Community, Culture and Heritage Comment Summary

Introduction

In the spring of 2018, the City of Sherwood launched the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, a city-wide community engagement process that outlines a desired future for the Sherwood community in the year 2040. As part of the community-wide 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, the Sherwood community developed a vision and three goal statements for the creation of a strong sense of community, culture and heritage in Sherwood's future. In 2019, the City launched the Comprehensive Planning Process to develop draft goals for the Comprehensive Plan. The City conducted outreach at local arts and community events to help develop policies and objectives to reach these goals. On October 23, 2019 the City of Sherwood launched a community-wide survey to gather residents' feedback on these policies and objectives.

Key Takeaways

The following key takeaways were observed from the survey results:

- The majority of respondents think that all of the policies presented were Somewhat or Very Important. Respondents think Policies 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 are the most important and think that Policies 1.1 and 3.1 are slightly less important.
- Respondents place great importance in Sherwood's sense of community and expressed a strong desire to maintain this community feel even as Sherwood grows. They expressed support for policies that would achieve this.
- While most respondents supported these policies, the main reasons for opposition to these policies were:
  - Opposition to increased taxes
  - The belief that the government should focus on basic services like transportation and housing
  - The idea that it is not the government's role to get involved with culture and community

Survey Summary

The Community, Culture and Heritage Survey asked community members to share their opinions on five policies to be included in the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. For each policy, respondents were asked to rate the importance of the policy, share open-ended comments on the policy and rate the importance of several objectives related to each policy. The City will use this input to guide its vision and goals for a strong community, culture and heritage.
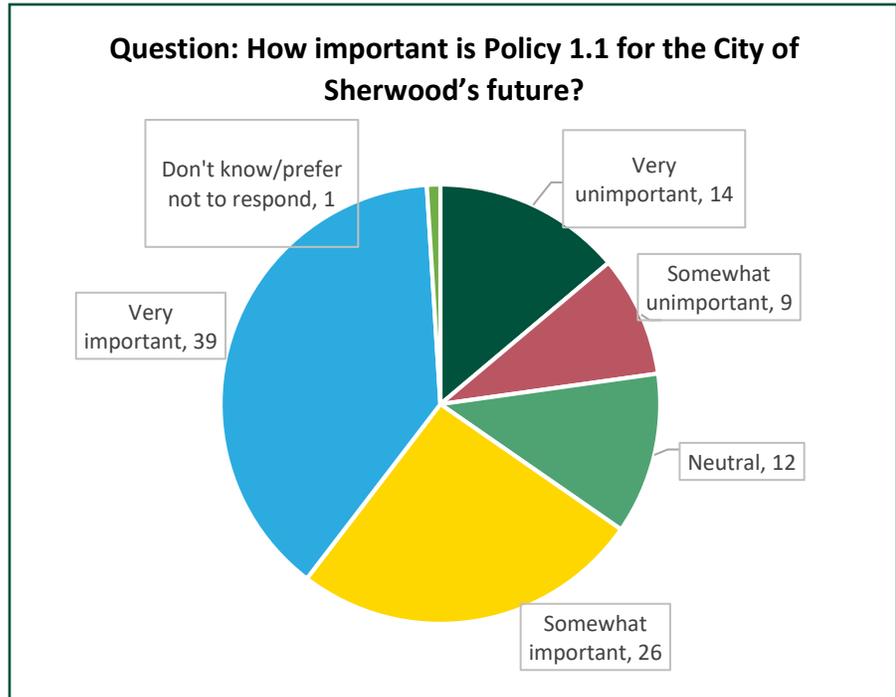
The survey was available between **October 23 and November 8**. In this timeframe the survey received **104 responses**. The results of this survey are not statistically representative, meaning the respondent sample is not predictive of the opinions of the Sherwood community. This report summarizes the comments collected from community members using the survey

Summary of Responses

Policy 1.1 - Practice collaborative community engagement to reach a representative cross-section of the community.

Themes of Open-Ended Comments Related to Policy 1.1

- There is a strong desire to get a diversity of opinions through engagement
- There is a desire for all community members (and not just politicians or the wealthy) to have a say in what happens in their community
- Some respondents think that the policy statement is vague or unclear and were not sure what it meant

Question: How important is Policy 1.1 for the City of Sherwood's future?

Don't know/prefer not to respond, 1
Very unimportant, 14
Somewhat unimportant, 9
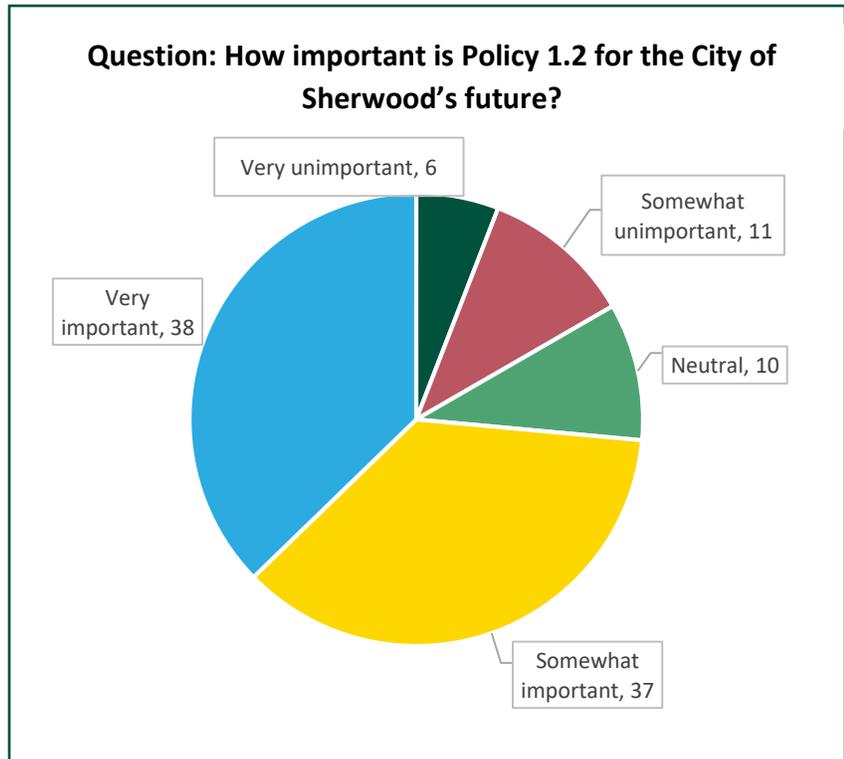Neutral, 12
Somewhat important, 26
Very important, 39

Question: The following objectives relate to Policy 1.1. Please share how important you think each objective is for the City of Sherwood's future.

	Don't know/prefer not to respond	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Responses
Objective 1.1.1: Maintain a Public Involvement Program (PIP) that outlines how staff will plan, implement and evaluate public involvement activities within the context of planning projects. Count Row %	0 0.0%	7 7.0%	5 5.0%	7 7.0%	34 34.0%	47 47.0%	100
Objective 1.1.2: Ensure the Planning Commission meets annually as the Committee for Community Involvement to review and make recommendations to improve public involvement efforts. Count Row %	0 0.0%	6 6.0%	5 5.0%	13 13.0%	24 24.0%	52 52.0%	100
Objective 1.1.3: Provide information to the public in a variety of accessible and easy to understand formats, including multiple languages where appropriate. Count Row %	0 0.0%	7 7.0%	4 4.0%	8 8.0%	25 25.0%	56 56.0%	100
Objective 1.1.4: Develop strategies to facilitate meaningful participation from the City's diverse communities and address participatory barriers such as language, time, location and level of involvement. Count Row %	0 0.0%	14 14.0%	6 6.0%	17 17.0%	19 19.0%	44 44.0%	100
Objective 1.1.5: Create opportunities for youth and seniors to be engaged in civic affairs and public decision-making processes through advisory boards, commissions and other activities. Count Row %	0 0.0%	8 8.0%	6 6.0%	20 20.0%	26 26.0%	40 40.0%	100
Totals Total Responses							100

Policy 1.2 - Preserve and enhance distinctive historic and cultural features to create a sense of place and reflect Sherwood's heritage.

Themes of Open-Ended Comments Related to Policy 1.2

- Many respondents think it is important to maintain the small town feel of Sherwood. That is one of the reasons people like living in Sherwood
- Some agree that it is important to preserve historical and cultural features but did not want this to come at the expense of:
  - Increased taxes
  - The exclusion of minority groups or increased diversity
  - Innovation and progress that will benefit the city and its residents
- Some think Sherwood is currently achieving the goals of this policy, while others think that Sherwood's current development pattern is undermining these goals

Question: How important is Policy 1.2 for the City of Sherwood's future?

Very unimportant, 6
Somewhat unimportant, 11
Neutral, 10
Very important, 38
Somewhat important, 37

Question: The following objectives relate to Policy 1.2. Please share how important you think each objective is for the City of Sherwood's future.
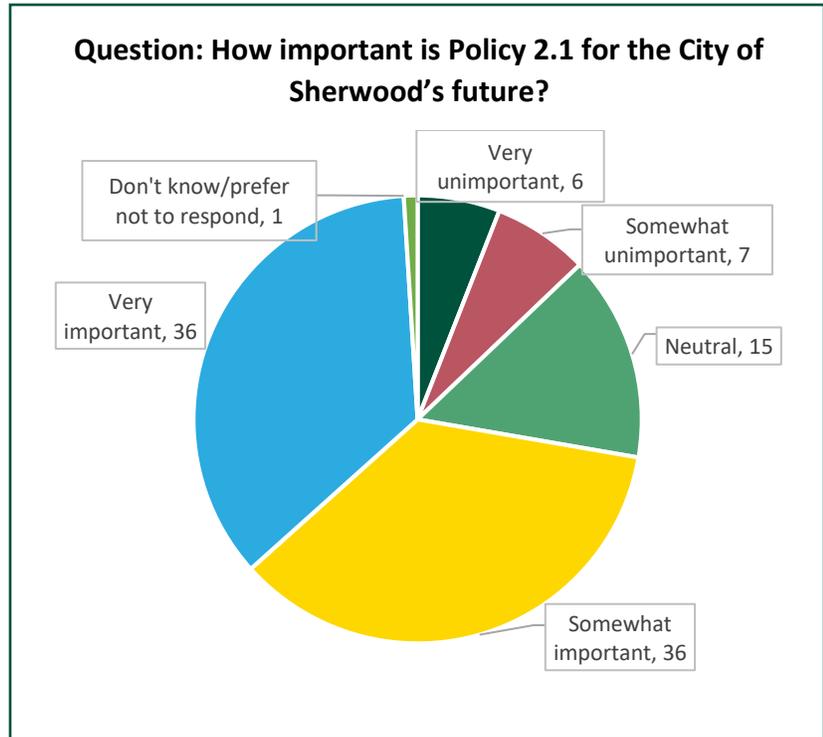
	Don't know/prefer not to respond	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Responses
Objective 1.2.1: Update the 1989 Cultural and Historic Resources Survey to determine which designated landmarks should be covered by the Sherwood landmark protection standard in the code. Count Row %	2 2.0%	7 6.9%	3 2.9%	20 19.6%	36 35.3%	34 33.3%	102
Objective 1.2.2: Review and update design and development standards of the Old Town Overlay zone. Count Row %	3 2.9%	2 2.0%	4 3.9%	21 20.6%	32 31.4%	40 39.2%	102
Objective 1.2.3: Identify and codify key elements of the development code that contribute to Sherwood's heritage. Count Row %	2 2.0%	6 5.9%	8 7.9%	20 19.8%	37 36.6%	28 27.7%	101
Objective 1.2.4: Promote adaptation and reuse of historic buildings to encourage preservation. Count Row %	0 0.0%	4 3.9%	8 7.8%	11 10.8%	30 29.4%	49 48.0%	102
Objective 1.2.5: Promote Sherwood's cultural events, activities and festivals. Count Row %	0 0.0%	7 6.9%	5 4.9%	5 4.9%	27 26.5%	58 56.9%	102
Totals Total Responses							102

Policy 2.1 - Uphold traditional methods of involvement while embracing emerging technologies to extend participation and engagement.

Themes of Open-Ended Comments Related to Policy 2.1

- Respondents think it is important to embrace technology in engagement because that will help improve participation and make engagement more inclusive
- Respondents think the City should continue to use traditional methods to reach older populations or people who have limited access to technology

Question: The following objectives relate to Policy 2.1. Please share how important you think each objective is for the City of Sherwood's future.
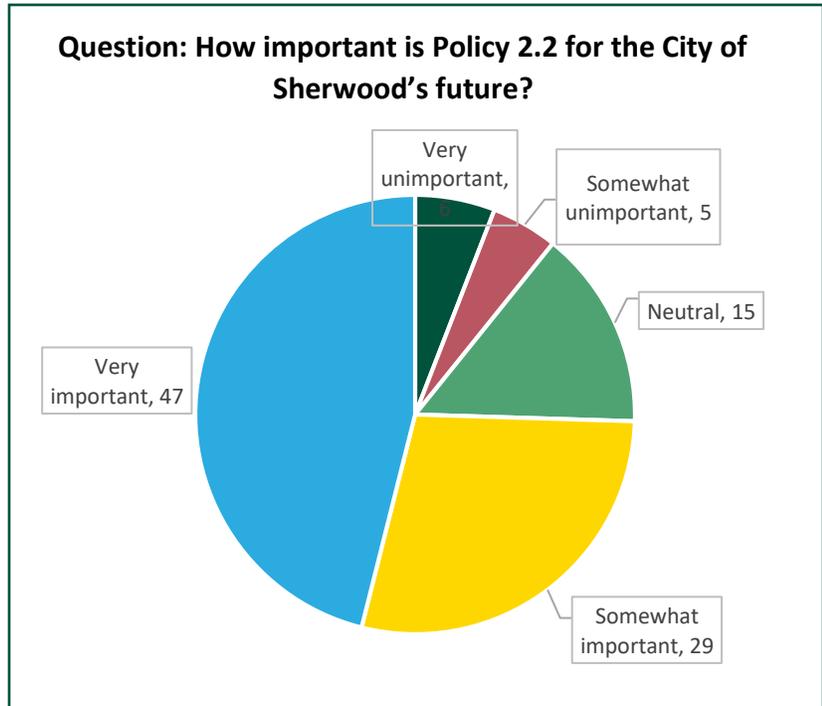
Question: How important is Policy 2.1 for the City of Sherwood's future?

Pie chart data:
- Very unimportant, 6
- Somewhat unimportant, 7
- Neutral, 15
- Somewhat important, 36
- Very important, 36
- Don't know/prefer not to respond, 1

	Don't know/prefer not to respond	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Responses
Objective 2.1.1: Maintain effective traditional methods and channels of engagement so they remain accessible. Count Row %	0 0.0%	3 3.0%	7 6.9%	16 15.8%	38 37.6%	37 36.6%	101
Objective 2.1.2: Improve the City's website interface and platform for better ease of access to information, services, news, records, maps and databases. Count Row %	1 1.0%	2 2.0%	2 2.0%	8 7.8%	33 32.4%	56 54.9%	102
Objective 2.1.3: Work in partnership with groups and organizations to create a clearinghouse of resources and information about events, activities and services across the City. Count Row %	0 0.0%	5 4.9%	5 4.9%	20 19.6%	33 32.4%	39 38.2%	102
Objective 2.1.4: Utilize current and emerging technologies for interactive participation in all phases of the planning process. Count Row %	0 0.0%	2 2.0%	6 6.0%	12 12.0%	36 36.0%	44 44.0%	100
Totals Total Responses							102

Policy 2.2 - Promote a sense of community and culture of service.

Themes of Open-Ended Comments Related to Policy 2.2

- Respondents think this policy is important for several reasons including:
  - Promoting community helps keep residents engaged and connected to each other
  - Promoting a culture of service helps residents in need and improves inclusivity
  - People move to Sherwood specifically for the sense of community that it has
  - A sense of community makes the city safer and more enjoyable to live in
  - As the city grows, it will be challenging to keep its existing sense of community without actively working towards doing so

Question: How important is Policy 2.2 for the City of Sherwood's future?

Very unimportant, 6
Somewhat unimportant, 5
Neutral, 15
Somewhat important, 29
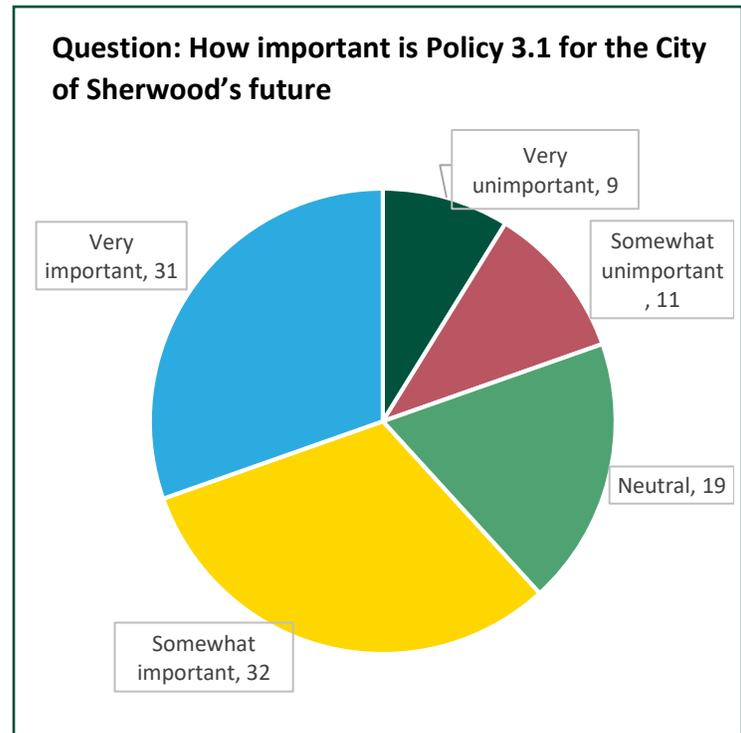Very important, 47

Question: The following objectives relate to Policy 2.2. Please share how important you think each objective is for the City of Sherwood's future.

	Don't know/prefer not to respond	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Responses
Objective 2.2.1: Maintain the City's ability to coordinate and connect different service and volunteer-based organizations, clubs and groups with Sherwood residents. Count Row %	0 0.0%	5 5.0%	4 4.0%	10 9.9%	37 36.6%	45 44.6%	101
Objective 2.2.2: Expand and promote City-wide volunteer opportunities to build stewardship and community pride. Count Row %	0 0.0%	6 5.9%	4 4.0%	13 12.9%	29 28.7%	49 48.5%	101
Objective 2.2.3: Promote community educational opportunities to increase understanding, engagement and service among residents for city planning and public decision-making purposes. Count Row %	0 0.0%	5 5.0%	4 4.0%	15 15.0%	34 34.0%	42 42.0%	100
Totals Total Responses							101

Themes of Open-Ended Comments Related to Policy 3.1

- Many respondents think it is important for the city to support the development of these spaces because these spaces:
  - Can build community
  - Can increase diversity and inclusiveness in the community
  - Can retain educated and civically engaged residents
- Some respondents do not think it is important to support the development of these spaces because:
  - The city should focus on more pressing needs like transportation and housing
  - These spaces are a waste of taxpayer money
  - They do not trust the government to accomplish this successfully
  - This is not the government's role
  - Only a small group of Sherwood residents actually want these spaces
- Some respondents think the development of these spaces is important but thought that:
  - The private sector is more equipped to develop these spaces
  - This development should not come at the expense of open space

Question: How important is Policy 3.1 for the City of Sherwood's future

Very unimportant, 9

Somewhat unimportant, 11

Neutral, 19

Very important, 31

Somewhat important, 32

Question: The following objectives relate to Policy 3.1. Please share how important you think each objective is for the City of Sherwood's future.

	Don't know/prefer not to respond	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Responses
Objective 3.1.1: Support key facilities such as the Sherwood library, performing arts and senior centers to maintain value and access for all members of the community and remain integral to the community's resources. Count Row %	0 0.0%	6 5.9%	6 5.9%	12 11.9%	22 21.8%	55 54.5%	101
Objective 3.1.2: Coordinate with school districts on acquisition, siting, facility planning and development of facilities. Count Row %	0 0.0%	5 5.0%	6 6.0%	16 16.0%	27 27.0%	46 46.0%	100
Objective 3.1.3: Support the development of a public art program that invests in community-driven art projects and enriches the public realm for the benefit and enjoyment of the community. Count Row %	0 0.0%	14 13.9%	11 10.9%	19 18.8%	29 28.7%	28 27.7%	101
Objective 3.1.4: Collaborate with public and private partners to expand community gathering spaces and multi-purpose venues across Sherwood to help meet civic, institutional, arts and cultural use needs. Count Row %	0 0.0%	8 7.9%	10 9.9%	14 13.9%	28 27.7%	41 40.6%	101
Totals Total Responses							101

Additional Comments

Question: Do you have any additional questions or comments related to the Comprehensive Plan update for Community, Culture and Heritage?

Themes of Open-Ended Comments

- Some residents want the City to focus on reducing taxes and costs to Sherwood residents by:
  - Maintaining current amenities and programs, but not creating new ones
  - Focusing government spending on traffic, water and other basic services
- Some residents are grateful for the opportunity to share input on Sherwood's future
- Some residents want all community voices to have influence on Sherwood's future and felt that:
  - Special interests and corporations should not shape Sherwood's future
  - Current programs and development are made for rich Sherwood residents, not less wealthy residents
  - The majority of residents should influence development rather than only small and loud community groups