November 18-21 Town Council and Town staff gathered to affirm the principles and goals of the Vision Plan, to review the progress of projects underway, and to reach consensus on new projects that will perpetuate the Town’s quality of life and prosperity. One difference of note from previous Vision Plan retreats is that a significant amount of time was spent on project updates. In the past, project updates have taken maybe three to four hours. The fact that a full day was spent on project updates reflects the success of the Vision Plan.

Purpose of the Retreat
• Understand the magnitude of previous, current, and on-the-boards projects
• Reach consensus on prioritized projects
• Envision impactful future projects
• Initiate a long-term view and timeline
• Begin to stage the Quality of Life hopper

The Town of Lexington is progressing and is committed to keeping the vision alive as a forceful driver for economic development and quality of life.

This retreat was a time to think a bit differently... more boldly about the future. Steve Johnson in his book, Where Good Ideas Come From, tells us that good ideas come from ideas and hunches colliding with other ideas and hunches. This retreat created the space where the ideas and hunches of council and staff collided. This collision of ideas and hunches lead to a vision that was bigger than the sum of all the ideas shared.
The retreat was a time for Council and staff to shift from short-term thinking [Capital Improvement Projects + Traffic] to long-term thinking [Staging the Quality of Life Hopper]. The Town has accomplished so much since 2012 and has matured to the enviable position of planning, funding, and implementing big, long-term projects. It is now time to take visioning and implementation up a notch or two. You have been successful. You are succeeding. You have not succeeded.

You never want to get to the point of, “OK. We’ve succeeded. We’ve completed the check list. Let’s sit back and enjoy.”

Mayor MacDougall shared at the opening of the retreat,

“It’s time to go in a different direction. It’s time for new.”

It’s time to shift to new and big and bold.

To kick-off the retreat, the group was challenged to share one BIG, BOLD IDEA each. These ideas were discussed and then collided with other ideas. In the end, the group reached consensus on two BIG, BOLD IDEAS that will transform Lexington and advance the vision of the Town for years to come.

1. Create a public presence on Lake Murray
2. Connect to Saluda Shoals Park with a pedestrian bridge over the Saluda River

The journey to the BIG, BOLD IDEAS is presented through this summary.

Vision is vital. Commitment to implementing the vision is what sets apart the Town of Lexington and will guide your new journey.

“Proceed and be bold.”

-Sambo Mockbee, FAIA
TOWN COUNCIL
Mayor Steve MacDougall
Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston
Council Member Kathy Maness
Council Member Todd Carnes
Council Member Ron Williams
Council Member Steve Baker
Council Member Todd Lyle

TOWN STAFF
Britt Poole Town Administrator
Stuart Ford Assistant Town Administrator
Wes Crosby Assistant to the Town Administrator
Brad Cunningham Town Attorney
Becky Hildebrand Municipal Clerk
Kathy Pharr Finance Director
Johnny Jeffcoat Community and Economic Catalyst
John Hanson Director of Planning, Building & Technology
Randy Edwards Director of Transportation
Laurin Barnes Events & Media Coordinator
Terrence Green Chief of Police
Allen Lutz Utilities Director
Laurin Barnes Communications Manager
Kaylee Cuthbertson Marketing Assistant
Wesley Crosby Assistant to the Town Administrator
Dan Walker Director of Parks and Sanitation
Johnny Dillard Assistant Director of Parks and Sanitation

FACILITATOR
Irene Dumas Tyson BOUDREAUX
Council affirmed the Guiding Principles as written in the original report and as amended in 2017 with no changes.

- **Sustain Main Street and Downtown as the heart of Lexington** from the Old Mill to Sunset Boulevard, historic Triangle area, the original boundaries of the town, and the government center.

- **Sustain Lexington’s sense of community**, its most important and endearing quality, which is exemplified through family values, award-winning schools, neighbors helping neighbors, safe, welcoming, natural beauty, unique history and preservation of historic resources, natural resources, and economic prosperity.

- **Enhance Lexington’s small town feel** in concert with continued development while respecting and maintaining the rural nature.

- **Strive for intentional, sustainable and authentic development** that enhances Lexington’s natural beauty, sense of community, history and opportunities for prosperity.

- **Increase connectivity** by creating places and connections within town that engage people with people and people to places (transportation, communication, civic activities), which is paramount to retaining an authentic small town appeal.

- **Strive for innovation and sustainability** in all developments and programs in order to increase Lexington’s prosperity.

- **Require the highest quality design and development** in all projects and developments in order to reflect the spirit of Lexington and the intent and values of the Vision Plan.

- **Build multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships in order to continually improve and to sustain the region’s quality of life** through preservation of the natural environment, improved infrastructure, accessibility and connectivity, cultural and recreational opportunities, economic development, housing, education, public safety, and wellness.
Council affirmed the goals of the Vision Plan as originally written and as amended in 2017 with one exception to reflect the Town’s desire for safer streets. The goal related to pedestrian and bike access and connectivity has been revised to address safety as indicated below in italics.

**Improve Traffic Flow**
Implement transportation strategies that are innovative, progressive, provide options and enhance the quality of life; diminish traffic from being Lexington’s story; work in concert with the County.

**Create a Vibrant Destination Main Street**
Host regular and diverse events for all ages; recruit local and national businesses and retail shops to invest in Main Street (improve local economy), support free Wi-Fi hot spots throughout town (business establishments and public places); encourage alternate truck routes.

**Support and Encourage an Iconic Presence on Lake Murray**
Support a multi-use development for residents and visitors that improves connectivity and access between the Town and Lake Murray.

**Preserve and Celebrate the Origins of Lexington**
Many feel as if the history of Lexington is slipping away. Work to preserve and celebrate the treasured history of Lexington through signage, tourism opportunities, design standards, community events and local businesses.
GOALS OF THE VISION PLAN

Create a Welcoming Atmosphere with Beautiful, Landscaped “Front Porches”
Design and construct unique and beautiful “front porches” that welcome all to this historic Town with landscaping that provides beauty and shade; install signage (I-20 interchanges, in town and throughout the County) that directs people to places in Lexington; work in concert with the County.

Improve Pedestrian and Bike Access, Connectivity and Safety
Create a comprehensive trail system that connects people to venues in town and throughout the region (Lake Murray, Saluda Shoals Park, Three Rivers Greenway, Palmetto Trail, etc.) in concert with county and evaluate town sidewalk network relative to existing conditions, safety, and new development requirements.

Remain a Charming Small Town in the Face of Exponential Growth
Adopt planning districts throughout town with appropriate design and development standards that reflect the unique character and use/activity of each district; enforce/encourage authentic efforts that celebrate the spirit of Lexington; connect and enhance what is here.

Provide for the Social and Recreational Needs of Residents
Meet the needs of all residents, but particularly youth and young professionals, beyond organized sports by encouraging more in-town opportunities for movies, entertainment, food, cultural activities, access to Lake Murray, social, and passive recreation, etc.

Respect the Unique Rural Character of Lexington
Institute rural development standards that are sustainable while encouraging continued economic activity; work in concert with the County.

Be a Welcoming Home to a Growing International Community
The Town of Lexington is becoming home to a growing international community. The Town welcomes and celebrates this convergence of cultures while maintaining Lexington’s unique character through events, inclusive engagement of residents, and creating an atmosphere of unity.

Improve the Business Environment
Welcome and support new businesses and industries in the Town of Lexington by providing a business-friendly process. Institute regular training for staff in working with potential businesses, explore incentives for small, local businesses, improve access to information, and work in concert with the Chamber to promote Lexington as a friendly and prosperous place for doing business.

Promote and Build the Economy through the Celebration of Lexington’s History
In concert with the goal of preserving and celebrating the origins of Lexington, establish collaborative relationships to build a unique economy through tourism, special events, and programming. Preserve and then promote in order to draw residents and visitors to downtown to celebrate what is unique and authentic about Lexington. Historical tourism is an untapped resource, yet can be a sustainable economic development driver.
VISION PLAN PROGRESS SUMMARY: 2012 - 2020

When asked to describe greatest recent accomplishments arising out of the Vision Plan, Council and staff cited the downtown excitement, life, and vitality on Main Street; increased popularity of the Icehouse Amphitheater and The Market at Icehouse; and lauded the opening of four new restaurants. Additional accomplishments have been added to the ongoing list that follows:

Phase I Projects 2012-2014
• Lexington Square Park
• Unified Traffic Plan – Phase I
• Icehouse Amphitheater
• The Market at Icehouse
• Snowball Festival
• Lexington Paw Park
• Interstate 20 / Sunset Boulevard Interchange Beautification and Front Porch
• Downtown Commercial Facade Program
• Fourteen Mile Creek Trail
• Adaptive Computerized Signalization Project Phase 1

Phase II Projects 2014-2017
Corridor Improvements
• Ginny Lane Corner
• Columbia Avenue/West Main Island
• Corner of Reed Avenue and Butler Street
• Corner of West Main Street and Gibson Road Island
• I-20/US 1 (Augusta Road) Front Porch
• Old Cherokee & North Lake Drive Front Porch

Downtown Projects
• Icehouse Amphitheater
• Main Street Beautification & Planters
• Vision Plan Project Icehouse TIF District established
• Vision Plan Project Old Mill Pond Trail established
  *(2015 historic floods – project stalled and now underway again)*

Infrastructure & Quality of Life
• Caractor Park Restroom Facility
• Corley Mill TIF District established
• Downtown Parking Lot – South Church Street

Sidewalks
• Park Road Construction
• South Church Street Phase 1 & 2
• Augusta Road (US 1) – completed to Library Hill Lane
• Whispering Winds – Morgan Drive
• Duffie Drive
• Utility Project Lake Drive to Old Mill
Phase III Projects 2017 - 2019
- Completion of Main Street One Way Pairs
- Adaptive Signalization Installation in partnership with Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia: Phase II - underway; Phase III - complete
- Parking for Icehouse (North Church Street Parking)
- Completion of Bruner Road Operations Center
- Completion of Serenity Park in Virginia Hylton Park
- University of South Carolina presence established in Town
- Demolition of Liverman Hospital
- Sold hotel property (*private owner sold to private developer*) contingent on parking lot
- Booster Station at Cromer Road
- New pump station at I-20 lagoon projected completion late November
- Old Mill Pond Trail designed to dovetail with Old Mill dam restoration
- Gibson Pond Dam restoration underway
- LTIP Sunset Blvd (378) and Old Cherokee Improvements submitted to SCDOT for final approval and projected to bid Summer 2021
- Wayfinding signage graphics adopted and approved by SCDOT; locations are set and going through DOT approvals
- South Church Street parking and underground storm water detention
- Golden Hills Pond Dam Stabilization
- Ginny Lane Widening and I-20 exit ramp improvements
Vision + Imagine + Prioritize + Enable

The path to an updated Vision Plan that has broad support for implementation is:

Vision + Imagine + Prioritize + Enable.

During the retreat, the group moved Vision + Imagine to Prioritize. Over the next few months, staff will establish plans that will Enable the two BIG, BOLD IDEAS and other projects. Vision + Imagine is the foundation of a successful plan. The ideas born before the retreat and those shared during the retreat collided and yielded a rich list of projects.

Prior to the retreat, Town staff identified several projects that address quality of life with a long-term view toward 2030. These projects were the springboard for imagining the prioritized projects that will advance the Town’s vision for the next ten years.

2030 Goals for New Projects

• A public destination on Lake Murray
• Expanded and diverse parks, green space, and trails throughout town, connected to regional trails
• More diverse residential in downtown
• More diverse, local businesses downtown
• Collaborative planning and development standards with Lexington County
• Managed growth in sync with continued infrastructure improvements
• High density/mixed-use development in appropriate areas with sustainable and connected framework/infrastructure
• Comprehensive recreational programming for all ages
To kick-start imaginations about bold quality of life projects, the group brainstormed the current quality of life elements and what is missing relative to quality of life. These elements helped shape the discussion of shared community values and thinking more broadly, impacting all areas of town and all demographics. Forward motion and progress will be much more successful when Council and staff understand the in-between of what is working now and where the community needs are for all.

This word diagram illustrates the top words Town Council and staff shared to define Lexington’s quality of life. The bolder and larger the word, the more the word was used. Community spirit and the schools are the major quality of life elements for the Town. The group recognized that these two elements also bring challenges since they are the key motivators for people continuing to move into town.
Quality of Life: What’s Missing

As good as the quality of life is in Lexington, there is room for improvement. Council and staff shared very candid thoughts on what the Town could be doing better, what is missing. These fueled the thinking and prioritizing of recommended projects and the final agreement on the Big, Bold Ideas.

**Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need more festivals</th>
<th>Signature event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreational activities</td>
<td>Senior events space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for youth</td>
<td>Arts (visual and performing arts) - no place to go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More social activities</td>
<td>Equestrian pursuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic center</td>
<td>More cultural activities (symphonies, art, bluegrass, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Things to do</td>
<td>More athletic pursuits (walking trails, races, community gym)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor recreational/sports space</td>
<td>Sunday afternoon hangout spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family centered events</td>
<td>Family centered events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economic Development / Downtown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More restaurants</th>
<th>Jobs close to the community (large employers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More feet on Main Street</td>
<td>Downtown residential/condos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention center</td>
<td>Better integrated, unique local businesses...not commercial chains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking garage</td>
<td>Industry/jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewery/wine bar</td>
<td>Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trendy shops and experiences</td>
<td>Internet/Wi-Fi across town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet/Wi-Fi across town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Roads**

| Improved traffic | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Traffic | Parking garage |
| Roadway infrastructure | Equestrian pursuits |
| Better transportation | More cultural activities (symphonies, art, bluegrass, etc.) |
| Alternate routes | More athletic pursuits (walking trails, races, community gym) |
| Quality of roads | | |

**Parks & Greenspace**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks/places to mingle, updates on current ones</th>
<th>Parks/places to mingle, updates on current ones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking trails, green space, and parks</td>
<td>Walking trails, green space, and parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature trails</td>
<td>Nature trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health options: active space, trails, biking</td>
<td>Health options: active space, trails, biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More diverse parks</td>
<td>More diverse parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough trails, paths, outdoor activities</td>
<td>Not enough trails, paths, outdoor activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket greenspace</td>
<td>Pocket greenspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect to walking trail from Irmo to Columbia on the Lexington side</td>
<td>Connect to walking trail from Irmo to Columbia on the Lexington side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update existing parks</td>
<td>Update existing parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planning
- more traffic planning
- good land planning to ensure connectedness and efficiencies
- better zoning plan for long-term calculated and metered growth
- town and county not working together so they miss out on opportunities
- long-term plan to scale pedestrian and social connectivity to planned growth
- improve landscape ordinance to include maintenance
- plans to preserve natural places

Lake Murray Presence & Access
- presence on Lake Murray
- Lake access
- Town park on Lake Murray
- connection to Lake Murray

Qualities
- diversity
- aesthetically pleasing look
- pretty
- safety
- good communications with all citizens about things going on

“We must restore to the city the maternal, life-nurturing functions, the autonomous activities, the symbiotic associations that have long been neglected or suppressed. For the city should be an organ of love; and the best economy of cities is the care and culture of men [and women and children].”

-Lewis Mumford

“Successful communities share a common story and a common set of beliefs as much as they share a common set of goals or activities.”

-Claire Gaudiani
The Priority Investment Areas: The Big, Bold Ideas
Council and staff discussed the plethora of bold ideas presented during the retreat. When tasked to focus on the boldest ideas that will have the most significant impact while propelling the town’s vision, the group unanimously agreed that creating a presence on Lake Murray and connecting to Saluda Shoals Park will be bold, impactful moves.

The other ideas shared are worthy and will stay on the table for future consideration. However, the marching direction was loud and clear: get on the Lake and provide a pedestrian and bike connection to Saluda Shoals Park!

These projects will bring to life several of the Vision Plan’s guiding principles and goals. The associated principles and goals are included with each. In addition, these priority investment areas relate directly to the Town's Comprehensive Plan and will shape the vision and strategies of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update, specifically the following elements:

- Economic
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Community Facilities
- Housing
- Land Use
BIG BOLD IDEA #1
Create a Town Presence on Lake Murray

During the 2011-2012 vision planning process, public access to Lake Murray was a resounding community desire, which is as strong today if not stronger. Focusing on Lake Murray will demand a tremendous effort by the town’s leadership to build community, public and private support, and partnerships to leverage and commit resources. This project deserves the highest degree of innovation and quality in planning, design, construction, and programming. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the town to elevate the quality of life and accessible opportunities for economic development and prosperity while protecting and enhancing the sustained health of the Lake Murray natural environment. This project should become an authentic, mixed-use development with a vibrant and beautiful public realm that encourages sustained private investments.

Possible developments and uses may include:
• marina
• diverse housing
• convention center and hotel
• event venues
• retail and entertainment
• parks, open space, and a beach
• offices
• artists space and galleries

This project is a long-term effort; however, implementation should begin as soon as possible. The vision is within reach.

Supporting Vision Plan Principles
• Sustain Lexington’s sense of community
• Strive for intentional, sustainable, and authentic development
• Increase connectivity
• Strive for innovation and sustainability
• Require the highest quality design and development
• Build multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships to continually improve and to sustain the region’s quality of life

Supporting Vision Plan Goals
• Support and encourage an iconic presence on Lake Murray
• Improve pedestrian and bike access, connectivity, and safety
• Remain a charming small town in the face of exponential growth
• Provide for the social and recreational needs of residents
BIG BOLD IDEA #2
Connect / Bridge to Saluda Shoals Park

Saluda Shoals Park sits just across the river from the Town of Lexington. There is no access over the Saluda River other than the dam highway and Johny Jeffcoat walkway. Providing a pedestrian and bike bridge over the Saluda River to Saluda Shoals Park will expand the connectivity and sidewalk/trails network, as well as begin to connect the dots between key regional resources. This bridge can expand the use of the park, increase community wellness, tourism, and economic development, while promoting environmental stewardship. Ultimately, this bridge will connect the Town of Lexington to downtown Columbia through the continuing expansion of the Lower Saluda Greenway and Three Rivers Greenway. This bridge will be a key element in the Midlands vision for a greenway system that will provide access to the rivers, connect the regions cultural and business centers, create a unique nature-based tourism engine, and sustain the natural beauty and ecology of the region.

Supporting Vision Plan Principles
• Sustain Lexington’s sense of community
• Enhance Lexington’s small-town feel
• Strive for intentional, sustainable, and authentic development
• Increase connectivity
• Strive for innovation and sustainability
• Require the highest quality design and development
• Build multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships to continually improve and to sustain the region’s quality of life

Supporting Vision Plan Goals
• Improve traffic flow
• Support and encourage an iconic presence on Lake Murray
• Preserve and celebrate the origins of Lexington
• Improve pedestrian and bike access, connectivity, and safety
• Provide for the social and recreational needs of residents
Other Projects & Big Ideas Supported by Town Council & Staff

Town Council and staff provided a wealth of great ideas. Many of these project ideas were shared by multiple people, a testament to their validity. The following list of projects was voted on by all with the two BIG, BOLD IDEAS rising to the top. These projects, which were discussed and debated should remain on the table for further discussion and consideration. Several of these projects are inter-connected or share purposes.

Lake Murray: BIG, BOLD IDEA
• Provide public lake access
• Build (perhaps public/private partnership) a destination lake venue such as a cultural arts center, a Lake Murray Conference Center, or a mixed-use development such as Harbor Town. Consider taking over Dominion’s access to Lake Murray.
• Develop the Lexington side of the Saluda River

Parks, Trails and Greenspace
• Expand parks and greenspace throughout town with diverse activities for all ages: passive, skate park, playgrounds, pocket parks, public green space
• Complete interconnected walking trails, bike paths and greenways throughout town that connect to and bridge over the Saluda River and connect to Saluda Shoals Park. This will connect all trails in the Town and to region in the future, connecting downtown Lexington to downtown Columbia. BIG, BOLD IDEA
• Provide active family space

Culture and Image/Branding
• Develop “Lexington Crossroads”: This is a 20-year project that focuses and brands development in four areas/districts (4 L’s) with downtown in the center. This will create something iconic that becomes the “thing” people think of when they think about Lexington and will be the Town’s brand - something to showcase and to spur new economic development activity.
  • North Lexington (1L): Lake Drive, grocery store, connection to Lake Murray and Saluda River trail system
  • West Lexington (2L): upscale shops, agricultural feel, like Fresh Fields
  • South Lexington (3L): industrial, maker/arts space, offices, light manufacturing
  • East Lexington (4L): pedestrian, trendy retail, arts, breweries, distilleries, arts
• The Up the Creek Music and Arts Festival: 3-day festival using all stages and parks in downtown
• Institute a public arts program to support and promote the arts and to add authentic character to town
• Incentivize and promote beautification throughout town to elevate charm, cleanliness, and safety
(cont.) Other Projects & Big Ideas Supported by Town Council & Staff

Downtown and Economic Development
• Recruit and incentivize Main Street and downtown residences: apartments, condos, and townhouses
• Encourage the creation of more popular Main Street hangouts: brewery, restaurants, art space, greenspace
• Continue to encourage downtown growth, development, and redevelopment
• Plan for and encourage development of affordable, workforce housing
• Bring a brewery and wine shop downtown
• Create a web-based information access system across town
• Work on adding more shopping to bring more restaurants downtown. Establish a plan, implement the plan, and celebrate successes.
• Redevelop the K-Mart site
• Destination sports complex, wellness center and water park

Roads
• Take over SCDOT roads in town
• Consider a bypass using Charter Oak Road, Old Cherokee, Corley Mill, Pisgah Church, Gibson, or Wildlife
• Consider Gibson Road Parkway as an alternate route

Planning
• Pursue a land plan overlay with Lexington County for property at the Town boundaries subject to annexation
• Provide for sustainable water and sewer system growth
• Develop a master transportation plan - global version of the LTIP - that is multi modal
• Create a redevelopment plan for Highway 1 to establish development and design guidelines and to encourage development.
• Create a redevelopment plan for Columbia Avenue to improve aesthetics and to encourage development.

Town Administration
• Evaluate staff responsibilities and load relative to efficient and creative management of new projects and maintenance
• Program and plan for a new state-of-the-art Police Building
IMPLEMENTATION:
Now that the BIG, BOLD IDEAS are confirmed, the real work begins. Town Council is to provide the raison d'être and the political commitment for each of these. By doing so, they will enable staff to begin the planning and implementation: creating plans and designs, building community partnerships, determining costs and funding opportunities, and establishing timelines. Staff will need to determine if the policies and ordinances are in place to support these projects. Council will be called upon constantly to promote their support for these projects and to build political and community bridges. But first, Town Council needs to affirm their support for these BIG, BOLD IDEAS, thereby enabling staff to do their work.

In the end, the most important question is not how the “government” addresses – or fails to address – major issues, but how communities do.

-Haynes Johnson

While the planning and partnership-building begins on the BIG, BOLD IDEAS, Town staff should identify a few keys projects from the list created at the retreat. These are worthy projects and can advance the quality of life in concert with planning for the BIG, BOLD IDEAS.
One project to consider is the Up the Creek Music and Arts Festival. This festival can build community capacity and demonstrate sustained community support for the arts. This capacity will be an important factor when Creating a Presence on Lake Murray. This festival will require dedicated community partners but can be a unique and fun way to celebrate Lexington, to elevate tourism and to showcase all that Lexington offers.

Policies on Parks and Public Art: In addition to these projects, the Town should focus on adopting policies and plans to guide the Town in the development of future parks and a public arts program. For instance, does the Town want to provide one park/5,000 residents or 1,200 households? What is the public process for proposing a new park? How does the Town select and fund public art? Where should public art be located? Adopting these within the next 12-18 months will guide and support the implementation of the BIG, BOLD IDEAS and other projects.

Update the Vision Plan: The Vision Plan is soon to celebrate its 10th anniversary. There is possibly no other town plan that has been as completely implemented and continually updated as Lexington’s Vision Plan. The plan has been a trusted roadmap for an amazing journey these past nine years. The updates (2014, 2017, 2019, 2020) have kept the Vision Plan alive and relevant.

However, the Vision Plan is ready for a complete update in celebration of its 10 anniversary and to guide the Town in the next decade of growth, economic development, and stewardship of the quality of life for all residents. In addition, the Vision Plan Update can become a partner document to the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update.

“Proceed and be bold.”

-Sambo Mockbee, FAIA