

December 1, 2003

Dane County Comprehensive Plan

Summary of discussion about arts and cultural resources (aside from architectural/archeological historic preservation) to date. (compiled from Work Group and Steering Committee minutes)

Note: Except where otherwise indicated, comments reflect discussion points raised by individual Work Group or Steering Committee members, and do not necessarily reflect group consensus or decision.

7/16/03 Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources (ANCR) Work Group meeting

From list of questions/topics to be addressed:

- Definition & documentation of cultural resources in the County (*small group consensus*)
- Location of cultural and architectural resources (*small group consensus*)
- What are cultural resources?

9/11/03 ANCR Appointed Member meeting

Public Comment:

Mr. Becker also spoke to the group about his interest in broadening the definition and scope of the cultural resources component of the comprehensive plan beyond the minimum requirements of Wisconsin State Statutes. Mr. Becker suggested that the cultural resources component of the plan should include not only historical and archaeological resources but also consideration of “bricks and mortar” facilities for arts, crafts, and entertainment and other means to support artisans and increase exposure of and involvement in the arts, including the possible development of an arts council to coordinate such activities. Discussion of Mr. Becker’s comments and suggestions ensued, with members posing several questions and observations, including the following:

- What exactly would comprise the scope of a cultural resources plan?
- A broader definition and scope of cultural resources could make it difficult for the ANCR group to stay within the timeline for completion of the comprehensive plan.
- If sufficient interest exists in such an approach, could a separate group develop a cultural resources plan and present it to the ANCR group for possible inclusion in the comprehensive plan?
- How does the Overture Center and Madison Arts District fit into the picture?
- What are some of the possible goals of a broadened cultural resources plan?
- What is the interest level in Dane County?

10/15/03 Steering Committee Meeting

Arts discussion:

- Mr. Salkin – arts vs. cultural resources; not defined that way in state planning effort
- L.A. – How does this fit?
- Salkin – most archeology is in agricultural fields; it is hard to put the arts in with land use.
- J.B. – arts (not) more important to economy than ag
- Motion by Bruskewitz/Wendt to move “Arts”, as opposed to “Cultural Resources” to the Housing and Economic Development Work Group, and that the first meeting regarding arts be a joint meeting of the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Work Group and the Housing and

Economic Development Work Group as a transition meeting and the meeting shall take place at the same time and at the same place as already scheduled. (December 10th at the Alliant Energy Center) Motion Carried 10-0

- Supv. Hulsey (no second) – request \$800 to bring in Mr. Greenberg to speak on arts.
- V.W.-we need a plan, piecemeal is not planning
- E.B.- talk about when he should come.
- Mr. Violante – Arts not formally required by WI comprehensive planning law, we should prioritize

10/15/03 ANCR Work Group meeting

Discussion / background:

Brian Standing announced that the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee had voted to transfer discussion of arts and related cultural issues to the Housing and Economic Development (HED) work group. Historic and archaeological resources would remain with ANCR. The December 10th meeting on cultural resources would continue as scheduled, but would now be a joint meeting of both the ANCR and HED work groups.

10/28/03 Housing and Economic Development (HED) Work Group meeting

Steering Committee Report:

St. Clair, filling in for Bruskewitz, reported on the Steering Committee's decision to transfer the "arts" from the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Work Group to the Housing and Economic Development Work Group. The question was raised as to why "arts" was moved. St. Clair responded that the transfer was based on a decision that agricultural, cultural, and natural resources have been defined to include historic and archaeological resources and not "arts" under the comprehensive planning legislation. It was decided that "arts" best fit under economic development. St. Clair mentioned that a joint meeting between the Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources (ANCR) and Housing and Economic Development (HED) Work Group members was being organized to facilitate the "arts transfer." The Joint Meeting is scheduled on December 10, 2003 at 7:00pm at the Alliant Energy Center in the Kegonsa Room (this Joint meeting was scheduled at this time since the Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources Work Group had already taken steps to organize an event on "arts" planning and had also began publicizing the event). The Joint Meeting was intended to provide an opportunity for information presentation, to facilitate a transfer of Work Group knowledge as well as members if desired, and to provide an opportunity for discussion among the members of the two Work Groups as well as the public. Bruskewitz, now present, stated the Steering Committee wanted to place the arts in economic development and the Work Group might want to decide what to do with "arts" planning. A discussion ensued amongst Work Group members. Questions and comments included:

- Varying views on the importance of "arts" in comprehensive planning and economic development planning.
- Concern that the "arts" planning, since it is not required under Comprehensive Planning legislation, not compromise the required portions of the housing and economic development elements.
- The Steering Committee decided to transfer the "arts" planning to HED. It is up to HED to determine how to address "arts" planning.

11-5-03 Steering Committee Meeting

Public Comment:

Jon Becker, Madison Wisconsin addressed the committee. As an arts and education consultant, Mr. Becker spoke of the importance of the arts. He expressed his concern that the Steering Committee moved the "Arts" portion of Cultural Resources over to the Economic Development work group. He stated that

“arts” is far more than just economic development, and that a full and all encompassing “Arts Plan” should be integrated into the Dane County Comprehensive Plan process.

Supv. Erickson asked Mr. Becker how much an arts plan would cost. Mr. Becker said that one could be done for \$100,000 and that Grand Rapids, Michigan did a plan for \$400,000. He said that costs could be minimized by having county staff do some of the work for a hired consultant, such as surveys.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Becker for simplification/clarification of what he wanted. Mr. Becker said that he had four issues:

1. No matter where it was addressed, the “arts” portion of the comprehensive plan be reported out through the Cultural Resources section.
2. The steering committee look for \$100,000 to complete an “Arts Plan” for the whole county, including all municipalities
3. All work group members be invited to the Dec. 10th meeting regarding arts, and that the steering committee bring in an expert that night to address future arts needs.
4. That the steering committee discuss with work group members before they move parts of the elements from one work group to another.

11/12/03 ANCR meeting

Review and discussion:

- The dynamics of culture (arts) should also be considered. There is a “living part” to culture that presents challenges for deciding when something becomes of historical significance. “Things new today may be of historical significance in 50 years.”
- “Cultural resources” intersects with many other issues. For example, some cultural resources (ie civic centers, galleries, public meeting areas) could well fit into the the Public Facilities element of a comprehensive plan. Cultural resources, such as historic and archaeological resources, however, would not fit into that element as a whole.