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News Release

For Immediate Release

Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee Retreats Jan. 14, Feb. 3

The citizen group tasked with coordinating and overseeing Springfield's current community strategic planning process will meet for a "retreat" on Friday afternoon. The meeting is open to the public and media, and features an agenda focused on the big-picture view of the process to this point.

The Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee will meet from 3-6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 at the Lake Springfield Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick Ave. The complete agenda is attached. This is the first of two retreats for the Coordinating Committee. The group is chaired by Mark McNay and Robin Melton, and is composed of citizens at large, as well as selected members from each of 13 planning committees that have been examining topics such as economic development, housing, transportation, pubic safety, early childhood development, global perspectives and diversity, workforce development and more.

Following several months of work by each of the 13 planning committees, the Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee has been working since the fall to identify the interconnections between the topics, and to weave the separate chapters into an overall plan. The various planning committees were asked to develop their chapters with the following four themes in mind: regionalism; sustainability; minimizing poverty; and civic engagement.

The wide-ranging agenda means Friday's retreat will be a good opportunity for media to catch up on this important process and find out more about the ideas, opportunities and challenges these citizen-led groups envision for the next two decades of Springfield's future.

A second retreat will be held from noon-4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, also at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. The group's regular bi-weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons in the Busch Municipal Building are continuing as well.

For more information about the plan, including the process and draft chapters written by the planning committees.

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