

EAST RANGE 4 - COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY #3.



Date: October 12, 2016
Location: Aurora, MN City Hall

Meeting Chair: Bob Kost, SEH

Summary by: Bob Kost

Present: Bob Kost, SEH; Matt Reid, SEH, Sarah Sularz, SEH, Curt Antila, ERJPO, Cherrie Grams, ERJPO, Mark Skelton, Mayor of Hoyt Lakes, Linda Cazin, Interim Aurora City Clerk, 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 reintroduced themselves.

II. August community workshop input was reviewed. No additional information or comments provided.

III. Draft goals for all 8 plan elements were prepared, reviewed and discussed. These will be used to guide preparation of detailed policies.

- Policy example regarding development of an orderly annexation plan was discussed, found to be unrealistic and objectionable by committee members and requested to be eliminated from plans.
- Town of White (TOW) is an Urban Township and includes several urbanized areas with municipal sewer and water service so several goal statements need to be revised to recognize this.
- TOW includes over 100 miles of roads and they maintain these for the County and the Township.
- Aurora has been working on improving housing and this will be an ongoing initiative.
- ERJPB will provide SEH team with more detail on current land use and economic development initiatives and policies to guide policy development.
- Text was edited during the review session based on committee input and refined goals will be posted to the project web site.
- It was pointed out that there are some differences in core demographic to the business group. Plans need to be clear about land uses by region or district. Location is most important to be more clear by community. Long linear – aurora. TOW – corner by 110. Biwabik – downtown core / linear “main st.” design. Hoyt Lakes- shopping center. BK- response: Policy would support land use planning.
- When we look at Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes – potential uses on east the downtown corridors are affected, by roads and shipping trucks. As we move forward we want to make sure everyone is aware of the ramifications and if business development doesn’t happen all these things are

tangential. Trucks ware down streets and create noise. It will negatively affect livelihood and quality of life.

- Consultants asked if there some designated truck routes that can mitigate the expected increases in truck traffic from new wood processing plant and other large-scale economic development initiatives? Comp policy might include verbiage to maintain peace and tranquility in downtown by exploring additional truck routes that are not in the downtown zone.
- TOW has natural resources affected with the Mesabi Nugget.
- Obviously Hoyt Lakes has an old taconite mine, need to be cognizant of existing conditions there as well as in Biwabik.
- Hoyt Lakes feels like the Dept. of Natural Resources sees it as a national park.
- Need to handle very delicately, business and downtown greatly vary from mining industry.
- Need to be unbiased and accurate regarding mining and industry impacts on natural environment.
- Laurentian Vision – how mining companies did their post work clean up to be more usable. UMN sponsored action. This should be referenced in the plans.
- Reclamation money has been allocated for water. Money can be issue that it only happens afterwards. It would save mining companies. They are up to speed as well on newer practices.

IV. Next Steps

Consultants will prepare draft chapters with policies, distribute to committee members and return to East Range for the next committee meeting. Consultants propose to conduct 4 separate review sessions of up to 1.5 hours each, one with each community. These need to occur during the daytime hours. Community representatives will invite additional individuals including City Council and Town Board members to participate. The exact date and time will be determined over the next several weeks and meeting notices will be sent.

NOTE:

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