

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING  
TO CONDUCT A CITIZEN SUMMIT RELATING TO  
THE GREATER PEORIA VISION 2020 LEADERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN  
OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS**

A “Citizen Summit: A Conversation with Citizens on the Challenges Today and the Future for Our City” relating to the Greater Peoria Vision 2020 Leadership Strategic Plan was held Monday, November 25, 2002, at the Gateway Building, 200 N.E. Water Street, Peoria, Illinois, at 6:14 p.m., proper notice having been given. Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Teplitz, Thetford, Mayor Ransburg – 8; Absent: Sandberg, Spears, Turner – 3.

Also in attendance were Facilitator Lyle Sumek, Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc., Heathrow, Florida; approximately 90 invited panelists; City Manager Michael McKnight; Assistant Director of Planning & Growth Management Pat Landes; Township Assessor Bonnie Gavin; Firefighters Local 50 President Tony Ardis; Karen Taylor of L.R. Nelson; City Clerk Mary Haynes; interested citizens and members of the media.

Mayor Ransburg explained the Citizen Summit was a result of the Vision 2020 Strategic Planning process and was a chance to try to do some planning on a community-wide basis, not just for Peoria, but for the entire area. He stated that the Panel had been invited, but those in attendance were welcome to observe. All observers were later invited to take a place at the table, but not all did so.

Facilitator Lyle Sumek explained the format for the Citizen Summit. He stated there were 11 groups, each identified by a different color. He said they would be developing a Strategic Plan for the City and would go through three rounds of discussion. He explained that each City Council Member would choose a different table for each round, and he encouraged the Council to listen and not necessarily advance their own ideas.

Mr. Sumek explained the first round of discussion would be “Peoria Today.” He asked the groups to look at this community during the last one to two years: a) What would you identify as successes or achievements that you feel good about?, and b) What makes Peoria a special place to live?

The second round would be Goals, which would be specifically linked to action. He encouraged the groups to choose two goals of the Council and determine what it would take to achieve them and what actions would be necessary, and then asked the groups to create their own goal, with action steps.

The third round would consist of setting a community agenda for the Council. Mr. Sumek asked the groups to identify which issues they would place on that agenda for next year. The second part of round three would be: What would it take to make Peoria an exciting place to live?

Mr. Sumek then asked for a show of hands of those born before 1935, from 1935-1947, from 1947-1954, from 1954-1967, and after 1967. He identified the categories as follows: OFs, Tweeners, Rejectionists, Hedonistic Traditionalists (HTs), and Boomerangers:

- The **OFs** had great respect for those in authority, were fiscally responsible, were very loyal, more formal in language and dress, and had the attitude that “if it isn’t broke, don’t fix it.”
- The **Tweeners** were in the process of rebuilding after W.W.II. They were goal-directed, valued individual responsibility, had the attitude that “if it can’t be done, we’ll find a way”, and liked to work as a team.
- The **Rejectionists** were the result of TV and Viet Nam. They were willing to spend money on quality, wanted people to participate, and wanted change. They were less formal in language and dress, and they questioned “Why?” and asked “What if?”

- The **HTs** were brought up in constant crisis – the assassination of world leaders (e.g. President Kennedy), Viet Nam, urban riots. They are task-oriented and like to produce, and they party hard.
- The **Boomerangers** have been brought up in good economic times. They want to enjoy life, do not want to commute to work. They like to reinvent older neighborhoods.

Mr. Sumek encouraged the participants to focus on the future. He explained that when he first arrived in Peoria in February, he talked to over 40 people and learned that Peoria had not implemented many of the numerous studies which had been done over the years.

Mr. Sumek asked the participants to choose two of the Council Goals listed, and to first determine what the outcome should be, then set out action steps (i.e. what is needed to achieve this outcome). Finally, he asked the participants to write their own goal, with action steps.

### **Council Goals:**

1. Identify the core business of City government
2. Work for desirable neighborhoods
3. Work for educational excellence – support quality education
4. Grow Peoria's economy, including diversity
5. Increase Peoria's population and develop a vibrant "Heart of Peoria"

Mr. Sumek then asked the groups to develop a short-term agenda, limited to three or four ideas, looking at 2003. He said the items be specific, do-able things. He then asked the groups to determine what would sustain the younger people and to identify some things needed to make Peoria attractive to people 35 and younger. These things should be exciting and fun, and the participants should bear in mind that Boomerangers want an exciting place to live, and they will figure out what kind of job to apply for later. Finally, he wanted comments on customer service: What is important to you about the service you receive from City Hall? Timeliness? Someone who listens? What do you expect as a citizen?

Mr. Sumek explained the Traditional Model of **Value = Quality over Cost**. He said in recent times, people added to the value that they would pay more if they could save time, and an extension of that was they would pay more for services that would be a reduction to their personal risk.

Mr. Sumek then collected the color-coded entries from all the tables. The consensus of the group for Goals was that the City operate as a service business, that we have desirable neighborhoods, and that we achieve educational excellence.

Mr. Sumek concluded with the anagram **G R E A T** – **G**oal (unified), **R**ole (partnerships), **E**xecute (always be evaluating and adjusting), **A**ttitude, and **T**rue (earned when a commitment becomes an action).

Mayor Ransburg and individual Council Members thanked the participants.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Citizen Summit concluded at 9:00 p.m.