

EAST RANGE 4-COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY #1.



Date: June 2, 2016
Location: Aurora, MN City Hall

Meeting Chair: Bob Kost, SEH

Summary by: Bob Kost

Present: Bob Kost, SEH; Matt Reid, SEH, Curt Antila, ERJPO, Cherrie Grams, ERJPO, Mark Skelton, Mayor of Hoyt Lakes Becky Burich, Administrator, Hoyt Lakes, Mary Hess, Mayor of Aurora, Britt See-Benes, Administrator, Aurora, Jim Weikum, Mayor of Biwabik, Jeff Jacobson, Administrator, Biwabik, Ed Kippley, Chair of Town of White, Jodi Knaus, Town of White Clerk

Copies to: All

I. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves, stated how long they'd lived in their respective communities and offered comments regarding issues to be addressed in the comprehensive planning process:

- Town of White representatives expressed concern over their uniqueness as compared to the three cities. Their plan needs to recognize and address their large land area, more rural, residential nature.
- Concern expressed over the need for cooperation and coordination in areas of economic development, communities are competitive, yet understand it's inefficient and unrealistic to compete and secure the same potential new business.
- Each community has unique attributes that make it the most suitable for certain types of investments.
- Interested in developing an updated community vision for the next ten years.

II. Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee roles and responsibilities hand out was distributed.

III. The project schedule and work plan were reviewed. No significant comments were offered.

IV. Draft community background / overviews were presented and reviewed for significance and accuracy. It appeared that the City of Aurora's demographics were combined with the Town of White which surrounds it. This is apparently a common occurrence and consultants will fix the problem. Information was obtained through a range of publically accessible sources including the US Census. Some of the statistics presented appeared to be inaccurate. City and town clerks offered to provide updated information to the planning team in the coming week so the existing conditions assessment work can be successfully completed on time.

V. Attendees weren't prepared to offer significant information pertaining to current issues & opportunities and agreed to collect and share their thoughts and ideas fat the next meeting in late July.

VI. Draft community survey questions were distributed, reviewed and discussed. It was explained that the survey will be organized in two parts, overall east range questions and community-specific questions. Attendees were asked to review the draft questions and return their comments by no later than Thursday, June 9th. The survey will go live on the project web site Tuesday June 14th.

A set of paper surveys will be distributed to each community by the ERJPB for use by individuals with limited internet capabilities. City and town clerks agreed to code the paper survey results into the online format so the responses would be added to the overall tabulation. Copies are going to be distributed to local libraries and City Halls. A notice announcing the survey will be posted in the "Shopper" newspaper by the ERJPB.

VII. The second committee meeting will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, July 20th, 2016 at Aurora City Hall.

NOTE:

Please email Bob Kost at bkost@sehinc.com with any additions or corrections to these meeting notes.