

Quality of Life – Part II Recap Plano Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan

On May 5, 2014, the Planning & Zoning Commission completed a work session for Part II of the Quality of Life component for the Plano Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. The Commission was provided a summary document that contained descriptions of each topic along with three policy recommendations to consider. The policy options included the city's current policy, as well as alternative options to discuss and potential outcomes of each option were included for the Commission's consideration. The Commission recommended the following six policy statements on the Quality of Life – Part II component.

Parks and Athletic Fields

Plano will repurpose and/or enhance park programs and facilities, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. The city will also actively pursue additional park land in order to retain the regional standard of 15 acres of park land per 1,000 population.

Shared Use Paths (Trails)

Plano will expand its trail system to connect existing trails in Plano and neighboring communities. Plano will also enhance new and existing trails by providing safety and leisure amenities. Plano will seek private and public partnerships to assist with constructing trail amenities.

Recreational Facilities and Swimming Pools

Plano will repurpose and/or enhance recreational facilities and programs, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. Plano will also consider expanding facilities in order to accommodate both traditional amenities, which are less utilized, as well as new trending amenities.

Active Living and Citizen Well-Being

Plano will make active living and citizen well-being a priority.

Libraries

Plano will enhance and expand existing library services, as appropriate, to accommodate additional community needs and new technology trends. Plano will pursue new library concepts including, but not limited to, mobile facilities, joint use facilities, and new building facilities.

Educational Opportunities

The city, school districts, and colleges will meet regularly and increase cooperation.

Quality of Life Vision

In addition, staff recommends the following changes to the Quality of Life vision. These changes reflect the discussions from both Part I and Part II of the Quality of Life topic:

Plano will build upon relationships with nonprofits organizations, private enterprises, educational institutions, and the county to provide a high standard of living for its citizens. Plano will enhance its present high quality services and programs to mitigate public health or safety concerns and accommodate a growing, diverse population.

Exhibit

Quality of Life – Part II Summary Document

QUALITY OF LIFE - PART II

This is the second and final part to the City of Plano’s quality of life discussion. As discussed on April 21st, quality of life is the general well-being of individuals and societies. Standard indicators of quality of life include, but are not limited to, wealth and employment, the built environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure, and social belonging.

The City of Plano is nationally recognized for the provision of excellent services and facilities. The city has over 4,000 acres of park land, five public libraries, exceptional schools within Plano, Frisco, and Lewisville Independent School Districts, and is home to two Collin College campuses and Southern Methodist University in Legacy. These services, facilities, and institutions contribute towards the health, well-being, and quality of life in Plano today.

The challenges facing these facilities, services, and institutions are no different from the challenges facing other city and social services. Plano’s growing diversity in age, ethnicity, and educational attainment has already influenced a number of new services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, Library Department, and educational institutions. It will be important to continually evaluate new and existing programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of Plano’s population.

Discussion topics for both segments of the Quality of Life Work Sessions are illustrated below. On April 21st, the Planning and Zoning Commission provided direction on city services (emergency management, public safety, property standards, and facilities), as well as social services (homeless and poverty prevention, human care and health access, and healthy food access). Tonight’s work session will cover parks and recreation, active living and citizen well-being, libraries, and educational opportunities.

APRIL 21 WORK SESSION

Quality of Life - Part I

- City Services
 - Emergency Management/ Disaster Planning
 - Public Safety – Police and Fire
 - Property Standards
 - Facilities
- Social Services
 - Homeless and Poverty Prevention
 - Human Care and Health Access
 - Healthy Food Access

MAY 5 WORK SESSION

Quality of Life - Part II

- Parks and Recreation
 - Parks and Athletic Fields
 - Trails
 - Recreation Facilities
- Active Living and Citizen Well-Being
- Libraries
- Educational Opportunities

On April 21st, the Commission recommended a guiding vision for the Quality of Life component which states: **Plano should build upon relationships with nonprofits organizations, private enterprises, and the county to enhance the standard of living for its citizens. Plano should expand services that mitigate a public health or safety concern to accommodate a growing, diverse population.**

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, recreational, fitness, athletic, and sports facilities, and programs that keeps pace with the city's changing demographics.
- Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through privatization, public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities. Opportunities to combine resources and create regional facilities should be explored.
- Enhance neighborhood parks with attractive amenities that make them more appealing for passive activities.
- Continue to improve neighborhood parks to ensure that they serve as focal points and gathering places.
- Design and locate park facilities that encourage informal gatherings. Elements such as water features, pavilions, seating areas and courtyards can help bring people together.
- Provide for a wide range of passive, active, formal and informal recreation activities in appropriate locations across the city.
- Use linear parks to link key public and private activity centers with residential areas.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.
- Prevent unnecessary demands on park and recreation resources by refusing private donations of open space or facilities that do not conform to the objectives and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan or address unanticipated gaps and shortages in the system.
- Strongly consider the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities not specifically identified in the Parks and Recreation Element, if they can meet changing needs of the city.

Plano Tomorrow Environment P&Z Direction from March 17th Work Session

- Plano should pursue additional open space and trail connections to improve the quality of life for its citizens. This would include purchasing vacant and underutilized land for parks and open space and/or purchasing floodplain for trail connections.

The Parks and Recreation Department is a key contributor of Plano's quality of life. Parks and Recreation enhances the lives of residents and visitors by offering parks, trails, recreational

facilities, a variety of enrichment programs, and special events. The department is responsible for:

- 83 public parks spanning more than 4,000 acres
- 72 miles of paved trails
- 69 baseball/softball fields
- 130 turf sports fields
- 8 cricket grounds
- 8 swimming pools
- 5 recreation centers
- 4 arts and cultural venues
- Pecan Hollow Golf Course and Grille
- Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course
- High Point Tennis Center

Parks and athletic fields (including golf courses and tennis centers) will be reviewed in this topic. Parks today provide passive, active, formal and informal activities that cater to all types of people. They are places for exercise, entertainment, and leisure, and provide a community gathering location for citizens. Funding for parks and athletic fields will continue to be a challenge for departments across the nation. The need for additional grants, public/private partnerships, and other financial resources will be vital for the future of parks and fields. There are two other potential challenges that parks in Plano face which are outlined below.

Changes in the City's Population and Development Trends

Parks have evolved over the years and now include a variety of uses and activities that historically have not been a part of the parks inventory. For example, the new Klyde Warren Park in Downtown Dallas includes:

- food trucks,
- an upscale dine-in restaurant,
- an outdoor mobile library with books, magazines, and board games to check-out,
- activities such as Ping-Pong, which were once indoor activities; and
- dedicated space for children and dogs.

Klyde Warren Park officials estimate that over a million people have visited the park in its first year. The popularity of this park not only helps the local economy, but it has also spurred new residential and corporate development adjacent to the park. Specialty parks such as dog parks and skate parks have also become a popular park trend. Plano has adjusted its park programming based on the local demand for these new specialty parks and currently operates a dog park at Jack Carter Park and is in the planning process for a new outdoor skate park. Several comments were provided during the Public Outreach Campaign regarding desired improvements to the existing dog park and/or the need for more dog parks. Improvements are currently planned for the existing dog park to include shade shelters, irrigation, lighting, and fence repairs. Plano has also made changes in its park inventory based on the city's changing demographics. The city is in the process of converting four baseball fields into soccer fields to

accommodate the growing demand for soccer fields. Plano has also seen a growing demand in cricket pitches. As the community continues to diversify, the city is likely to see a need for a greater variety of parks and athletic fields.

Adequate Park Land

Another potential issue for the City of Plano is the need for additional park land. Population ratios of land acres per thousand people have been one of the most commonly used standards to measure and compare park land for each community. A national standard doesn't currently exist, however, the City of Plano and most neighboring communities have set the standard of 15 acres of park land per 1,000 population. With 4,001 acres of park land, the city has approximately 15 acres of park land per 1,000 population. However, if Plano continues to increase in population and identified urban centers begin to redevelop, Plano could begin to see a need for additional park land. An additional factor that should be taken into consideration is the fact that residents in surrounding communities also use the Plano park system. Data supporting this fact can be found in the Recreational Centers and Library System discussion. As populations in neighboring cities increase, it will also have an effect on the Plano park system.

Options for Consideration

1. **Recommended policy - Plano will repurpose and/or enhance park programs and facilities, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. The city will also actively pursue additional park land in order to retain the regional standard of 15 acres of park land per 1,000 population.**

Pro – The growing, diverse population base of Plano will be provided with appropriate programs and services. In addition, increasing park space will ensure the growing population has adequate park accommodations.

Con –Repurposing/expanding park programs and services will require additional costs. Acquisition and maintenance costs, along with more staff, will also be required to expand the park land inventory.

Options Continued on Next Page

2. Plano will repurpose and/or enhance park programs and facilities, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. However, the city will not pursue additional park land. Available land will be reserved for other uses (residential, office, retail).

Pro – The growing, diverse population base of Plano would still be provided with appropriate programs and services. There would also be no costs associated with expanding the park inventory.

Con – Repurposing/expanding park programs and services would still require additional costs. In addition, existing park land may become overcrowded as population in and around the city increases.

3. Plano will only repurpose or enhance park programs/facilities if it is cost effective. Plano will pursue additional park land to accommodate a growing population, but will not strive to meet the regional standard of 15 acres of park land per 1,000 population.

Pro – There would be minimal costs associated with repurposing or expanding park programs and facilities.

Con – The demands of the growing, diverse population base may not be met and park land may become overcrowded.

PARKS AND RECREATION | TRAILS (SHARED USE PATHS)

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

(Does not include Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement Strategies)

- Develop a plan for enhancing Chisholm Trail as a major gathering space.
- Acquire remaining properties to complete the trail system within Plano and link with systems in other cities.

Plano Tomorrow Regionalism P&Z Direction from March 3rd Work Session

- Plano will be open to the expansion of existing roadway and expressway systems within the city to improve traffic flow. **The city will work with neighboring communities to facilitate bicycle trail connections** and encourage expansion of regional mass transit to non-member cities.

A quality trail system is a major contributor to the overall quality of life of a community. Trails are also referred to as shared use paths to describe improved surfaces, which can be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and other modes of active transportation. This section will evaluate the city's trail system as a recreational component. However, trails are also a component of the multi-modal transportation system found in Plano and will be evaluated further during the transportation discussion this summer.

Like parks, trails have become a destination for residents. Plano currently has 72 miles of shared use paths within its system, which is widely used today. Trails lend themselves to health and fitness oriented events such as community walks, runs, rides and other fitness activities. Several comments were received during the Plano Tomorrow Public Outreach Campaign that indicated a desire to see more trails, better connections, improved crossings, and more trail amenities such as landscaping, soft-surface trails, lighting, or call boxes. The Katy Trail in Dallas has served as a great example of a trail with enhanced amenities. The trail includes: lighting, landscaping, art sculptures, water fountains, call boxes, soft-surface trails adjacent to concrete trails, sitting plazas, landscape overlooks, and flashing pedestrian crosswalks. These improvements were largely in part from the Friends of the Katy Trail, a non-profit organization founded to:

- organize community support for the Trail;
- advocate support for the Trail;
- raise private funds for the completion of the Trail, and
- help the city plan, build, and maintain Trail improvements.

Since its founding in 1997, Friends of the Katy Trail has helped secure more than \$15 million of a \$23 million plan, with \$8.8 in government funding and \$6.3 from private sources.

In the past, Oncor has restricted the construction of any trail amenities within its easements. This affected the city's two longest trails (Bluebonnet and Preston Ridge) since they are located within Oncor easements. However, Oncor has recently launched a Texas Trails program to

work proactively with communities to design a template for recreational use of transmission rights-of-way, including native and low maintenance landscape designs. Oncor employees and Oncor communities also have the opportunity to participate in the planting of landscape and maintenance of trails. This new program would allow Plano to enhance its existing trails within the Oncor easements with amenities to meet the demands of the public.

The demand for more trails also includes unimproved soft trails for hiking and natural exploration. Though vacant land in the city is limited for unimproved soft trails, the city also provides soft surfaces trails at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, Bob Woodruff Park and Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. The city should consider providing additional soft surface trails if opportunities are available.

Options for Consideration

1. Plano will not expand the trail network beyond the current planned system. Plano will identify areas for trail improvement and seek private and public partnerships to expand the trail system and provide trail amenities.

Pro – There would be fewer costs from the city associated with the trail system.

Con – Improvements may be inconsistent as public and private partners may only participate with their portions of the trail. In addition, gaps in trail connections may occur which would limit the trail use.

2. Plano will expand its trail system to connect existing trails in Plano and neighboring communities. Plano will seek private and public partnerships to provide trail amenities (water fountains, landscaping, lighting, etc.) for new and existing trails.

Pro – Expanding the trail system will help ensure the city is connected with its regional neighbors and will assist in meeting citizen's demands for more trails. It will also meet the regional objective to make trail connections with neighboring cities.

Con – Safety and leisure amenities are currently being provided on a variety of trails in our region. By not investing in these amenities, Plano's trail system could become less desirable. In addition, improvements may be inconsistent as public and private partners may only participate with their portions of the trail.

Options Continued on Next Page

3. Plano will expand its trail system to connect existing trails in Plano and neighboring communities. Plano will also enhance new and existing trails to provide safety and leisure amenities.

Pro – Expanding the trail system and providing safety and leisure amenities on the trail encourages users and addresses the needs of the citizens. It will also meet the regional objective to make trail connections with neighboring cities.

Con – There would be additional costs associated with the trail system.

4. **Recommended policy (combination of options 2 and 3)** - Plano will expand its trail system to connect existing trails in Plano and neighboring communities. Plano will also enhance new and existing trails by providing safety and leisure amenities. Plano will seek private and public partnerships to assist with constructing trail amenities.

PARKS AND RECREATION | RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SWIMMING POOLS

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, recreational, fitness, athletic, and sports facilities, and programs that keeps pace with the city's changing demographics.
- Identify and prioritize the needs of existing facilities versus those of proposed facilities through the annual Community Investment Program (CIP) budget process. Long term operations and maintenance costs should be factored into both.

Plano Tomorrow Environment P&Z Direction from March 17th Work Session

Renewable Energy – Municipal Buildings: Plano should make significant investments in renewable energy for municipal buildings. Plano's focus shouldn't solely rely on cost-effective environmental improvements, but should also focus on building investments that have a significant impact on citizen health and the natural environment.

Plano Tomorrow Quality of Life P&Z Direction from April 21st Work Session

City Services - Facilities: Plano should regularly review facility guidelines to assist with prioritizing projects. Plano should also engage the public and all city staff to identify the needs and desires of the community.

The City of Plano operates five recreation centers and eight swimming pools. Recreation centers include a variety of features including: classrooms, gymnasiums, indoor tracks, meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, table tennis, badminton, volleyball courts, and weight rooms. The recreation centers also provide programs (both fitness and educational related) such as: youth camps, yoga, aerobics, gymnastics, ballet and tap, business startup programs, youth and senior field trips, computer learning seminars, and hundreds of other programs. Recreation centers in Plano have become more than just fitness facilities; they contribute to the community by providing meeting space for neighborhoods, hosting training and educational courses, and even basic living counseling such as estate planning.

Historically, Plano's Comprehensive Plan has grouped recreation centers into the general parks discussion. However, recreation centers have expanded the variety of services that are offered and it should be considered its own topic of discussion.

Plano's recreational centers require citizens and visitors to purchase a membership. In the 2012-2013 year, there were 12,383 annual memberships sold and approximately 31,380 monthly memberships sold. Of the 12,383 annual memberships sold, 383 were non-residents (3.1%) and of the 31,380 monthly memberships sold, 3,754 were non-residents (12%). These figures indicate that the facilities are in demand by both residents and nonresidents.

The changing demographics in Plano also affect recreation centers programs and amenities. Plano has begun offering organized table tennis and badminton as demand for these programs

are growing. In addition, Plano has increased senior programs at recreation centers to accommodate the growing senior population outside of the Senior Center. Industry trends and research suggest aging baby boomers may not be ready to use the Senior Recreation Center for many years. Their preference to continue using the city's other recreation centers is creating a demand for new programming and equipment at these facilities to serve residents of all ages.

As the city continues to diversify, the city is likely to see a need for a greater variety of recreation center amenities and services.

Options for Consideration

1. **Recommended policy** - Plano will repurpose and/or enhance recreational facilities and programs, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. Plano will also consider expanding facilities in order to accommodate both traditional amenities, which are less utilized, as well as new trending amenities.

Pro – The growing, diverse population base of Plano will be provided with appropriate programs and services. In addition, increasing recreational space will ensure the growing population has adequate amenities and services.

Con –Repurposing/expanding recreational programs and services will require additional costs. Maintenance costs, along with more staff, will be required to expand the recreational facilities.

2. Plano will repurpose and/or enhance recreational facilities and programs, as appropriate, to accommodate a growing, diverse population and new development trends. However, Plano will not consider expanding facilities in order to accommodate additional amenities. Amenities that are less utilized will be replaced with amenities in greater demand.

Pro – The growing, diverse population base of Plano would still be provided with appropriate programs and services. There would also be no costs associated with expanding recreational facilities.

Con – Repurposing/expanding recreational programs and services would still require additional costs. In addition, traditional recreational amenities that are in less demand, but still desired by a smaller segment of the population may be eliminated to provide room for amenities in greater demand.

Options Continued on Next Page

3. Plano will only repurpose or enhance recreational facilities if there is a significant demand from the public. Expansion and repurposing will be facility-specific based on demand.

Pro – The growing, diverse population base of Plano may still be provided with appropriate programs and services as long as there is a significant demand. Costs for repurposing, enhancing, or expanding recreational facilities would be gradual if based on demand.

Con – By only addressing facilities that have the most demand for new services, other facilities may age and become less utilized. In addition, less demanded services may never be provided.

ACTIVE LIVING AND CITIZEN WELL-BEING

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- Encourage healthy lifestyles through the provision of recreation facilities and activities.

The birth of planning in the United States originated from a public health concern. It was rooted in the need to reduce congestion, improve public health, and support social reform in housing and sanitation. The urbanization of cities resulted in overcrowded housing, heavily polluting industrial uses, waste, and outbreaks of diseases. The planning and public health professions worked together to improve the population's health and focus on urban reform. To assist in addressing the health issues, local governments created a series of policies related to sanitation, zoning, housing, and transportation. These policies had lasting impacts on the ways in which cities developed the built environment. Over time, the planning and public health professions began to diverge. Rather than addressing issues related to health and safety, the planning profession focused more on land use and transportation, which is apparent in comprehensive plans across the nation. However, the issues facing cities today continue to change and evolve. In addition to the traditional issues related to housing, transportation, land use, and economic development, a series of new concerns have emerged, which have been included in the Plano Tomorrow discussions. These include, but are not limited to, energy production and consumption, sustainability, water conservation, and community health. As cities try to address these emerging issues, they are discovering that traditional comprehensive plans do not address the needs of today's concerns.

Today, as community health concerns increasingly center on chronic disease and safety, public health specialists have reintroduced how the built environment (roads, buildings, sidewalks, etc.) affects public health. Cities have made decisions regarding land use, community design, and transportation, which have affected local air quality, water quality and supply, traffic safety, physical activity, mental health, and social interactions. These decisions are linked to public health problems, including adult and childhood obesity, cancer, respiratory problems, and inactivity. Cities across the nation are recognizing the correlation with the built environment and public health and have begun to address these needs in their comprehensive planning efforts. For example, the City of Fort Worth has recently launched the Blue Zones Project, a healthy-city initiative based on making good health choices available to residents. Initiatives in this project include constructing complete streets (streets for walking, biking, and automobile use), expanding the city's trails, adding new amenities such as shaded trees and water fountains, and expanding wellness programs to businesses to encourage healthy living. This effort is not to enforce a healthy lifestyle, but to provide education regarding the best practices for healthy living.

At the April 21st work session, the Environmental Health Department presented figures related to Plano's health. America's Health Rankings recently named Texas the 36th healthiest state in America. Texas ranked 35th overall for diabetes and 32th in obesity. Though Texas ranks in the lower half of health rankings, Collin County ranked third healthiest county in Texas. However, there are still significant health issues among the county. These include:

- Over 48,000 Plano adults are obese (18%);
- 19,000 adults have been diagnosed with diabetes (7%);
- 63,000 Plano citizens have high cholesterol (24%);
- 60,000 have high blood pressure (23%); and
- cardiovascular disease kills 500 Plano citizens annually.

The City of Plano has multiple opportunities to address these health issues occurring today. For example, the parks, recreation facilities, and trails contribute to quality of life through preservation of health. Recreation facilities, park land, and trails provide Plano residents an opportunity to embrace a healthier lifestyle through engaging in physical activities and exercise. In addition, several businesses and entities, such as Plano ISD and the City of Plano, currently provide a wellness program for its employees to assist with health assessments and education. Though the city hasn't previously addressed citizen well-being in the Comprehensive Plan, the city's Environmental Health Department has contributed to the health of Plano's citizens by managing animal control, disease control, food safety, hazardous materials, mosquito control, sewer systems, smoking ordinance information, public health education, swimming pools, and the stormwater program.

1. **Recommended policy - Plano will make active living and citizen well-being a priority.**

Pro – By improving and expanding active living infrastructure (trails, sidewalks, parks) and recreational facilities, the city can assist in addressing the health issues of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

Con – Additional costs will be required in order to construct active living infrastructure.

2. Plano will incrementally improve active living and citizen well-being infrastructure.

Pro – It is more cost efficient to only expand or enhance active living infrastructure that has aged or is part of a bigger project (road reconstruction, new building construction). Though active living infrastructure wouldn't be a priority, it would still be considered as infrastructure is expanded or replaced. These improvements will still address common health issues.

Con – By only constructing incremental active living infrastructure improvements, the city is not proactively addressing common health issues. In addition, improvements may not be able to keep up with the demand as population and health issues increase.

3. Plano will not consider additional active living and citizen well-being improvements or programs.

Pro –Existing facilities and programs would be updated as needed and would still provide fitness and health programs. There would be no additional costs for promoting active living and citizen well-being or providing active living infrastructure.

Con – If the city does not acknowledge that active living and citizen well-being is a concern, the city may see an increase in obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. In addition, without growing the active living infrastructure, existing infrastructure could become overcrowded due to the increased population.

LIBRARIES

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- Provide a full array of quality library services ranging from audio, books and periodicals distribution to research and technology services in conveniently located facilities across the city.
- Provide high quality library services to the residential and business communities of Plano.

Plano Public Library System includes five libraries with over 800,000 books in circulation. Last year, the libraries recorded an increase in building gate count (1.5 million) and online remote access traffic count (1.1 million). In addition, over 3.8 million items were checked out in the libraries last year. Libraries today serve a new role in Plano, as community hubs with educational opportunities, entertainment, and space for community gatherings. Libraries now offer programs such as: hands-on science and robotics, computer programming, SAT practice and tutorial classes, technology training, parenting workshops, job skill seminars, small business help, and more. Nearly 105,000 patrons attended a program or class last year. All library programs and services are offered free to the public, including computers and Wi-Fi, enabling the entire community, regardless of economic status to participate, learn, and connect.

As of March, 2014, Plano Public Library System's patron registration count was 193,762, which includes patrons in Plano and the surrounding cities of Allen, Frisco, Garland, McKinney, Richardson, The Colony, and Wylie. Reciprocal agreements with those cities allow residents to use Plano libraries without a fee. In return, Plano residents do not pay a fee to use the libraries in those cities. There are currently 28,831 library patrons residing in one of the seven reciprocating cities, with 6,457 living in Allen and 6,022 living in Frisco, both of which have only one municipal library. There are also 19,134 patrons who have paid for a non-resident card (\$50 annually) which is available to citizens living outside of Plano and the reciprocal cities. Because the five Plano libraries are heavily used, space availability is often an issue for patrons. The libraries have begun charging for meeting rooms to control the demand for space. If other surrounding cities do not invest in their library systems, space availability will continue to be a challenge for Plano.

Plano Public Library System has been one of the leading departments in the city in terms of technology. New technology allowed for staff downsizing during the recession while increasing the hours of operation at all five libraries. Self-check-out machines and radio frequency identification (RFID) sorters have played a big part in the efficiency of the department. This has allowed technology to replace repetitive daily duties and staff to become more interactive with the public. In addition, the library has a mobile app, offers text and email messaging for patron notifications, and utilizes multiple social media outlets to communicate and promote services. Technology is constantly changing and new tools and software are requested by patrons and students. A digital creation space is now available at Haggard Library, which allows students to create multimedia projects. As a community hub, it will be important for the library to maintain its technological edge to continue to provide innovative services to the public.

The future is unclear about the role libraries will have in communities. As technology advances and online resources become more accessible, some cities may question the fate of libraries. Earlier this year, San Antonio launched the nation's first all-digital, book free library. However, trends in Plano still illustrate a demand for both print and online material, with both circulation and remote access increasing over the past 10 years. Plano has also invested in eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, and other online resources that are compatible with iPads, Kindles, Nooks, and other mobile devices. Program and class attendance has also increased, illustrating that today's library is more than just books; it's a community place that provides an interactive human element where people can meet, learn, get help, discuss, be entertained, and improve their quality of life.

Options for Consideration

1. Plano will retrofit existing libraries for new online services and technology.

Pro –Plano would continue to provide in-person services based on demand. Retrofitting existing libraries may be more cost efficient than adding new libraries or expanding existing libraries.

Con – With the projected regional increase and the rising library patrons in neighboring cities, Plano may need to expand existing libraries or build new libraries to accommodate the population growth.

2. Plano will consider expanding the library system to include additional facilities.

Pro – As online services increase and the need for inventory space decreases, smaller digitally focused libraries may need to be provided to meet a bigger demand for the future. By adding additional facilities, more residents would have library access within walking distance. In addition, library coverage will be expanded to accommodate the region's projected growth.

Con – By constructing smaller digitally focused libraries, the city would be discontinuing services in these new areas that are greatly used by residents today. A gate count of 1.5 million last year indicates that citizens utilize the in-person library programs and facilities. In addition, there would be additional costs to expand the library system.

Options Continued on Next Page

3. Plano will enhance and expand existing facilities, as appropriate, to accommodate additional community needs and new technology trends.

Pro – Libraries would serve as community hubs for education, information, and interaction that improve the quality of life for Plano citizens. New technology and programs provided at the libraries will assist the city in positioning itself as innovative and responsive to citizens.

Con – There will be additional costs associated with facility enhancements/ expansions. In addition, Plano may need to build new libraries in growing areas to accommodate the population growth.

4. **Recommended policy (combination of options 1, 2, and 3) - Plano will enhance and expand existing library services, as appropriate, to accommodate additional community needs and new technology trends. Plano will pursue new library concepts including, but not limited to, mobile facilities, joint use facilities, and new building facilities.**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Current Comprehensive Plan Strategies

- Consider the possibility of sharing facilities in areas of the City going through the cycle of fewer numbers of school children.
- Involve the Independent School Districts (ISDs) and Collin County Community College District (CCCCD) in the discussion of urban issues that could impact the delivery of educational services.
- Share information regarding development and demographics with the ISDs and CCCCCD.
- Maintain a close relationship between the City of Plano, the ISDs serving City residents and CCCCCD.
- Provide educational services that identify and respond to changing demographics of the City.
- Continue to provide a wide range of opportunities for the pursuit of education through the school districts, colleges and other educational service providers.
- Create a process for linking job requirements with educational providers through coordinated efforts of the Plano Economic Development Board, Collin County.

Plano Tomorrow Regionalism P&Z Direction from March 3rd Work Session

Plano will assist UT-Dallas with obtaining Tier I status through funding and providing opportunities for research activities. Plano will partner with local school districts to sponsor youth city council, mentoring programs and support for civic government course work.

Plano Tomorrow Economy P&Z Direction from April 7th Work Session

Plano will serve as a liaison between the business community and education service providers. The city will facilitate discussions and assist with the development of solutions to ensure residents have the job skills necessary to compete in the market place.

The City of Plano is served by three independent school districts: Plano ISD, Frisco ISD, and Lewisville ISD; however, Plano is primarily served by Plano ISD. Plano ISD has over 55,000 students and employs approximately 6,400 faculty members throughout 65 schools and 3 special and early education centers. A major factor in the consideration of a community for potential residential and business locations is the quality of educational opportunities provided to the residents. Education has always been an important component of the culture and expectations of the citizens of Plano. The quality educational opportunities found within the city have attracted many new businesses and residents for years.

Though the school districts are separate government entities, it is important to have a strong relationship between the districts and the city. The city meets with district representatives each year to review demographic information so that the agencies can have tools necessary to deliver services for the community. The City of Plano also notifies the school districts regarding

public hearings so that the school districts can evaluate the demand that a new housing product would have on the schools and provide their recommendation to the City Council.

It is challenging to vision the effects that Plano's demographics will have on the education system. Family sizes and number of households with children are reducing in Plano while the citywide median age continues to increase. These trends indicate that the number of students may begin to decrease, which affects facilities, educators, programs, and services. However, densification is occurring in Downtown and Legacy and may also occur in other specific areas as regional population increases. There are also a growing number of multi-generational homes nationwide which could consist of two or more families living in one home. Schools could see an increase in student population from these trends, which would put a greater demand on services, educators, programs, and services. Because it is unclear how Plano's changing demographics will affect the school system, it will be important for the three school districts and the city to work closely together in the future.

Higher Education

There are numerous private and public, two-year and four-year campuses available for higher education near Plano. However, the focus of the higher education topic will focus on the colleges located within Plano. Collin College has two of its six campuses located in the City of Plano and Southern Methodist University has an extension campus in the Legacy area in the northwest section of the city.

The Collin College District offers over 100 degree and certificate programs including senior classes and activities at reduced rates. These degree programs are offered at seven different campuses, including two in Plano. The Collin College Spring Creek Campus is the largest of the district's seven campuses and primarily offers associate degree programs. Spring Creek's core offerings include classes in fine arts, communications and humanities, business and computer science, mathematics and natural sciences, and the social sciences. The facility houses the Honors Institute, the 3,300 square-foot arts gallery, the 356-seat theatre as well as science labs, a state-of-the-art dance studio, general-purpose classrooms and a training/conference center. The Collin College Courtyard Center is another campus of the Collin College system and offers the continuing education and workforce development division. As online degree programs have become more popular due to the accessibility, Collin College has evaluated the necessity for additional classroom space at its facilities. In the fall of 2013, the Collin College District had 21,843 daytime students, 9,359 evening students, and 6,073 distance education students. If the distance education students were considered a campus, it would be the third largest enrolled campus behind the Spring Creek Campus in Plano (13,267 students) and Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco (8,377 students).

SMU in Plano is an institution dedicated to providing continuing educational opportunities to professionals and also provides conference services and facilities for the firms located in the Legacy area. Students can pursue academic degree programs affiliated with SMU's Edwin C. Cox School of Business. This program at SMU in Plano offers a Masters of Business Administration as well as courses for executive and management development. SMU in Plano

enrolls over 900 adults in professional development programs and in the summer, the campus has nearly 2,000 children participating in programs designed to enhance academic skills.

On April 7th, as part of the economy discussion, the Commission discussed workforce training and recommended the following policy: *“Plano will serve as a liaison between the business community and education service providers. The city will facilitate discussions and assist with the development of solutions to ensure residents have the job skills necessary to compete in the market place.”*

Options for Consideration

1. **Recommended policy** - **The city, school districts, and colleges will meet regularly and increase cooperation.**

Pro – By meeting regularly, all entities would be able to identify any changing trends or challenges in the city, schools, and higher education and work together to identify solutions. The entities could also actively seek opportunities to expand or consolidate programs and facilities.

Con –There would be additional resources needed to conduct meetings on a regular basis.

2. The city, school districts, and colleges will meet annually to discuss changing trends and challenges.

Pro – By having annual meetings, important information would still be shared among all entities. In addition, the sharing of information could still assist in identifying solutions for any changing trends or challenges. The city would continue to notify the educational institutions of major development issues and trends that affect the agencies.

Con –If all entities are only meeting once a year, it would be difficult to make any changes that would be necessary during the course of the year. In addition, by working independently, there may be some program overlap between the entities.

3. The city will take an individual leadership role for educational advancement.

Pro – The city could provide more educational opportunities (training, mentorship opportunities, etc.) which could assist in addressing social and educational issues.

Con – By working separately from the educational institutions, there may be some program overlap between the entities. In addition, there may be additional resources needed to create city-initiated programs.