

Springfield Metropolitan Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee
July 1, 2010
4 to 6:30 p.m.
Busch Municipal building, L45
Co-Chairs: Mark McNay and Robin Melton
Minutes

Mark McNay opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. Self introductions were made by all present.

Greg Burris gave an overview of the planning process and discussed the various chapter topics of the strategic plan. (Flow chart attached.) He indicated the first draft templates from each strategic planning committee were due on July 17.

Gail Melgren recommended viewing video clips on www.ted.com or TED TV as it had mini presentations on social capital and strategic planning.

Guest speakers were Dr. John Harms and Dr. Michael Stout from MSU regarding social capital. They initiated a presentation and overview of how social capital can enhance the planning process conversation. They stated the basic idea behind social capital was network resources; an instrument to gain network structure. They stated from their research that Springfield citizens have a high level of social capital, but have weak connections with political issues and a very low trust in government. They stated Springfield citizens generally trust others who are similar to themselves, but are lacking in trust of those who are different, i.e., socioeconomic standards, culture, religion, etc. They stated we need to bridge our social capital.

They gave example of studies completed in two other cities (Allentown, PA, and Youngstown, OH) to show the social capital process, and how they did or did not survive serious economic challenges in their area. One was successful, and one was not. They stated for successful strategic planning, groups need to bridge gaps and reach out and attempt to engage citizens from all areas of their community.

There were three handouts distributed for this discussion. (Attached)

There was discussion from committee members regarding how to get more citizens engaged and interested in the strategic planning process. It was determined to move meetings to various neighborhoods of the city to try to generate more citizen interest in the planning process.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. Location to be announced when meeting is posted.

Attendance:

Jodie Adams

Andrew Baird

Carmen Bradshaw

Greg Burris

Jeff Coiner

Matt Edwards

Brian Fogle

Dr. John Harms

James Jeffries

Leah Jenkins

Gerry Lee

Mark McNay

Gail Melgren

Robin Melton

Matt Morrow

Ryan Nicholls

Matt O'Reilly

Tom Rankin

Ralph Rognstad

Tim Roth

Dr. Michael Stout

Kelly Turner

Kathy Hardt

Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee

Meeting Agenda

July 1, 2010

- Welcome – Mark McNay and Robin Melton, Co-Chairs
- Self-Introductions of Committee Members
- Overview of Planning Process – Greg Burris
 - Selection of committee members
 - Need for a plan name
- Role of Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee – Greg Burris
 - Two “Umbrella Themes” for Committee to Consider
 - Building Social Capital
 - Community Leadership Development
- Ideas to Consider
 - Theme per plan year?
- Social Capital Presentation – Dr. John Harms, Dr. Tim Knapp, Dr. Mike Stout, Missouri State University, Department of Sociology
- Open Discussion
- Next Meeting: August 2, 3:30, Busch Building, Room L-45

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM SPRINGFIELD/GREENE COUNTY SOCIAL CAPITAL SURVEY

Springfield/Greene County Social Capital Survey

Social capital refers to networks of social relationships characterized by norms of trust and reciprocity. The central premise of social capital theory is that social networks have value. Conceptually, social capital represents the wide variety of specific benefits that flow from the trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation that characterize social networks. A growing body of scholarly literature over the last twenty years shows that social capital facilitates many important individual and social goods. People who live in communities with high levels of social capital are likely to be happier, healthier, and to have a longer life expectancy than people from communities with lower social capital. In May and June, 2008, researchers with the Center for Social Sciences and Public Policy Research at Missouri State University conducted a telephone survey with 799 randomly selected Greene County residents. In the survey, questions were asked regarding how connected the residents of Greene County are to their family, friends, neighbors and civic institutions. The questions were asked with the intention of producing measures of social capital in Greene County.

Key Findings

The amount and types of social capital a community has can be measured by examining its levels of generalized, localized, and government trust, the characteristics of its social networks, and its levels of membership and participation in voluntary organizations.

Generalized Trust

Overall, Greene County residents reported having high levels of trust relative to the national average. However, there were differences in levels of trust across levels of education, income, and age.

Localized Trust

Residents of Greene County have relatively high levels of localized trust when compared to national data.

Trust in Government

On average, the residents of Greene County reported that they were much less trusting of local and national government than were the respondents from the nation at large. Levels of trust in the local government differed across income categories, where those with the highest incomes had the most trust in the local government.

Social Networks

The typical resident of Greene County reported having more people that they trusted and could discuss important matters with, trust for advice, or trust with money than the comparable number for the typical citizen of the United States. Greene County residents with household incomes less than \$20,000 had smaller social networks than residents whose household incomes were greater than \$20,000.

(over)

Membership in Voluntary Organizations

Greene County residents were more likely to belong to veterans, neighborhood, senior citizens, and charity groups than the overall American population. However, they were less likely to belong to athletic, youth, PTA, labor, fraternal, ethnic, art, hobby, and self-help groups than Americans overall. There were differences in many types of group memberships across levels of education, income, and age. The nature of these differences varied depending on the specific groups one looks at.

Voluntary Association Activity

Greene County residents attended less public meetings, on average, than Americans overall, but they attended more club meetings, on average, than Americans overall. Residents of Greene County reported that they belonged to a group that took action for political or social reform in proportions comparable to the national average. They were more likely to have served on the committee of a voluntary association than the national average. The likelihood of participating in such groups increased as education levels and income increased.

Religion-Based Social Capital

One type of voluntary association that is particularly important for understanding the nature of social capital in Greene County involves the extent to which people are active in religion-based social activity. Levels of church membership in Greene County were comparable to national levels of church membership. Greene County residents were more likely to report that they belonged to an organization affiliated with religion besides their place of worship than the national average. They were also more likely to trust their fellow congregants, and to agree that religion is an important part of their life than the national average. The most highly educated Greene County respondents were the least likely to agree that religion is important in their life, but they were the most likely to belong to a church. Older people were more likely to agree that religion is an important part of their lives than younger people, they were the most likely to belong to a church, and they were most likely to belong to an organization affiliated with religion.

Alienation, Empowerment, and Civic Activities

A higher proportion of Springfield area residents reported that they feel alienated because people running the community do not care about them, compared to the national population who hold that view. Local respondents also expressed a notably lower sense of community efficacy than their counterparts nationwide. A lower proportion of Greene County residents reported that they cooperated with neighbors to fix something in their neighborhood, or to have worked on a community project, than the national average. Those with lower levels of education and income were less likely to feel that they were an important part of the community or to have worked on a community project than those with higher levels of education and income. Younger residents of Greene County were more likely to have worked on a community project than older residents.

Date	Type of Election	Voter Turnout
JUNE 2, 2009	SPECIAL	19.3%
APRIL 7, 2009	MUNICIPAL	8.78%
FEBRUARY 3, 2009	SPECIAL	17.15%
NOVEMBER 4, 2008	GENERAL	71.0%
AUGUST 5, 2008	PRIMARY	19.92%
APRIL 8, 2008	MUNICIPAL	4.01%
FEBRUARY 5, 2008	PRES PRIMARY	39.11%
NOVEMBER 6, 2007	SPECIAL	9.04%
AUGUST 7, 2007	SPECIAL	6.41%
JUNE 5, 2007	SPECIAL	9.04%
APRIL 3, 2007	MUNICIPAL	10.38%
FEBRUARY 6, 2007	SPECIAL	6.56%
NOVEMBER 7, 2006	GENERAL	53.05%
AUGUST 8, 2006	PRIMARY	16.91%
APRIL 4, 2006	MUNICIPAL	15.44%
NOVEMBER 8, 2005	SPECIAL	12.89%
APRIL 5, 2005	MUNICIPAL	11.69%

330.7%

Average Voter Turnout:

19.45%

Figure 1. Hierarchical/Bureaucratic

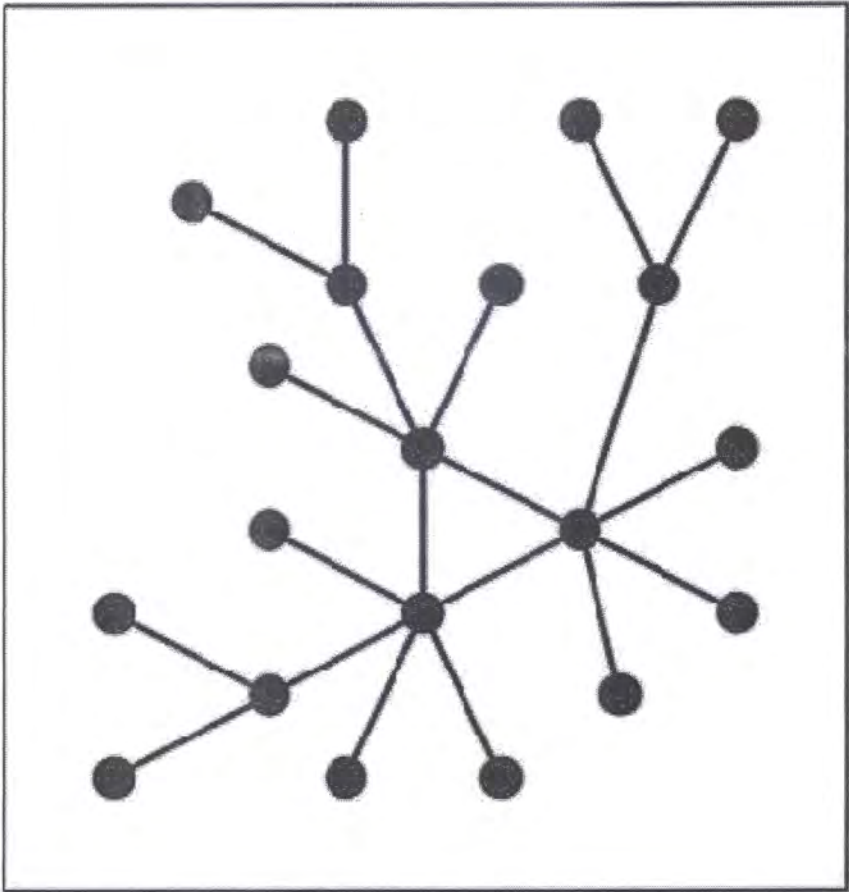
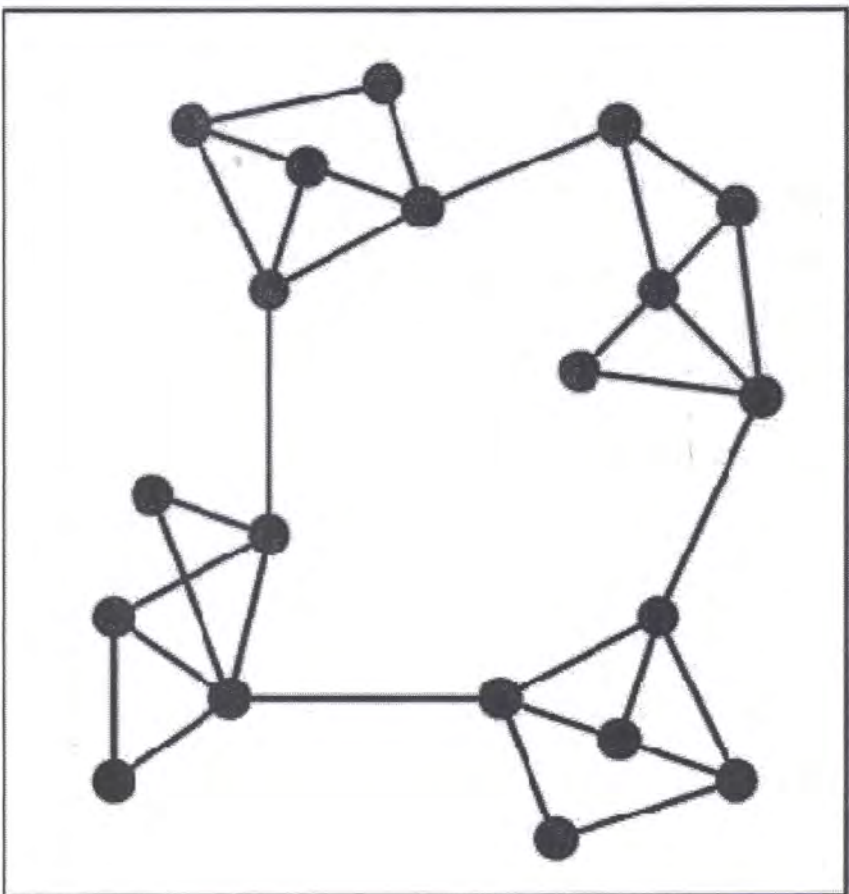


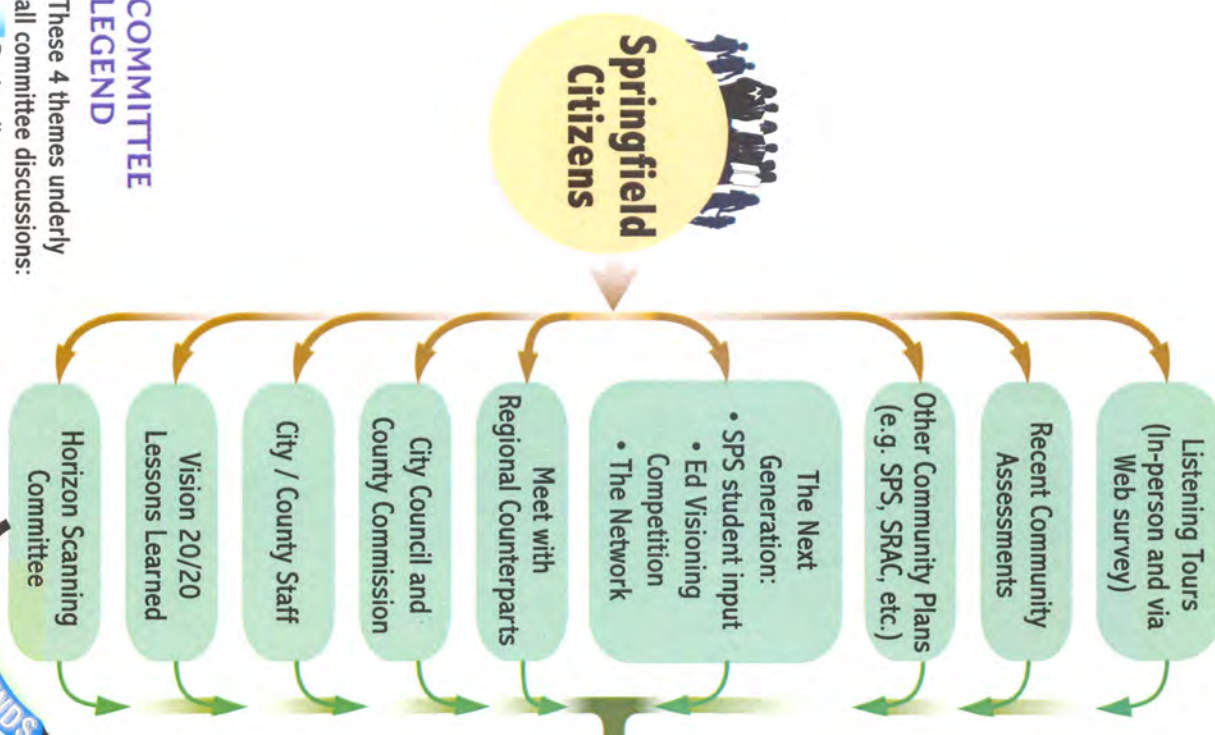
Figure 2. Informal/Polycentric



2010 Community S Planning Proc

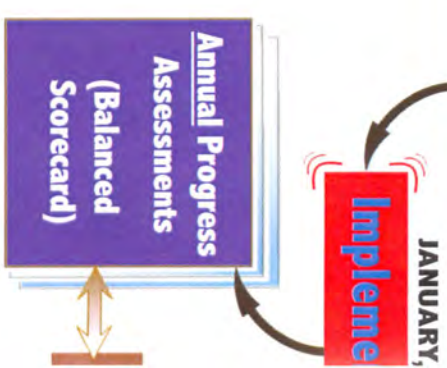
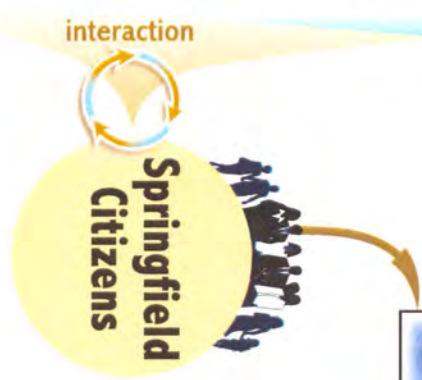
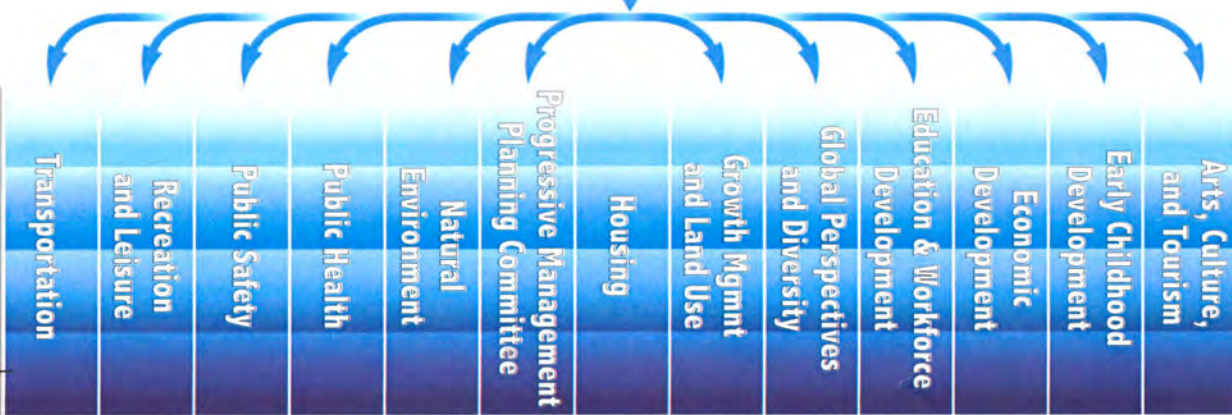
INPUT

JANUARY - MARCH



COMMITTEES

MARCH - JULY/AUGUST



- Plan Chapter Performance Measures
- Budget
- Vision (20 yrs)

COMMITTEE LEGEND

These 4 themes underly all committee discussions:

- Regionalism
- Sustainability
- Minimizing Poverty
- Civic Engagement