

**City of Beaver Bay – Comprehensive Plan
Public Visioning Session Meeting Summary
October 13th 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Beaver Bay Community Center**

Summary

The visioning session meeting started at 6:00 P.M. at the Beaver Bay Community Center. The meeting started with Justin Otsea from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) introducing himself and welcoming everyone in attendance for coming. He then went on to explain the overview of the comprehensive planning process. A comprehensive plan is a document which sets community priorities and identifies goals and strategies in an array of fields including housing, transportation, parks and recreation, land use, and other areas and can provide to local decision makers when making community investment decisions. The City of Beaver Bay last completed a comprehensive plan in 2006. The project will consist of two phases (*Public Visioning and Plan Development*) which will consist of six meetings total.

Otsea went on to explain the goals for the evening which included using public engagement exercises to gather input on identifying community assets and threats, vision statement ideas and other community resources. In addition to the documented planning process, drafts of the plan and other reference materials pertaining to the project can be found at www.ardcplanning.org/BeaverBay.

Assets and Threats Exercise

The meeting attendees were provided with multiple maps and a handout for the Assets and Threats Mapping Exercise. Justin Otsea provided further instruction for the Asset exercise, which resulted in identified physical, intangible, and future assets within the city. The attendees were asked to gather in small groups to discuss and write down different assets. After assessing which assets were important to the community the attendees then marked on a larger aerial map of Beaver Bay where these assets were. The next step of the exercise was to identify barriers and issues that are facing the community currently and then also in the future. Otsea facilitated the conversation and Julia Hogan recorded the results. The results of the exercise have been summarized with the lists below:

Physical Assets:

- Green Door
- Community Center
- Playground
- Lake Superior
- Beaver River
- Native American Cemetery
- Bike/Hiking Trail
- Wayside Rest
- Highway 61
- Historical Society
- Trees
- Water Plant
- Post Office
- Snowmobile Trail
- City Equipment
- Skating Rink
- Superior Hiking Trail
- Gas Stations
- Rock Cuts on the Highway
- Cemetery

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- Wooden Water Tower
- Restaurants
- Local Businesses/Gift Shops
- Fishing House
- Church
- Clean Air/Clean Water
- Edith Street

Other “Unseen” Assets:

- Bay to Bay Run
- History
- City Pride
- Small Community
- Sled Dog Race
- Experienced People
- Beaver Bay Community Association
- Rhythm and Roots Festival
- Lower Speed Limits
- Stability
- Family Ties
- Lake Access
- Events at the Green Door
- History of Bear Grease
- Annual Bike Ride
- Keeping it Simple
- Active Citizens

Future Assets:

- Community Events
- City Clean Up
- Water Tower Display
- Removal of Apartment Building
- Replace with Hotel
- Agreement with the BB club for lake access (long term)
- Housing
- Catering to young families
- Road improvements
- More investment/more Grants and Funding
- Smelt Fry
- Additional Waste Water facilities (Tax Property)
- Radio station
- Theater group
- City Code Enforcement
- Police Forces
- Post Office Improvement
- Christmas Pride
- Better Lighting on Highway
- Better City Equipment
- Green Door expansion
- More Events after the Run
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Community Garden
- Finish the Playground
- Half Marathon to Gooseberry
- Advertising/Marketing
- Info sign – Placing of City sign
- Improving the Lake Access
- Solar Power/Alternative Energy
- Back up energy for water/ waste water
- Fat Tire Trails
- Banners/Flags/Flowers
- Snowmobile/ATV Loop

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Physical Concerns/Threats/Issues:

- Apartments
- Highway 61 Speeders
- Aging of the City
- Christine Circle (Row)
- Lake Access safety
- The Old Water Tower
- Age of the Population
- Junk Cars/Properties/Yards
- Skating Rink Safety
- No Police Force
- Parking on Highway 61
- Loss of power with water/sewer issues
- Lack of Enterprise funds
- Seasonal Residents
- Lighting Issues
- Hold Pond security
- Environmental Problems
- Infrastructure as a whole
- No Police force

Other “Unseen” Concerns/Threats/Issues:

- Determine Property Ownership
- Capacity of People
- Not caring about the Community
- Weather
- Unseen Things in the Apartment
- Stubbornness
- Harmony in the Community

Future Concerns/Threats/Issues:

- Ditching and Culvert System
- Even more Aging Population
- Apartment Building Stays
- Discouragement of new businesses
- Aging water system
- Funding
- Rising property tax

Visioning Statement Nugget Identification Exercise

The next exercise of the meeting asked attendees to develop visioning statement “Nuggets” by finishing the sentence, “In the future, the City of Beaver Bay is...” The goal of the exercise is to unify the vision for the community from the meeting attendees to a vision that can capture the future of Beaver Bay. Results of the exercise have been summarized with the list below:

Visioning statement Nuggets

- A great place to raise a family
- A great place to retire
- The best smelt fry around
- Friendly people
- A fun place to celebrate winter
- Reliable
- Good place to stop
- Where communities work together
- A place for recreation and family time
- A destination for all

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- A fun place to enjoy the big lake
- Growing
- A destination
- Healthy
- Wealthy
- Wise
- Tourist Friendly
- Clean
- True to its history
- Small town awesome
- Accessible
- Well maintained
- Affordable
- Prosperous businesses
- Welcoming and engaging to new members
- A great place for children
- Outdoor destination
- Tourist destination
- Directly accessible to state parks
- A small historic city
- Directly accessible to trail systems
- A great place to stop and explore
- Inviting and welcoming
- Safe and beautiful
- Solid financially
- In great physical shape
- Apartment free
- Done with street repair
- Gets along better
- Has better equipment

Next Steps

ARDC will summarize the meeting and email those who attended along with posting the information to the projects website. ARDC will also develop a list of assets/issues and new draft goal statements for the next meeting. The next meeting has yet to be determined. Please look at the project website for future meeting date information or contact ARDC.

Anyone not able to attend or is interested in the planning project is encouraged to contact Justin Otsea of 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.