

**City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update
Past Planning and Public Visioning Meeting Review
November 30, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. The Green Door**

Summary

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. in the Green Door with Justin Otsea from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) welcoming the Planning Committee members in attendance and providing a review of the community survey results. At the time of the meeting, only 3 surveys were completed between September and November. The review included community attitudes and importance of qualities such as: housing fix-up programs; attracting jobs; addressing abandoned vacant buildings; preserving the community's history. Survey respondents identified current and future issues that the City may face as well. It was suggested by Otsea to the Committee, that the survey remain open for an additional period of time so more results can be gathered. It was also suggested that perhaps the survey could be promoted and advertised again to garner more inquiries.

Past Planning Efforts

Otsea provided the Committee with a handout of previous planning efforts that have taken place in Beaver Bay within the last ten years. Recommendations and action strategies were reviewed from the 2006 Comprehensive Plan as a way to gauge which projects have and have not been implemented since each plan was completed. During the review the Committee identified numerous projects that were completed from the plan. Also, there were many projects identified that still haven't been implemented. Those projects were requested to be carried over to the Plan Update.

Vision Statement Development

Prior to the meeting ARDC crafted three vision statements which were developed from an exercise facilitated from the Public Visioning Session. Otsea read the draft statements as followed:

1. ***In the future, the City of Beaver Bay** is a beautiful, clean, historically rich community focused on providing a healthy living environment for its visitors and residents alike. while becoming a leader in economic development with many recreational opportunities.*
2. ***In the future, the City of Beaver Bay** is a well-connected, accessible community, providing opportunities for visitors and residents to live, shop, and eat. It is a safe, walkable, inviting community that is supported by a wide variety of recreational activities for all ages. Beaver Bay will continue to be a city in which tourists will want to visit and where residents desire to live.*
3. ***In the future, the City of Beaver Bay** is a happy and healthy community that embraces its history and culture, contains a great business climate, an abundance of recreational opportunities and is becoming a desirable city for tourists to visit and a place that residents are proud to call home.*

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Discussion soon followed after reading off the vision statements. The Planning Committee members suggested that the vision statement should include some language of attracting families and safe/walkable environment into the final version of it. ARDC will make changes necessary to form a single drafted vision statement and seek approval from the Planning Committee for finalization.

Categorized Assets, Issues and Goal Identification

Otsea reviewed the categorized assets, issues, and goals for each plan component required by IRRRB to address within the plan. The Planning Committee provided comments regarding the results that were recorded from the Public Visioning Session. Comments included improving AEOA/public transportation options, further context to specific locations and past community projects, addressing invasive species, historical preservation opportunities, among others.

Next Steps

ARDC will summarize the meeting and email to those who attended along with posting the information to the project’s website. ARDC will also create a finalized vision statement for review. Additionally, the lists of threats will be studied and analyzed determine preliminary course of action that the City can take to address individually. Suggestions and recommendation ideas will be drafted for actions that create desired new assets. The next meeting will be a review of the recommended strategies and actions steps and overall planning document for feedback. The next meeting was set for *Wednesday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Beaver Bay Community Center.*

Anyone not able to attend/interested in the planning project is encouraged to contact Justin Otsea at ARDC at 218-529-7529 or jotsea@ardc.org for more information as well as an opportunity to provide public comment into the vision of the City.