

2040 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2022 @ 9:30am.

Public Works Building, 1025 31st Avenue SE

Conference Room #3

Members Present: Justin Anderson, Kelly Barnett, Tim Baumann, Kevin Black, Cassidy Hjelmstad, Mark Lyman, Stephan Podrygula, John Kutch, Kevin Harmon, Kerri Zabloutney

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Brian Billingsley (Community & Economic Development Director), John Van Dyke (Principal Planner), Glenda Sorensen (Admin), Scott Harmstead (SRF Consultant), Christopher Shires (Consultant), Brekka Kramer (Odney), David Sweeney (SRF Consultant), Shane Goettle (SRF Consultant)

Guests: Jill Schramm (Government Reporter Minot Daily News)

Call to Order: Van Dyke called the meeting to order at 9:35am

Agenda:

- Website Design Review – *Minot2040* Webpage
- Park & Recreation Plan Coordination
- Recent Survey Overview, Additional Online Survey (handout)
- Refresher – The Comprehensive Plan
- Current Comprehensive Plan – “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”
- Next 3 months Detail – Focus Groups, Next Steering Committee Meeting

Website Design Preview – *Minot2040* webpage:

Brekka (Odney) gave a walk-through regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan new website, 2040minot.odney.com. The website is scheduled to be live for public outreach tentatively in February/March 2022.

Park & Recreation Plan Coordination:

Harmstead (SRF Consulting) provided a slide presentation on Park & Recreation Plan Coordination.

Recent Survey Overview, Additional Online Survey (handout):

Thoughts/Comments on this section:

- Billingsley summarized high and low responses for the group, noting that Code Enforcement and streets (surprisingly) rated on the low end.
- Brekka clarified for the committee the area that was included in the survey.
- An additional survey is scheduled to be available at the upcoming Minot Area Home & Garden Show. A survey will also be available online.
- Van Dyke suggested that the committee expand the survey to include large apartment complexes as well as a possible survey insert with the city utility bills.
- Targeted number for responses is 400.
- Define what people are coming to Minot for.
- Define what type of retail uses Minot should be looking at, i.e. north Walmart.
- Address walkability.

Refresher – The Comprehensive Plan

Van Dyke provided a handout defining what a comprehensive plan update means to a community. The committee agreed that this is a forward-looking document and will be useful as a “guiding star” for community development and improvement.

The Comprehensive Plan – “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”:

Harmstead walked the group through a PowerPoint presentation and following are the questions and comments regarding the Minot’s current Comprehensive Plan:

- **When has the plan (or elements of it) come up?**
 - Has not come up, unless talking with planning staff
 - PC - Used in rezone application review

- City Council – lack of awareness, lack of city goals, objectives...until recent planning effort. Interested in CP being part of council orientation
- Not just land use, can be applied to other departments
- Need for MSU master planning to be synced with CP
- Utilities – not aware, needs to be coordination with new growth
- Recall elements of comp plan, but not in its entirety— “what does the map show me?”
- Tool to work with school district and associated growth
- Communication is lacking – CP awareness needed
- “Master Plan” of the community
- Need strategic alignment of business/institution plans with CP
- **What has worked well/what do you like about it?**
 - Maps – item primarily used. Where are we going visually?
 - Downtown revitalization – physical and organizational
 - Planning Commission and staff are relying upon the CP
 - Conceptual greenway e/w across community – some progress made
- **What has not worked well/what do you dislike about it?**
 - Elements not applicable to Western ND/Minot area
 - Future land use map – too many amendment requests, needs to be more realistic
 - Lack of clarity on density designations on future land use map
 - Goals, etc. not specific enough to Minot
 - Needs to be responsive to demographics/human side of community (statement that the plan has to respect this). Human/social impacts of planning decisions
 - Need plan cliff notes/cheat sheet
 - What does the plan mean from a business and non-profit perspective?
 - Inability to tie goals to improvement of quality of life
 - Ties to social goals/non-profit community. How to bridge disconnect between city and non-profits? Part of quality of life equation.
- **What issues need to be addressed for this plan to be a success?**
- **In other words, what issues could derail this planning effort?**
 - Need to be aligned with city and state politics – need to prioritize communication
 - Sticking too closely to the traditional notion of infrastructure
 - Also consider arts, libraries, etc. – areas that impact quality of life, community pride
 - Change in age demographics is significant – need to do business differently
 - Be proactive in approaching changes to infrastructure
 - Don't hold back growth opportunities, how can we embrace opportunities?
 - Need to incorporate industry leaders and investment opportunities. Why is Minot an attractive place to invest?
 - Address revitalization, reinvestment in areas of need
 - Stick to our distinct factors, not “anywhereville”
 - Do our best to include everyone, make the effort to go to them, not relying upon them to come to us
- **What issues need to be addressed for this plan to be a success?**
- **In other words, what issues could derail this planning effort?**
 - Trinity vacation downtown
 - Balance of vertical & horizontal growth opportunities, following market opportunities
 - Understanding/acceptance of climate constraints on walking & biking. What are winter alternatives?
 - Landfill – what does this look like in 2040?
 - Other not-attractive uses (heavy industry) – balancing location, impacts
 - Retail use in NW Minot
 - Downtown parking garages
 - Railroad issues (QZ, Anne St. bridge, etc.). How to best live with it
 - SW/SE Bypass
 - Awareness of topographical constraints, can we embrace these?
 - Think outside of the box with critical issues
 - Start-up home affordability – retention and attraction of young families and others
- **What issues need to be addressed for this plan to be a success?**
- **In other words, what issues could derail this planning effort?**
 - What kind of jobs do we want to attract? High-paying jobs
 - Keep MAFB employees here
 - Integration of MAFB into community – supporting them. Exs: Children's Discovery Center leveraged DoD grant. All Wing commanders at tree lighting.
 - Walkability is more than just sidewalks – shade, shelter, art, etc. People want to walk, not that just need to walk
 - Recycling (landfill)

Next 3 Months Detail – Focus Groups, Next Steering Committee Meeting

Brekka (Odney) spoke about the four (4) Focus Groups, noting that more information and feedback on the focus group will be presented at the next meeting.

Each focus group has a city council member as a member.

1. Economic Development
2. Land Use
3. Housing & Community Character
4. Public Service & Parks

The next meeting (Meeting #3) is scheduled for March/April 2022 (no definite date). The committee will be looking at the city satisfaction survey previously sent out by the City Manager's office.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.