

WORK SESSION 1-22-2025
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

In Attendance: Tommie Christie - Chair, Stephanie Russell – Weber County Economic Development, Beckki Endicott – Town Clerk, TC Member Sandy Hunter, Ron Gault – Huntsville Water, PC Member John Henderson, Former Mayor Jim Truett, Bill White, TC Member Artie Powell, Steve Starks, Leta Bailey, Dakota Hyde, Jeff Hyde, TC Member Bruce Ahlstrom, Mayor Richard Sorensen

Tommy Christie started the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Stephanie Russell started by giving her background in economic development. She represents Weber County and will be the leading the economic team in discussions.

Stephanie wants discuss the needs of the Huntsville Community that can be addressed through economic development. She stated that it starts with a vision statement. The group worked on the vision statements that were the product of the last economic team meeting.

Attachment #1 – Stephanie presented the three vision statements that the small groups work on at the last meeting and then used AI to generate two additional consolidated statements. She wanted to work with the last product which follows:

“Huntsville, Utah, envisions a vibrant, close-knit community where heritage, natural beauty, and small-town spirit thrive alongside sustainable growth, resilient businesses, and a balanced future for generations to come.”

Discussion points:

- 1) Bill White – commented that he really appreciates Huntsville’s tranquility and quiet. That was not reflected in the previous statements. Ron Gault agreed with these comments and stated it was important to stimulate the economy but not give up the quiet of the community.
- 2) Steve Starks – believes that agriculture is missing from these statements. He stated that people come here because they can see agriculture. He used the example of Beaver City and the Creamery. Everyone looks to the Creamery as an icon of Beaver, and it has become a destination. Bill White spoke to the economics of agritourism. He used some examples from the monastery pumpkin patch, the farmer’s market. He stated there needed to be more amenities to make it a destination. It has taken a lot of resources. Dakota Hyde stated that he believed that agritourism was more of a fit for unincorporated Huntsville, but he loved the idea of bringing into Town the spirit of agritourism.

- 3) Sandy Hunter - stated didn't like the idea of the word "vibrant." She believed that tranquil could be substituted.
- 4) John Henderson brought up the concept of heritage and how that could be expressed in a vision statement.
- 5) Bill White - he would like to see in the statement that businesses operated in harmony with the Town's vision statement.
- 6) Bruce Ahlstrom – stated it was important to note that residents do not want growth, and that the term "sustainable growth" has a negative connotation in our economy.
- 7) Steve Starks – stated that barns are a symbol of this valley and Huntsville should incorporate the theme of barns into the development planning.

Stephanie suggested a summary:

Huntsville, Utah envisions a tranquil, close-knit community where residents celebrate our unique agricultural heritage and recreational opportunities, amidst the timeless beauty of the Wasatch Mountains. Rooted in small-town spirit, we welcome visitors and support businesses which operate in harmony with the character of town. We embrace community stewardship that is a resilient future for generations to come.

At 7:00 p.m. the group took a break and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Stephanie Russell gave some instructions about identifying developable spaces within the town boundaries. The suggestions were:

100 South and 7400 East – Huntsville Town Lots (approximately 1.2 acres and zoned commercial)

100 South and SR-39 – Steve Starks Property. He is working with land planners, and they would love some suggestions for agritourism development.

SR-39 and 500 South – Booth property (2.75 acres)

Chevron property – Sidwell's have one of the shops that is empty.

Club Rec – 7350 East 100 South

Landfill for the Town of Huntsville up Southfork – located in Weber County

The group decided to discuss the Town lots.

There were many suggestions for the town lots for use: mixed use, grocery store, restaurant, salon. Steve Starks stated the architecture is really important. He suggested a village type environment with walkability that might connect over to the Club Rec property.

Stephanie Russell suggested "form-based codes" or overlay zones could be useful. Stephanie suggested that thinking about mixed use also brings the challenge of retaining employees and housing for those employees.

Stephanie talked about working with the Wasatch Regional Council on master planning. She stated there is funding available for those master plan.

There was discussion regarding the round about being the gateway to the town.

Challenges to the town lot project are safety, septic, parking, history of proposed mixed-use, and education of residents about where town revenues are generated

There was discussion on liquor licenses for restaurants in Huntsville Town and the state restriction to public places. The distance from the public buildings and the library to a restaurant that serves alcohol on the lot is doable but will take some planning.

Several members mentioned that there are agreements in place with Weber County Libraries. Huntsville Town will research the agreement, and Stephanie Russell will also check on the Weber County side for the libraries understanding about the agreements in place on the Town Square.

Stephanie suggested that members of the group should research other small-town developments.

Examples are Camas - Washington, Leavenworth - Washington, Big Sky - Montana, McCall - Idaho.

Meeting dismissed at 8:14 p.m.



Beckki Endicott
Huntsville Town Clerk - Recorder

1. Huntsville town envision itself as a close-knit, small-town community that honors its heritage, provides welcoming services to local outdoor adventurers fosters resilient local businesses, attracts responsible investment, and sustains a thriving economy for generations to come.
2. To be a vibrant community where residents thrive and businesses flourish while maintaining a small town atmosphere and fostering opportunities for sustainable progress.
3. Huntsville, Utah, a timeless hamlet nestled in the Wasatch Mountains, envisions a future where our rich heritage and natural beauty thrive in harmony with thoughtful, sustainable growth. As we preserve our bucolic charm and rural character, we remain a vibrant, resilient community that fosters connection, stewardship, and innovation. By embracing a balanced approach to development, we ensure a sustainable future for generations to come-one where both nature and people flourish in harmony and where the spirit of small-town living is cherished and sustained.

Consolidated Vision Statements

Huntsville, Utah, envisions a future as a vibrant, close-knit community where residents thrive and businesses flourish amidst the timeless beauty of the Wasatch Mountains. Rooted in our rich heritage and bucolic charm, we honor our small-town spirit while fostering opportunities for sustainable growth, innovation, and stewardship. By welcoming outdoor adventurers, supporting resilient local businesses, and attracting responsible investment, we ensure a thriving economy and a balanced approach to development that preserves our rural character and natural beauty for generations to come.

Huntsville, Utah, envisions a vibrant, close-knit community where residents thrive, businesses succeed and heritage and natural beauty are preserved. Rooted in small-town spirit, we embrace sustainable growth, innovation, and stewardship to ensure a thriving future for generations to come.

Huntsville, Utah, envisions a vibrant, close-knit community where heritage, natural beauty, and small-town spirit thrive alongside sustainable growth, resilient businesses, and a balanced future for generations to come.