



Steering Committee Meeting #8 Notes

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Notes **From 16 April 2008**

The following notes are a summary of the discussion and directions from Steering Committee Meeting #8 discussing the preliminary draft chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

The consultant asked each member to list the one item or idea that has been identified in the Comprehensive Plan thus far that they consider to be “right on the mark” and two items that they feel are “missed opportunities” because they are either not in the plan or are in the plan but not adequately emphasized.

The following summary represents the responses in regular text. Following the response is the discussion/direction in *red italics text*.

Right on the mark

- Strategic plan with measurable goals
- Central Greenway and Front Boulevard Concept (3 responses)—*need to make sure we establish action steps that are realistic in achieving this idea*
- Eco-Village
- Downtown
- Southwest Greensward (3 responses)
- Defining edges
- Parks and pathways
- Lakes theme
- Attention to the environment

Missed opportunities

- Lack of public involvement – media attention (2 responses)
- Chance to celebrate an inclusive process
- Railroad (switching yards) relocation...railroad corridor cuts the city (2 responses)—*need to add a policy about exploring relocation of yards—add an implementation action strategy to actively explore relocation by finding way to meet their needs better than what current site does.*
- Water recreation opportunities—*policy direction to support programs and uses as related to public access and economic development...use pictures and captions in the plan.*

Meeting Notes

A complete revision of the Comprehensive Plan

Albert Lea, Minnesota



- ❑ Lakes as a feeder to downtown
- ❑ “change on our terms”—catalyst needed to set wheels in motion—
implementation strategy can address this
- ❑ No focus on Downtown (2 responses)—*an implementation strategy will focus on outlining a strategic action planning process for downtown*
- ❑ Greater sense of “arrival”—*wayfinding and gateway treatments could be emphasized as an implementation strategy. (see text from PC Member)*
- ❑ Clean up existing property (compliance with ordinances)
- ❑ Visibility from Clover Leaf – use of the NE Quadrant of the City—comment is as much about identity and image as it is about economic development opportunity (3 responses)—*emphasize the land area inventory, land supply and demand, barriers to new development and establish a policy or implementation initiatives/tools that help monitor the need to expand the boundaries*
- ❑ Relationship with County and Townships—*implementation strategy*
- ❑ Financing infrastructure needs and vision—*establish a financial tool bag as an implementation tool*
- ❑ Attracting big name retail
- ❑ Capitalizing on existing development opportunities vs extending edges—
emphasize sustainability and guiding principles
- ❑ Alternative transportation modes—*explore idea but not at cost of safety*
- ❑ Farmland foods site importance—*implementation strategy—what are the actions we need to take to make something (the right thing) happen*
- ❑ Maximize diversity (2 responses)
- ❑ Absolute growth boundary—*implementation strategy*
- ❑ Community gathering area (central park concept) (2 responses)—*park master planning – identify the idea and explore what it could be but the park master plan can flush out the details*
- ❑ Where does industrial growth happen
- ❑ Dream big – but overlooking reality (financial and market)

We also discussed a strategy for public process. The next public meeting will include a presentation of the plan concepts, followed by an informal open house viewing and discussion.

The PC will soon thereafter conduct a public hearing to announce the plans completion in draft form and commence an outreach campaign to “get the word out” and review the plan with a goal of 600 to 1,000 people reviewing the plan.

Staff will provide presentation materials (15 minute powerpoint presentation) and tools that facilitate a review (forms/worksheet) for steering committee members to help in seeking feedback.

Staff will set up a sheet that assigns members to various groups and will conduct follow up as needed.

The next steering committee meeting was discussed as occurring on Monday May 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 to provide an overview of the final plan elements and a sneak peak at the presentation for the public meeting. The public meeting would then be held on Tuesday May 20 from 6:00 to 8:30. Wendy will confirm meeting location for the next steering committee meeting.

The Meeting was Adjourned.