

City of Topeka Strategic Plan Workshop

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

February 15, 2023

Classroom A; LEC: 320 S. Kansas Ave Ste 100

Workshop Goals

1. Strengthen the governing body relationships
2. Review progress over the course of the last two years
3. Agree to the outcomes (or conditions of well-being) it hopes for the Topeka community

Workshop Norms

- Listen with respect
 - Let others finish before you start talking
 - Be attentive to the speaker
 - Disagree agreeably
- Be positive, candid, patient and fully present
- Look for opportunities to agree
- Strive for consensus
- Practice “yes, and” rather than “yes/no, but”

Introductions

City Manager Steve Wade will provide an overview of the strategic planning process taking place over the next several weeks – each step and ultimately how it will be used going forward.

Opening Statements

Mayor, City Council and Staff: Please come prepared to share an “opening statement” that includes the following:

Longer-Tenured Officials

- I ran for office because...
- What I hope for our community is...

Newly Elected Officials

- I ran for office to...
- What I hope for our community is...

Staff:

- I chose a career in public service because...
- What I hope for our community is...

Environmental Scan

Over the course of the last two or so years, there has been significant community discussion regarding the Topeka community’s future. This has included the City’s citizen engagement process in early 2022; Shawnee County 2038; and Go Topeka’s Momentum 2027. City staff will provide an update regarding community progress.

Building a Better Topeka

Before the priorities are established and resources allocated, the governing body’s desired outcomes must not only be established, but also defined.

KU Public Management Center staff will provide a summary of discussions conducted with governing body members last month to ascertain what it is most proud of, where it wishes more progress was made, and, ultimately, what its wants for the community. Following that, each governing body member will share what it hopes for the Topeka community.