

Comprehensive Plan Update
Aldermanic District 7 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

December 4, 2014 – 6:30 PM
Bannach Elementary School - Cafeteria
5400 Walter Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Seventh District Alderperson Roger Trzebiatowski, Plan Commissioner Dave Cooper, John Okowek, Margaret Ann Klitgaard-Mancel, Mary Kneebone, Jodi Baganz, Cathy Dugan, Sal Cuomo.

Meeting Summary:

Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski and Associate Planner Kyle Kearns provided a brief presentation where they described the city's comprehensive plan update project and visioning tactics to establish an overall vision for the community. This included describing the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis (SWOT) to assist in gaining critical public feedback and input. Staff proceeded to provide examples of feedback and input which pertained to a small area or neighborhood, or to the entire community, citing that an overall vision is derived from an examination of the entire community.

A questionnaire was provided, of which can be obtained online, which included nine questions for participants and attendees to answer freely or use as a guiding document when providing input and feedback. Staff then led discussion within the small group using the questionnaire as a guide. Responses to the questionnaire and feedback gathered by staff from public comment and conversation within the small group have been summarized below for each question.

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. What do you see as the community's major strengths and assets?
 - Low cost of living
 - Regional/central location
 - Access to natural resources
 - Hwy 10 and Interstate 39
 - Darkness, low light intrusion in residential areas
 - Parks
 - Green Circle Trail
 - Walkability
 - Good employment base, variety of employers and high end jobs
 - Low crime
 - University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
 - Good schools, K-12
 - Large variety of activities and programs within the community
 - Students coming out of UWSP
 - Entertainment – example Sentry and UWSP
 - Quality of life
 - Low cost of living
 - Location, easy access to country, natural areas, close to the major cities (2 hours from everywhere)

2. What do you see as the community's major weaknesses or liabilities?
 - Street lighting
 - Buses drop offs
 - Soccer field lights can be blinding to drivers
 - Sidewalks – gaps, missing, incomplete sidewalks throughout certain neighborhoods in the district
 - Lack of property in the City that is efficient & offers amenities in today's trends
 - Requirements for stormwater, and no aesthetic requirements – example Fleet Farm
 - Need to blacktop gravel areas – example by former Copps warehouse
 - Lack of grocery stores
 - Storm sewers in the 7th district
 - Need for better subdivision ordinance requirements
 - Need for better aesthetic requirements for developments
 - Traffic on Highway 10, frontage roads are needed, keep Highway 10 and not do the bypass

3. What do you see as the community's major opportunities
 - Create lighting for safety in neighborhoods, while being respectful to aesthetics and privacy.
 - Sidewalk infill – improved safety for walkers and kids within the neighborhoods and around schools. We need to be consistent with sidewalks and not have gaps.
 - Maintain students in the community after high school and college graduation
 - Encourage/incentivize developers and contractors to rehabilitate old homes
 - Require developers to put in parks and not charge a park fee
 - A more responsive government
 - Grocery store on Hwy 10
 - Install swales to address stormwater issues in district
 - Mixed use development in and around former Walmart complex
 - Have more flexible requirements to help rehab current housing

4. What do you see as the community's major threats?
 - Higher cost of food
 - Higher cost of healthcare
 - Work on I-39 for new on/off ramp
 - Highway 10 Bypass – negatively affect business
 - Small storm sewers unable to handle increase
 - Stevens Point versus Plover for development, drives up the cost
 - Lack of available property in the city, current housing stock is so old

5. What is your dream for our community?

6. What kind of community do we want to create?

7. What would you like to see change?

8. What would success look like?

9. Any other additional comments or feedback?

- Need to address the municipal boarder issues, straighten them out.