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**DATE:** Monday, July 15, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, July 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey\*, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop\*, CM Grace Wilken  
**\*PRESENT AFTER ROLL**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM James Quisenberry

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ibrahim Ouedraogo, Andrea Ruedi, Breaden Belcher, Matthew Roeschley, Will Kolschowsky, Seok Hyun Cho, Carol Mitten, Kevin Garcia

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jessica McCann, Assistant Director of Community Services at Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

**Chair:** *Maryalice Wu, Ward 1*

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Wu called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00p.m.

## 2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

### a. 06-17-2024 and 06-18-2024 COW Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Evans.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

**NAY:** None.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Wu corrected the typo in the title for “Resolution No. 2024-07-045R:...” to “Resolution No. 2024-07-054R:...”.

## 4. Presentations and Public Input

### a. Public Input

*Julie Watkins* stated the Hope Village funding process seemed to not pay enough attention to those impacted by the development and have been disrespected when voicing their concerns. Stated certain biases displayed in the Hope Village development process break established social contracts. Voiced that the alternative response system should not be contained within the Urbana Police Department.

**b. Tenant Based Rental Assistance Reentry Pilot Program Update – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission**

Introduced by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager and presented by Jessica McCann, Assistant Director of Community Services at Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. Breaden Belcher provided an overview of the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Re-Entry Pilot Program by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Stated the City of Urbana has provided \$250,000 of funding toward the pilot program and the purpose of the presentation is to provide an update on the program, share successes, and the plans for the future.

Jessica McCann stated the pilot program had been conducted in partnership with the City of Urbana HOME Consortium, First Followers and Hope for Women. Shared the background and needs that the program developed from, stating that the background associated with incarceration causes barriers to employment and permanent housing which led to a housing crisis for many formerly incarcerated individuals. Stated the TBRA Re-Entry Pilot Program emerged to address these needs and had the goal of stabilizing households to the point where they were able to maintain their residence and independently pay housing expenses at the end of the TBRA Re-Entry assistance. Stated the assistance provides a one-year rent subsidy, security deposit, and monthly housing counseling sessions with a HUD certified counselor. Provided an overview of the program eligibility and the qualifications that must be met to receive assistance.

Provided an update on the current status of the program, stating that two rounds of funding were received with \$125,000 from each that have allowed RPC to receive 36 referrals and successfully obtain housing with TBRA assistance for 21 households with two additional participants searching for or awaiting entry to housing. Stated the overall impact of the pilot program will require additional time to assess and the results should come in closer to January 2025 as participants have entered the program between December 2023 and July 2024.

Shared a staff testimonial from Tammy Ward, Voucher Specialist at RPC that highlighted the positive impacts of the Re-Entry Program on their clients, emphasizing the benefits of securing housing as well as the ability of supportive case management to help rebuild trust. Shared a testimonial from a program participant that was able to secure housing quickly with the Re-Entry Program's assistance, find employment, and work toward becoming reunified with her children while also coping with the loss of a loved one and dealing with the trauma from a difficult family history. Stated that the testimonials display how despite being a housing subsidy, TBRA impacts numerous other aspects of a client's life. Questions and discussion followed.

**5. Staff Report**

**a. Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan Update**

Presented by Andrea Ruedi, Senior Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development and Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator. Andrea Ruedi provided an outline of the presentation and stated that the Plan Commission has not yet seen the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan, but will be given access to it tomorrow. Provided background on what the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan is and that it renews every 20 years, articulating overarching goals and strategic actions. Displayed a roadmap that was shown to Council in a presentation in 2020 to detail the Comprehensive Plan development process.

Shared a timeline of events since 2020 illustrating the phases and actions taken through the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Described various outreach events to solicit feedback from the community both virtually and in-person.

Shared that four reports have been published since September 2021 beginning with the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Assessment, Community Outreach Summary in October 2022, Examine Urbana in April 2023, and the Balancing Act Findings Summary in August 2023. Shared findings and executive summaries from each of the reports.

Shared the draft table of contents from the Comprehensive Plan and the areas that are covered within each section. Shared the Imagine Urbana review timeline, noting that the Comprehensive Plan will be made available online for public comment on 8-20-2024. Stated the Sustainability Advisory Commission, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission, and the Arts & Culture Commission will receive notice that the public release is available on 8-20-2024 to be able to provide comment. Provided further detail on the Comprehensive Plan review timeline containing public hearings, study sessions, and ways for the community to provide public input before making a recommendation to City Council by ideally 10-17-2024. Stated there will be meetings within each Ward to review the Future Land Use Map Overlay and answer public questions regarding the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan. Noted that the meetings for the Arts & Culture Commission, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission, and Sustainability Advisory Commission will respectively occur on 9-10-2024, 9-17-2024, and 10-05-2024.

Stated if the timeline holds true, the recommendation from the Plan Commission will come on 10-17-2024 and the Comprehensive Plan would go to City Council's Committee of the Whole on 11-04-2024 for a presentation reviewing the plan, then coming to City Council's Committee of the Whole on 11-18-2024 as an item on the agenda.

Kevin Garcia presented a preview of the Imagine Urbana Master Map and stated it will be available in GIS format soon to provide ease of access in viewing future projects and plans for areas. Stated that there will be key areas that are being focused on that are tied to the overarching goals and objectives within the Comprehensive Plan. Questions and discussion followed.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-07-054R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement Designating Champaign County Regional Planning Commission as a Subrecipient of HOME Program Funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance FY24 – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2024-07-055R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. This resolution approves and authorizes the execution of Urbana HOME Consortium subrecipient agreements with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) for \$150,000 from FY25 HOME program funds to support a TBRA program for low-income renters. Breaden Belcher stated the agreement for CCRPC allocates \$150,000 in HOME funds to support a TBRA program for low-income renters administered by CCRPC, unrelated to the TBRA Re-Entry program that was presented on earlier. Stated the agreement with Courage Connection allocates \$125,000 in HOME funds to allow for them to continue operating their TBRA program for households that have experienced domestic violence. Stated both programs will offer case management services in addition to rental assistance. Stated CCRPC estimated the funding will allow them to serve 10 to 15 households with rental assistance and Courage Connection estimates that 6

to 10 households will be able to be served with their funding. Noted that the actual number of clients served can vary due to various factors such as household size, monthly rent amounts, and variance in security deposit size. Stated clients enrolled in these rental assistance programs are eligible to receive up to 2 years of rental assistance. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to City Council by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

**NAY:** None.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-07-055R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement Designating Courage Connection as a Subrecipient of HOME Program Funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance FY25 – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2024-07-054R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. This resolution approves and authorizes the execution of Urbana HOME Consortium subrecipient agreements with Courage Connection for \$125,000 from prior year HOME balances to support a TBRA program for low-income households that have experienced domestic violence.

Motion to approve to City Council by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

**NAY:** None.

## 7. Discussion

### a. Alternative Response Task Force Continued Discussion

Mayor Marlin provided an overview of the discussion conducted so far from last week where a list of potential candidates to serve on the task force was discussed, noted that “Immigrant Services” was added as a service provider area. Stated the list currently contains 14 organizations representing 14 service providers areas and 4 representatives from the City of Urbana to represent the Community Development Department, Urbana Fire Department, Urbana Police Department, and Urbana City Council. Stated that the service providers specific to their areas that are currently on the list, emphasizing the potential to directly act as an alternate responder, are the following: Behavioral Mental Health - OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center; Emergency Services - Carle Foundation Hospital; Centralized Intake for the Homeless - Regional Planning Commission’s Community Services Division; Broad Mental Health Services - Champaign County Mental Health Board; Various Township Services - Cunningham Township; Behavioral Health and Addiction Recovery - Rosecrance; Domestic Violence - Courage Connection; General Experience & Expertise in Child/Family Growth/Development with a Focus on the Black and Brown Community - The Well Experience; Sexual Assault, Abuse, Harassment, Rape - Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services (RACES); 911 Dispatch Center - METCAD; Trauma Informed Response - CU Trauma and Resilience Initiative; Dispute and Conflict Resolution - Dispute Resolution Institute; Men and Women Re-Entering - FirstFollowers; Immigrant Services - Refugee Center or New American Welcome Center. Stated the

organizations arose from various recommendations received from service providers, community members, Councilmembers, City Staff, and BerryDunn.

Stated the next steps will commence with a ZOOM meeting with Michelle Weinzetl, Senior Manager at BerryDunn to establish a 4 to 5 month long meeting schedule for the task force where the whole task force will convene monthly through a combination of in-person and virtual meetings guided by BerryDunn. Stated Michelle Weinzetl envisioned organizations with more of an advisory capacity to have 1-3 hours of prep time outside of the task force meetings, but those who can potentially serve as active participants in the alternate response model will most likely have longer preparation times for those meetings around 4 to 8 hours a month. Stated BerryDunn hopes to begin meeting in early September and invitations to participants need to be promptly sent out with Council's approval. Stated intent to keep the meeting process as open and transparent as possible.

Council discussed whether the task force meetings need to abide by the Open Meetings Act. Noted that they technically do not have to as they are not a formally formed group by the City. Discussed the potential for having the meetings open to the public for viewing, but not open to public participation as well as possible avenues of input available for the public.

Council discussed the intent behind the task force and that the ideas generated by the task force should be tailored to the community's needs rather than wholly guided and formed by BerryDunn.

Carol Mitten stated that the intent is to have the task force meetings recorded and available to the public for viewing, but if there are subgroups or subcommittees, those meetings will not be able to be recorded.

Council discussed the possibility of compensation for task force members due to the workload it puts onto smaller organizations.

Chair Wu declared her interest in participating on the alternate response task force.

Council discussed the general times and dates when the meetings would be taking place and that they would potentially be a part of the working day.

Council discussed how the determination for which Councilmember serves on the task force will be made. Council discussed the potential for multiple people to represent their organizations within the task force on a rotating basis rather than having a sole representative. Weighed the positives and negatives of having either a single representative from an organization against having rotating people from an organization. Additionally discussed the possibility for having alternative representatives in the case an organization cannot participate to represent their respective service provider area.

Council discussed the invitation sending process, noting that all invitations will be sent from the City of Urbana rather than BerryDunn. Additionally discussed potentially adding language to the letter that asks each organization if they would be able to volunteer for the task force without compensation or if they would require compensation to be able to participate. Council reached consensus on the list of organizations to invite to participate on the task force. Council noted that the City Councilmember participant will be determined later and the matter of the stipend will be determined later.

## **8. Council Input and Communications**

**Mayor Marlin** shared that the July 22nd City Council meeting will be rescheduled to Monday, August 5th and there will be no meeting on the fifth Monday of July. Stated the next time Council meets will be on Monday, August 5th with the rescheduled City Council meeting followed by the regular Committee of the Whole.

## 9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 8/12/24**



**Urbana City Council**  
**July 15, 2024**



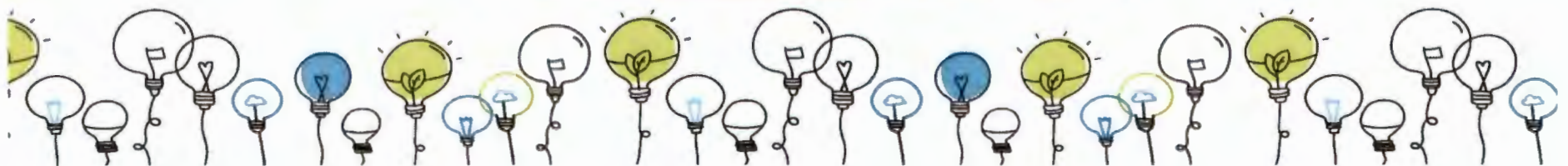
## What is the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan?

- **Our community's vision** for what Urbana should look like in the next 20 years
- Articulates overarching **goals (Big Ideas)** and **strategic actions (Big Moves)** to make this vision a reality.
- Serves as the **City's primary long-range planning document**, guiding the future development of the community.

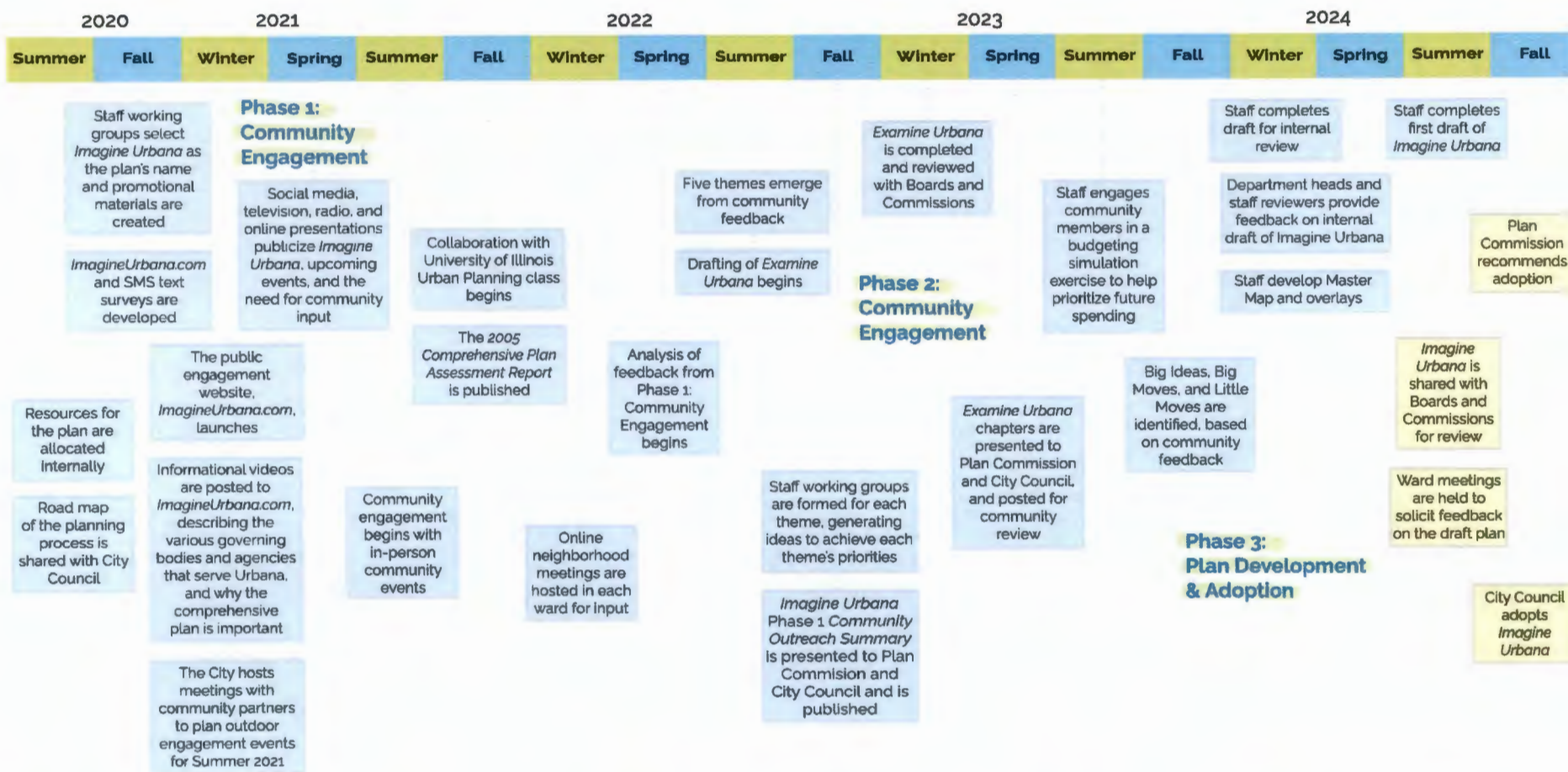




# Imagine Urbana Roadmap



## Imagine Urbana Process





## Imagine Urbana Published Reports

**September 2021:** [2005 Comprehensive Plan Assessment](#)

Assesses the goals and implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan

**October 2022:** [Community Outreach Summary](#)

Imagine Urbana's broad community engagement process and findings

**April 2023:** [Examine Urbana](#)

Explores what Urbana is all about – assesses current conditions

**August 2023:** [BalancingAct Findings Summary](#)

Results from spending priorities activities held in each Ward

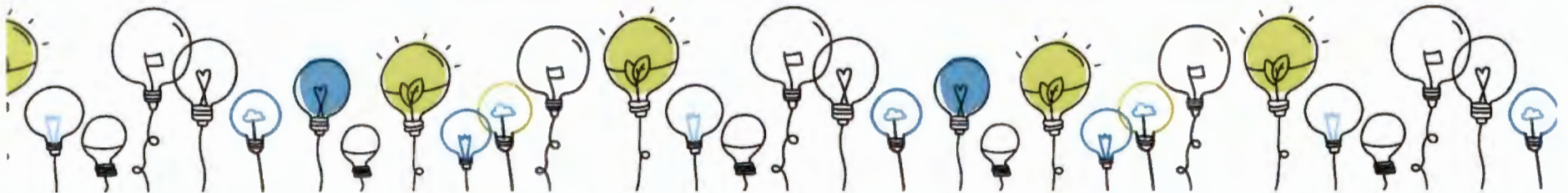
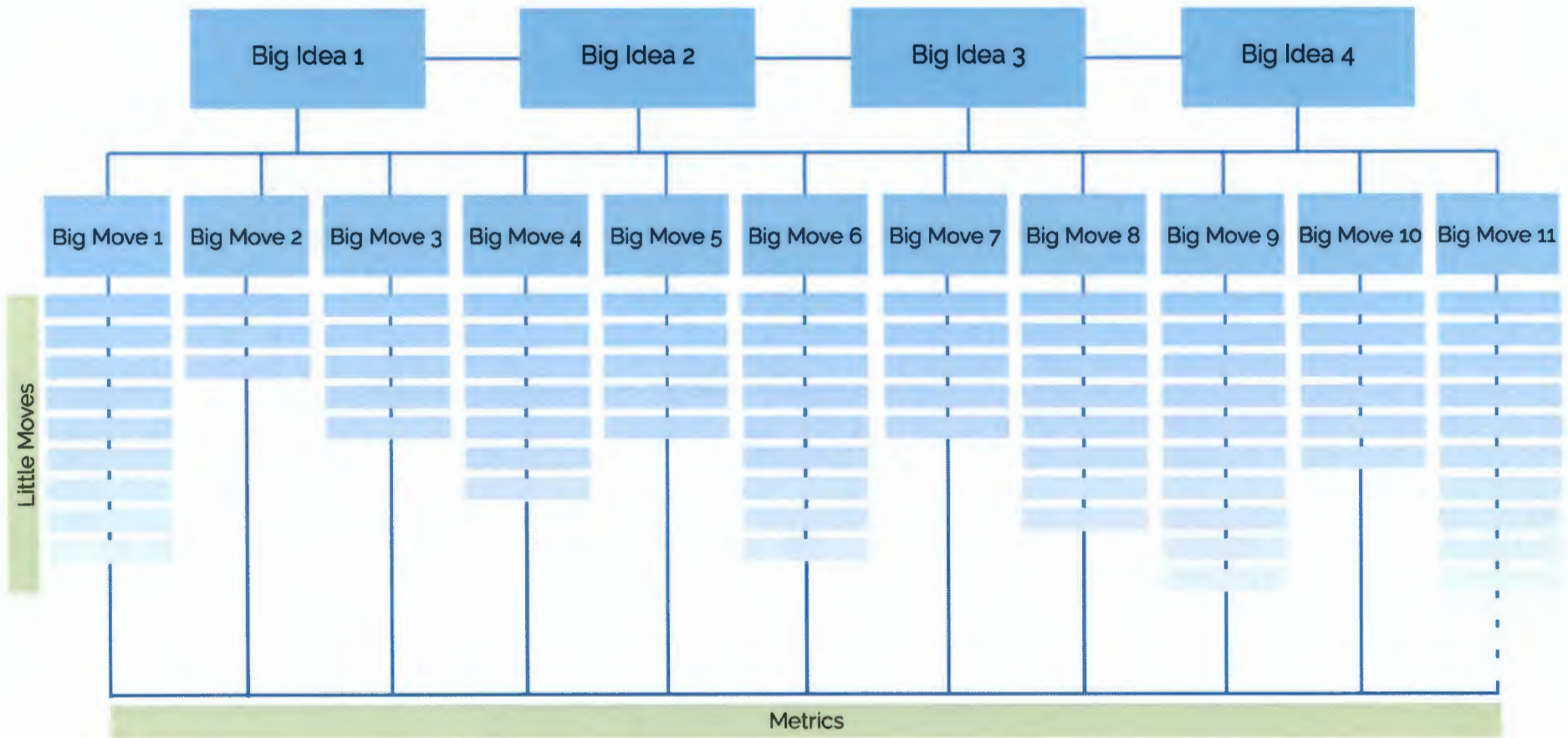


## *Imagine Urbana – Table of Contents Draft*

- I. **Introduction** – acknowledgements, Mayor's message, and what is a comprehensive plan?
- II. **Vision & Values** – developed from community outreach process
- III. **Background** – background, trends and the *Imagine Urbana* process
- IV. **Big Ideas** – overarching goals for the City
- V. **Big Moves/Little Moves** – strategic actions to achieve the City's Big Ideas
- VI. **Master Map** – individual map overlays to guide land use decisions
- VII. **Tracking Progress** – metrics to track progress made toward Little Moves
- VIII. **Evaluation and Reporting** – regular checkpoints with 5-year updates
- IX. **Appendix** – related documents and plans



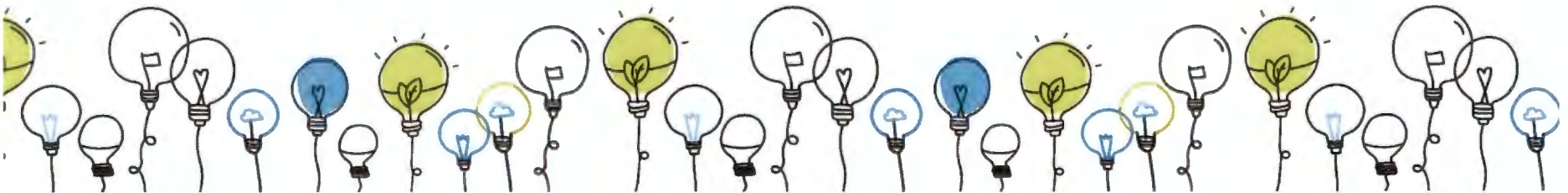
# Hierarchy of Big Ideas, Big Moves/Little Moves & Metrics





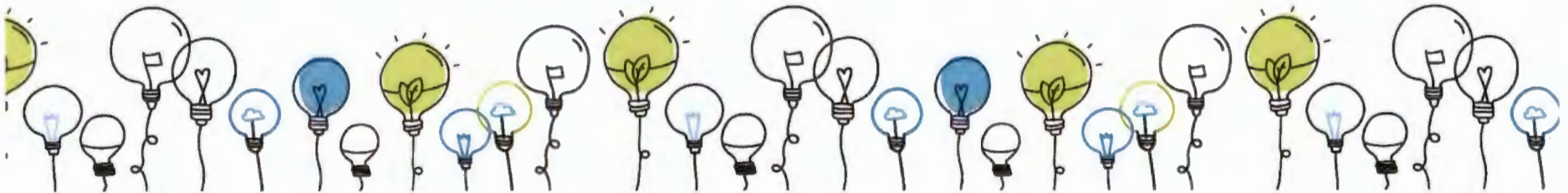
## Imagine Urbana Review Timeline

- **7/15** – **City Council Committee of the Whole** - *Imagine Urbana* Update
- **7/16** – **Plan Commission** will receive access/comment rights and instructions for reviewing the on-line draft
- **8/13** – **Plan Commission** comment deadline for staff to prepare for 8/22 Plan Commission Study Session
- **8/20** – **Public Information Release** – *Imagine Urbana* public weblink will be released for on-line public comment
- **8/20** – **SAC, BPAC, and A&CC** will receive the Public Information Release, and be requested to make their on-line comments



## Imagine Urbana Review Timeline

- **8/22–10/17** - **Plan Commission Review** - Study Sessions, Public Hearing, and Recommendation for City Council
- **8/23 – 9/15** - **Ward meetings** to review Future Land Use Map Overlay and answer public questions about *Imagine Urbana*
- **9/10** - **Arts & Culture Commission** - *Imagine Urbana* Update
- **9/17** - **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission** - *Imagine Urbana* Update



## Imagine Urbana Review Timeline

- **10/5** – Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting – *Imagine Urbana* Update
- **11/04** – City Council Committee of the Whole – Review of Plan Commission's recommendation and *Imagine Urbana* Discussion
- **11/18** – City Council Committee of the Whole – *Imagine Urbana* Discussion
- **11/25** – City Council Meeting – Acceptance of Plan Commission's Recommendation for Approval and Adoptions of *Imagine Urbana*

