List of Likely Topics and Their Likely Order for
The Free Management Library’s Blog: Strategic Planning

PART I: UNDERSTANDING STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning
What Is Strategic Planning?
What Is “Strategic”?
All Else Flows from Strategic Planning
Major Benefits of Strategic Planning

Conducting Strategic Planning
Strategic Planning Framework
Traits of Any Strategic Planning Process
What Strategic Planning Will Not Do For You
Myths About Strategic Planning
Three Criteria for Effective Strategic Planning and Plans
When Should Regular Strategic Planning Occur?
Strategic Management: Strategic Planning Never “Done”
How Much Will Strategic Planning Cost?
To Learn More About Strategic Planning

PART II: RELEVANT, REALISTIC AND FLEXIBLE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Phase 1: Design Plan for Plan
Ready for Strategic Planning?
Organize Planning Committee?
Why Do Strategic Planning Now?
What Is Organizational Scope of Plan?
What Strategic Planning Approach Might Be Used?
How Might Strategic Planning Approach Be Followed?
What Is Time Span for Plan?
What Is Schedule for Developing Plan?
Who Will Be Involved? How? When?
Need Outside Help? How? When? How To Get It?
What Materials Are Needed? When? How To Get Them?
Conventions for Terms
Provide Planning Guide to Planners?
Develop Profile of Organization
How Will You Get “Buy In” When Announcing Process?
How Will Planners Be Trained About Strategic Planning?

Phase 2: Conduct Situational Analysis
Mission Statement or Situational Analysis First?
Analyze External Environment – What We Cannot Control
Analyze Internal Environment – What We Can Control
Identify Strategic Issues or Establish Goals?

Phase 3: Establish Strategic Direction
Mission, Vision and Values Statements
Ensure Strategic Thinking for Goals and Strategies
Establish Goals Now?
Identify Strategies (Tools to Identify Strategies)

**Phase 4: Develop Action and Financial Plans**
Develop Action Plans
Finalize Action Plans – Integration and Reality Check
Develop Performance Plans
Develop Staffing Plan
Develop Other Associated Plans?
Develop Operating Budget

**Phase 5: Develop Strategic Plan Document**
Draft Strategic Plan Document
Coordinate Reviews and Approval of Document
Distribute and Communicate Strategic Plan
Celebrate Completion of Plan

**Phase 6: Monitor Implementation and Adjust Plans**
Monitor Implementation of Plans
Leadership, Supervision and Delegation
Specific Approaches To Ensure Implementation of Plans
Specific Tools To Track Status and Who Should Use Them
Adjust Plans As Needed

**PART III: FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE FACILITATION**

**Getting Started As Facilitator**
Crossroads: Read About Planning and Organizations First?
Understand What Strategic Planning Facilitator Does
Understand Yourself As Facilitator
Learn to Work with Diversity
Develop Contract With Organization?
Understand Planners’ Organization
Clarify Expectations Between You and Planners
Establish Criteria to Evaluate Planning Effort

**Common Techniques in Facilitation**
Overview of Common Techniques and Their Applications
Procedures for Common Techniques in Facilitation

**Challenges in Facilitating Strategic Planning**
What if Board Is Not Ready for Planning?
How To Enhance Group Participation
How To Manage Group Conflict and Come to Decisions
How Do We Get Unstuck?
How Do We Deal With Resistance?