

Annexation Task Force Meeting
June 14, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Carnegie Town Hall – Council Chambers

Meeting Summary

- Councilor Kiley, as the meeting facilitator, began the meeting at 5:30 p.m., with some opening remarks regarding the responsibilities of the Task Force. Seating was utilized in the overflow room.. Following the introduction, the Task Force members stated their names and their affiliation to this group.

- The first item of business was a presentation about unannexed property and its impact on city development. Director Mike Cooper presented the information beginning with an overview of petitioned annexations, the implications of unannexed land on the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, and the potential impacts if annexations were to be restricted. He then proceeded to review rulings from annexation court cases, and the key reasons why annexation is important. **“6-14-17 Presentation,” which includes slides that were used as visual aids for this presentation, and maps, entitled “Unannexed Areas with Surrounding Development and Current CIP” and “Annexation History” can be found via the Annexation Task Force webpage under Meeting Information: June 14.**

- Councilor Kiley opened up the Task Force Timeline item on the agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2017 at 5:30 in the Carnegie Town Hall. The sole purpose of the meeting will be to develop annexation policy recommendations. An open house in August would be the next step if the members are comfortable with the recommendations they create. Following the Open House, possibly in September, another Task Force meeting would be scheduled to review the public comments and recommendations received at the Open House and to make any modifications to the original recommendations. These would then be presented to City Council for consideration in October. This is a tentative timeline so dates may be modified or more meetings added as-needed.

- Task Force discussion included a suggestion to invite an appraiser(s) to come in and give their opinion about the value of structures for pre- and post-annexation, a question as to whether the City buys out a sanitary sewer district as it does a rural water district when a property is annexed, a request to more clearly breakout the numerous issues that have been discussed throughout the meetings surrounding annexations, and to further clarify a process for determining “benefits”. The idea of forming an independent group to evaluate each unannexed property was also brought up which would look at the surrounding land use and the impact a property has on the city.

- Several public input comments were made which all came from property owners of the Split Rock Heights neighborhood. Comments were made as to why the City of Sioux Falls is growing, should it grow, or should the City restrict its growth (examples give were Portland, Oregon, [growth boundary] and Atlanta, Georgia,

[no new subdivisions within the city]). A property owner made several statements and observations on numerous topics including the environmental benefits of septic systems (as identified by the EPA), landscape, retaining walls, sprinkler systems, and roads that will be destroyed when infrastructure is installed and the cost of that to the property owner. She also mentioned the geothermal systems that exist on some properties along with decks that may reside on top of a septic system. One property owner invited all members of the Task Force to come out and visit Split Rock to get a better understanding of the current situation. Another property owner complained about the more restrictive laws that will be enforced once annexation occurs.

- The meeting concluded at 6:45 p.m.