Veteran's Court.

b. Mountain Post Welcome at Fort Hood:

- i. BBC and PPACG will provide electronic surveys at Fort Hood the week of May 4th to get data regarding housing, schooling, etc. BBC is limited on how many questions they can ask on surveys, but will get more detailed information through focus groups.

3. Fort Carson Sustainability and Visioning Goals and Phases:

a. Sustainability Partnership Group Meeting Recap:

- i. The partnership group generally agreed at the last meeting that the sustainability action plan is too broad and needs to focus on 1-2 sectors as opposed to addressing all tasks.

- ii. Economic development ties into all areas and, therefore, the economic development partnership group should meet with the sustainability partnership groups in order to identify synergies between two efforts.

b. Goals and Phases:

- i. The end state goal for the combined groups is to develop a long term action plan with identified triggers and metrics. The intent is to develop sustainability action plan with time frame, responsible parties, objectives, etc. The action plan needs to link with Fort Carson's sustainability goals.
- ii. GBSM will research best practices in other communities that are successful in their sustainability efforts and identify possible opportunities for this region.
- iii. GBSM will conduct key stakeholder interviews to pre-inform visioning sessions. Ideally, GBSM needs to engage groups/individuals who're not involved with economic development, Dream City 2020, Quality of Life Indicators, etc., but ensure coordination with these efforts.
- iv. Instead of having a monthly partnership group meeting, GBSM wants to establish a 25-35 people task force that will meet 3 times in next 9 months. The general desired outcome for this group is to link Fort Carson growth, sustainability, and (long-term) economic development in region.
- v. The initial interviews and visioning sessions will follow with additional in-depth interviews, development of vision statements, a draft action plan and final action plan by the end of the year.
- vi. The draft action plan will be a stand alone document that will hopefully be ready by September/October timeframe. We should aim for having a draft/final ready for the public before the sustainability conference on November 4th and 5th.

4. Open Discussion:

a. Green Procurement Policy and Fort Carson Sustainability Goal:

- i. Growth should be a catalyst for making a green economy in the region. However, we'll need consensus as to how to characterize sustainability in better terms (i.e. sustainability meaning not just "green", but also economic sustainability).
- ii. Fort Carson's green procurement sustainability goal and the DoD's green procurement policy for installations to purchase products and materials (i.e. recycled content paper, recycled and/or recyclable material, environmentally friendly cleaning products, etc.) may spur local businesses to supply such products in hopes of securing government contracts with military bases. This effort should evaluate all military base procurement procedures.
- iii. Educating local businesses about how to secure government contracts and the needs of Fort Carson and other military bases (e.g. green products) will make these businesses more competitive for government contracts.

b. Other:

- i. Besides procurement/services, Fort Carson supplies workforce and transfer of skills. How do we help train military spouses and secure jobs above minimum wage?
- ii. It is important that the sustainable economic development effort be communicated with CDMC to avoid any potential conflicts.

5. Next Steps:

- a. GBSM will look at the different economic development plans in the region (i.e., economic development plans for Manitou, Fountain, Pueblo, Fremont and Operation 6035, etc.).
- b. Efforts should include military sustainability personnel from other installations. Christopher Juniper will provide GBSM contacts of sustainability personnel at military bases.
- c. With input from PPACG and attendees, GBSM will generate list of people to be involved and key stakeholders to interview.
- d. PPACG and GBSM will coordinate interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.