

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update
Recommendations Review Meeting
January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

AGENDA:

1. Welcome / Project Summary
 2. Review Visioning Statement Draft
 3. Review Draft Goals, Recommendations, and Priorities
 4. Discuss Next Steps
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Vision Statement Draft

In the future, the City of Beaver Bay is a safe, walkable, historically rich, inviting community focused on providing a healthy living environment with many recreational opportunities for its visitors and residents alike while providing affordable housing stock for working and middle class families to live and work in the city.

Transportation: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will provide a safe, transportation system focused on various modes of transportation (auto, bike, pedestrian, etc.) which connect local and regional destinations; a system focused on safe and healthy travel options for all of Beaver Bay's citizens and visitors alike.

Objective T 1: Maintain local streets, sidewalks, and alleys on an established, routine schedule to continue to provide a well-connected, efficient, and sustainable transportation system that serves the needs of multiple user groups within the community.

T 1.1: Develop a street improvement program that identifies and prioritizes road maintenance and improvement needs and integrates these needs with the City's Capital Improvement Program.

- Action Step 1.1.1: Update and map an inventory of street pavements based on age and condition.

T 1.2: Work with Lake County and MnDOT to seek opportunities to coordinate street, sidewalk, and underground utility improvements with adjacent state or county highway projects.

Objective T 2: Connect existing and new neighborhoods, public facilities, parks, schools, and other community destinations with the City's 'sidewalk' and trail system(s).

T 2.1: Explore designating pedestrian space on roads without sidewalks with paint and/or other barriers to provide safe area for pedestrians and create overall 'sidewalk system'.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

- Action Step 2.1.1: Coordinate with ARDC to provide data for sidewalk inventory if projects are completed.

T 2.2: Identify most critical/dangerous crossings and intersections in the community.

- Action Step 2.2.1: Work with MnDOT and other entities in order to improve safety via infrastructure improvements (signage, painted sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.).
- Action Step 2.2.2: Continue to monitor and recommend improvements for any upcoming highway 61 projects.

Objective T 3: Support Gitchi-Gami Trail improvements and connections to enhance recreational opportunities to local residents and travelers a like.

Objective T 4: Continue to maintain and improve wayfinding and street signage to ensure ease of navigation throughout the community.

T 4.1: Identify areas and streets where signs need to be replaced and/or added to support safety and ease of travel.

T 4.2: Consider pedestrian/bicycle scaled wayfinding signage to help direct tourists to local businesses and other points of interest.

Objective T 6: Work with local agencies like Arrowhead Transit and AEOA to improve transit opportunities to and from the community.

T 6.1: Work with surrounding communities and other partners to help improve transit availability.

T 6.2: Review transportation options, specifically for those in wheelchairs and with limited mobility, and collaborate with potential partners to enhance available services.

Objective T 7: Evaluate creating a 'Living Streets' policy to provide for sustainable, ADA-compliant, multi-modal streets designs while addressing storm water management when completing improvement projects.

Economic Development: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will embrace partnership opportunities with new and existing businesses by advocating for manageable growth and retaining an aesthetically pleasing environment including buffers between residential and commercial uses.

Objective ED 1: Identify new use for existing 'hotel/apartment' building site (see map)

ED 1.1: Determine structural integrity of vacant building. If demolition is required, work with IRRRB or other local agencies to leverage funds to complete project.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

ED 1.2: Review zoning ordinance to identify any possible barriers to private investment. Including insuring mixed uses (residential and commercial) are allowed at the site.

ED 1.3 Market property online and work with private investors to identify suitable use that serves community needs.

Objective ED 2: Support ‘Green Door’ expansion project and work with local agencies to leverage grant dollars to help reduce public costs on City’s primary enterprise fund.

Objective ED 3: Improve awareness/communication of local community events, activities, and amenities on a local, regional, and statewide scale.

ED 3.1: Create formalized process for providing information about recreational opportunities and community events to the public via multiple modes of communication (online, newspapers, tourism organizations, etc.).

ED 3.2: Consider the creation of City social media presence to enhance both communications with the public as well as online presence for potential travelers.

ED 3.3: Continue to update the City website, monitor upgrade possibilities, and explore other information that can enhance site’s effectiveness.

Objective ED 4: Expand public access to broadband wireless internet in public facilities, improve local technical capacity, and ensure residents are provided continued access to high-speed internet.

ED 4.1: Assess existing broadband systems and provide improvements which would enhance overall systems both City-wide and at other public facilities.

ED 4.2: Make technological improvements and investments to City System (i.e. City office, Community Center) on a reasonably timely basis while balancing financial restraints.

Improvements to consider include: Providing local staff and/or elected officials with technology to help them access e-mail and online resources, video conferencing and similar improvements to expand the Community Center’s capacity, and insuring City office technology doesn’t fall too far out of date.

ED 4.3: Identify public areas where increased accessibility could benefit the public (library, city hall, etc.) and look for opportunities to make improvements through leveraging grant dollars or local public investment/fundraising.

Objective ED 5: Encourage mixed-use zoning in designated areas to boost infill development and maintenance.

ED 5.1: Identify areas within the City where commercial/residential mixed-use development could be effective and provide benefit.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

ED 5.2: Review zoning requirements of properties which require infill development to address unintentional restrictions regarding mixed-use or other requirements that may inhibit investment.

Objective ED 6: Support existing businesses and encourage them to participate in local business organizations, seize opportunities for growth, and foster local talent.

Objective ED 7: Support and partner with the North Shore Scenic Drive Council.

Housing: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will strive to provide housing that offers affordable and sustainable options with rental and ownership opportunities; creating equitable housing options accessible to facilities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle for residents of all ages.

Objective H1: Promote the maintenance of the existing housing stock.

H 1.1: Investigate creating loan/grant program for homeowner improvements.

- 1.1.1: Use social media (and local newsletter), website, or other means to advertise opportunity and celebrate successes if program is created.

H 1.2: Collaborate with existing organizations/grant programs to create incentives for home maintenance.

- *Potential resources include:* Community Development Block Grant, Small Cities Development Program, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) Housing Department, Lake County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and others (see Community Planning Toolkit) for a variety of improvements including home maintenance, energy efficiency, exterior improvements, and others.

H 1.3: Continue to strive to make investments in streets, sidewalks, water/sewer systems, and other infrastructure to encourage private investment in commercial and residential properties alike.

H 1.4: Identify abandoned and blighted housing and develop a plan for rehabilitation or demolition and infill housing development.

H 1.5: Continue to enforce existing zoning and blight ordinances to preserve quality of existing housing stock.

Objective H 2: Maintain the existing character of established neighborhoods.

H 2.1: Ensure that new commercial and industrial development is buffered from residential areas and will minimally impact commercial/industrial traffic in residential neighborhoods.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Objective H 3: Explore opportunities for vacant lots currently deemed as unbuildable throughout the community.

H 4.1: Areas to explore include creating community gardens, allowing adjacent homeowners to use/maintain space, etc.

Objective H 5: Evaluate and/or implement brush pick up and/or community clean-up program/‘day’ to provide assistance to homeowners unable to undertake projects around their homes and undertake other identified community improvements.

Objective H 6: Continue to monitor short-term rental issues (i.e. AirBNB) and take action if deemed appropriate.

Land Use: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will utilize policies that promote sustainable land use by actively assessing future needs and promoting the most effective use of each property while balancing cost efficient public services and environmental health. Beaver Bay’s land use policies will be clear, concise and easy to administer.

Objective LU 1: Maintain a modern, up-to-date zoning ordinance, zoning map, official map, and permitting documents.

LU 1.1: Update City Zoning Ordinance Code and procedures to include modern developmental concerns, and streamline administration.

LU 1.2: Enhance online presentation of Land Use Zoning Code, Applications, and other development related information to improve accessibility.

LU 1.3: Update existing identified permit, variance, and other application forms to enhance user friendliness and improve administration.

Objective LU 2: Review existing zoning code and consider creation of downtown design district, and incorporation of design principles identified during the planning process. (As mentioned in ED 5)

- *Some of these components include:* Form-based code, mixed use of commercial and residential uses, allowance of multi-family housing, allowance of accessory living spaces, ‘age in place’ principles (home design components for an aging community), and others.

Objective LU 3: Adopt most current Minnesota Building Code Standards

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Objective LU 4: Adopt 2016 North Shore Management Board Plan Update and corresponding standards.

Objective LU 5: Evaluate annexation opportunities for future economic and/or housing development and consider cost-benefit evaluation of service capacities, land use, service needs, and natural features, such as; topography, wetlands, and vegetative cover; prior to utility extension/improvement projects.

Objective LU 6: Ensure buffers are set between commercial/industrial development and existing and future residential properties in order to preserve neighborhood intrinsic qualities desired by community.

Recreation, Parks, Open Space, Cultural Arts: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will strive to enhance the recreational and cultural facilities & opportunities available by implementing projects and programs which provide an array of opportunities to residents and travelers of all ability levels. Beaver Bay will provide solicit and utilize public input to ensure equitable access to facilities that promote the health and well-being of every member in the community.

Objective RC 1: Encourage the maintenance and expansion of the recreational trail and parks system throughout the City.

RC 1.1: Inventory and document existing condition of City parks and trails, examining them for deterioration, maintenance needs, and infrastructure improvements.

RC 1.2: Develop action priorities and estimate costs of improvements.

RC 1.3: Explore opportunities for trail and recreational facilities expansion, including improvements.

Action Step 1.3.1: Utilize public engagement strategies (public meetings, surveys, focus groups, etc.) to help outline desired facilities / recreational opportunities, potential trail expansion sites, and other prominent recreational issues.

Objective RC 2: Support creation of unique local community events including fun runs and other recreational opportunities to enhance tourism and provide additional programming for existing community members.

Objective RC 3: Continue to work closely with Beaver Bay Club in order to preserve and enhance Lake Superior accessibility for community members and travelers a like.

Objective RC 4: Continue to support and make improvements to local playground and recreational areas.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Objective RC 6: Collaborate with Snowmobile Club to insure adequate wayfinding signage within community, both for trail access and accessing community's businesses and amenities.

Objective RC 7: Evaluate opportunities for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) activities, which provide healthy food options available within the community.

RC 7.1: Provide open space for activities to take place if organized and requested by local organization(s)/individual(s).

Objective RC 8: Research and evaluate feasibility of developing 'pocket parks' and 'natural landscapes' (spaces using natural features such as trees, hills, and native plants and as few man-made components as possible) with low cost and low maintenance designs.

Objective RC 9: Incorporate recreational facilities into the Capital Improvement Plan process to ensure upkeep and continued quality of existing facilities.

Objective RC 10: Identify and explore recreational facilities, programs, and opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Natural, Agricultural or Cultural Resources: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will preserve and embrace its cultural, historical, and natural resources and provide a deeper connection of a sense of place to its citizens and travelers alike; balancing local agricultural and mining interests, while considering sustainable resources that support the health of the City's environment and people.

Objective TNR 1: Evaluate opportunities for moving historic wooden water tower to more accessible locations.

TNR 1.1 Work with local agencies like IRRRB to leverage funding to assist in project completion.

Objective TNR 2: Encourage the preservation of the area's history and culture.

TNR 2.1: Explore opportunities to preserve and improve old fish house building at end of Edith Street.

TNR 2.2: Continue supporting the preservation of the area's history (including Beargrease, Logging, Mining, and others) through the identification, preservation, and displaying of historic places and artifacts.

TNR 2.3: Seek federal and state grants and support local, grass roots efforts for historic preservation and renovation projects.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Objective TNR 3: Improve and maintain City 'gateways', or areas commonly used for entrance to the City as well as streetscape along highway 61 corridor to create a sense of arrival to residents and visitors alike. Improvements can include signage, art, natural environment enhancement, or others to improve aesthetics and sense of place.

- *Action Step 3.1:* If possible, utilize local volunteers to make enhancements while minimizing cost.

Objective TNR 4: Encourage the reduction of light pollution by exploring opportunities to curtail and reverse any degradation of the night sky.

TNR 4.1: Consider adoption of lighting ordinance, involving residential light height restrictions, light shielding/directional improvements, motion sensors, and/or other measures to prevent additional light pollution and preserve Beaver Bay's night sky. (See www.darksky.org for additional details.)

Objective TNR 5: Support improved access to community gardens.

TNR 5.1: Use public meetings to identify need and/or potential sites for community gardens.

TNR 5.2: Address and revise land use zoning where necessary to make allowable use.

TNR 5.3: Work with local interest group(s) to develop maintenance, distribution, and use partnership(s) prior to establishing garden.

Objective TNR 6: Consider creation of historic walking tour which showcases historic places within the community.

TNR 6.1: Work with historical society to identify locations and content for wayfinding signage to associate with walking tour.

TNR 6.2: Consider web application or similar online presence to enhance accessibility of tour. (<https://proctorhistorywalk.org/> is a great example).

Objective TNR 7: Evaluate and pursue opportunities for addressing invasive vegetation (i.e. Tanze) which may include partnering with Lake County SWCD and other environmental agencies.

Objective TNR 8: Ensure industrial businesses are buffered from existing and new residential development through zoning setbacks, green buffers, or other methods to minimize the impact on neighborhoods.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Utilities and Community Facilities: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will stay committed to providing residents with effective infrastructure to city structures, water and sanitary systems, recreational facilities, and other public facilities and services, through a systematic short-range planning process to ensure the health of the citizens of Beaver Bay.

Objective UC1: Create Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) process that annually implements and reviews priorities to continue to provide adequate infrastructure (including roads, sidewalks, water/wastewater facilities, etc.) to the community while balancing financial constraints in a systematic process.

UC 1.1: Review existing conditions of utilities to determine rehabilitation/replacement priorities.

- *Action Step 1.1.1:* Develop/improve an inventory of above- and below-ground infrastructure based on age and condition.
- *Action Step 1.1.2:* Investigate the feasibility of acquiring and utilizing asset management software.

UC 1.2: Consider upcoming State and County projects when prioritizing improvements.

- *Action Step 1.2.1:* Insure annual communication occurs with state and local officials designed to getting updated information from state and county officials about projects being planned within and around Beaver Bay.

UC 1.3: Optimize public investments in infrastructure by 1) seeking to incorporate infrastructure improvements as parts of redevelopment projects and 2) avoiding extensions of infrastructure in advance of guaranteed development projects.

Objective UC2: Research and consider adoption of storm water management ordinance for new developments.

Objective UC 3 Explore permeable alternatives to traditional curb and gutter projects.

UC 3.1: May involve creating 'Living Streets' policy which provides design options for both alternative forms of transportation and also city streetscape/vegetation options when undertaking road improvement projects.

Objective UC 4: Incorporate the Beaver Bay recommendations from the 2012 Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan into planning process to reduce potential damage costs due to natural disasters.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

UC 4.1: Annually address, implement, and monitor projects and mitigation strategies identified in 2012 Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

UC 4.2: Include Infrastructure and other mitigation improvements into Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) process when addressing annual maintenance/improvements.

Objective UC 5: Collaborate with Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement identified projects in 'One Watershed, One Plan' document to preserve and improve water quality in the community.

Objective UC 6: Explore opportunities to consolidate services and save costs when possible.

Objective UC 7: Extension of public utilities should be based on a cost-benefit evaluation of service capacities, land use, service needs, and natural features, such as; topography, wetlands, and vegetative cover; and public utility proposals should be carefully evaluated to ensure compatibility with the approved Comprehensive Plan and projected land use needs.

Intergovernmental Cooperation: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will work cooperatively with Lake County, neighboring communities and other public and private entities to provide high quality, cost effective, public services to residents throughout the community on issues of economic, equitable, social, health, environmental, and cultural significance.

Objective IGC 1: Collaborate with neighboring communities to enhance capacity, strengthen regional relationships, and address consolidation of services when possible.

Objective IGC 2: Collaborate with Lake County, the State of Minnesota, and other entities, and their respective officials.

IGC 2.1: Proactively collaborate with and inform Lake County and State of Minnesota officials of the needs in Beaver Bay regarding resources, housing, economic development, transportation, and other issues as they arise.

Objective IGC 3: Collaborate with regional entities, like Healthy Northland, local Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) coordinators, the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, and other stakeholders, to implement active living, public health, and other related improvements and programming to promote healthy lifestyles in the community.

Objective IGC 4: Continue to explore annexation opportunities in surrounding area where deemed appropriate.

City of Beaver Bay– Comprehensive Plan Update

Recommendations Review Meeting

January 11th, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Beaver Bay Community Center

Implementation: Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goals: The City of Beaver Bay will work as an entity and with stakeholders to complete the strategies and projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan Update and will the review and update implementation priorities and status annually.

Objective I 1: Develop an implementation checklist that lists each strategy action item in the plan and organizes them in a spreadsheet with some general implementation steps, responsible entities, and a timeframe.

I 1.1: Annually review the implementation checklist at a public meeting to determine each step's implementation status and to re-determine each step's current priority level. Utilize this meeting as a public hearing/engagement session to continue incorporating public priorities into investment decisions.

I 1.2: Change, update, or end actions that need alterations or have been completed and add new actions as project priorities emerge.

I 1.3: Undertake public planning update process every five years.

Objective I 2: Monitor available grant opportunities to leverage funds to implement larger scale projects.

I 2.1: Continue communication with grantors (i.e. MnDOT and Minnesota DNR) to be aware of possible grant solicitations and parameters for eligible projects. (See ARDC community planning toolkit)

I 2.2: Utilize ARDC in order to gain technical assistance for project applications, management, small scope planning, GIS mapping, and other services offered when deemed necessary.