

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
September 6, 2007
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Shady Oak Room
Minnetonka Community Center, Upper Level**

Steering Committee: Sue Sjeklocha	David Nichols
John Cheleen	Jim Couling
Blaine Waters	Janet Dupre
Terri Yearwood	Bob Walker
Chris Meehan	Gauri Subramani

Project Manager: Ann Perry, Resource Strategies Corporation

City Staff: Geralyn Barone	Julie Wischnack	Ron Rankin
Elise Durbin	Lee Gustafson	Steve Lillehaug
Susan Thomas	Jo Colleran	Josh Metzger
Jeff Thomson	Dave Johnson	Stephanie Scott-Sims

1. Introduction and Welcome.

Acting Chair Sue Sjeklocha welcomed the group. Introductions were done.

2. Accept July 19 Meeting Summary.

The committee accepted the meeting summary.

3. Feedback from July 19, 2007 Steering Committee Meeting.

Perry reminded the group the September 20 meeting will be held at Public Works. She said a final draft of Chapter 1 is included in the packet, and if members have any comments forward them to staff within two weeks. Perry mentioned the October 9 city-wide open house, and there will be a booth for the Comprehensive Plan.

Perry said if there are any issues or information that staff is missing for the background information to put those items on the comment cards or contact staff.

4. Continuation of Existing Conditions Presentation and Discussion.

4a. Presentation and Discussion of Natural Resource Inventory.

Perry said the purpose of the natural resource inventory is to guide development, protect and manage natural resources, determine requirements for utility and roadway services, and comply with state and regional management requirements. She said the inventory consists of several parts including natural landscapes, topography, vegetation, water resources, and wildlife. Perry reviewed the landscape formation and the varied topography throughout the city. She said the city has management practices such as easement protection, use of topography in the development, preserve steep slopes and regulate construction on steep slopes.

Perry reviewed the land cover types found in Minnetonka. She said the city recently underwent an inventory to find out more specific information. Perry said the city uses management practices including restoration, no cutting easements, parkland restoration, noxious and invasive plant/diseased tree programs, education, and limits on removal of significant trees.

Perry said water resources in Minnetonka include subsurface waters, groundwater aquifers, and surface water resources which are comprised of lakes, creeks, and drainage districts. The city has shoreland protection, a stormwater management plan, and floodplains. The current

management practices for shorelands and floodplains used by the city include protection and monitoring. Perry said there are many wetland types designated by soil and vegetation found in Minnetonka and over 500 acres of wetlands. Management practices for wetlands include protection, buffers, and monitoring.

Perry reviewed other natural resource programs including programs at the state level, such as the MnDNR, Department of Health and MPCA, programs at the federal level, such as NEPA and the Clean Water Act, and programs by other agencies such as watershed districts.

4b. Water Resources Exercise.

The Steering Committee members broke into small groups for a water resources exercise.

4c. Presentation and Discussion of Water Resources Management.

Lee Gustafson, City Engineer, said the executive summary of the Water Resources Management Plan will be included in the Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed how drainage is managed and the drainage districts in Minnetonka. Gustafson said Minnetonka's drainage system is unique for a metro city and is a complex integrated stormwater management system.

Gustafson said the Water Resources Management Plan provides management guidance and project guidance. He reviewed the previous Water Resource Management Plans done in 1982, 1999 and the current update. Gustafson said the update requirements include mandates/state statute laws, city update, and watershed district update. He said the primary plan changes will reflect new mandates, goals and policies, and technical data. Gustafson listed some of the issues with the plan being rule consistency between four watershed districts that are in the city and quality/quantity mandates, and he said some of the opportunities include goals and policies that reflect the community and allow the city to be a leader.

4d. Presentation and Discussion of Parks, Open Space and Recreation Services.

Geralyn Barone, Assistant City Manager, said there will be a chapter on this in the Comprehensive Plan. She gave a brief history on the parks system, and said parks/open spaces have been funded in the past in a 1972 referendum and a 2001 referendum. Barone reviewed previous comprehensive park plans and said there was early foresight in this topic with plans being done in the early 1960's, 1971, 1984 and the 2000 POST plan. She added there have been other studies done including athletic field use studies, recreation/aquatics center study, nature center study, Minnehaha Creek master plan, and natural resources plan.

Barone reviewed the public park system in Minnetonka, including community, neighborhood, preserve, and special use parks. She said the city has an open space preservation program where land has been set aside for preservation. Barone added that the 2001 referendum has allowed the city to acquire identified properties and encouraged preservation by private owners.

Barone reviewed the trail system in Minnetonka, and said a citizen-based group called Trails for Tonka formed in the 1970's. She said a loop trail system was planned for the city, and currently 33 of the 40 miles originally identified have been completed. Barone reviewed the regional trail system that is in the city, which is owned by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority.

Barone said recreation in the cities consists of youth, adult and senior programming, as well as city-owned and operated facilities.

5. Steering Committee Feedback.

Couling said he is glad to see the city is discussing the strategy of how it can compete to bring younger families into the city.

Sjeklocha said in the 1960's the city had a lot of foresight on many issues, and the current challenge is how the city can have the same foresight into the future.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.