

Active Living Hennepin County Planning Group Agenda

May 30, 2007 1:00 – 3:30 PM
Ridgedale Library

Attendees:

Jeff Jacobs, Clark Arneson, Kendra Verbeten, Mark Grimes, Joe Hogeboom, Jan Ficken, Jan Youngquist, Patty Bowler, Craig Reid, Marvin Johnson, Kris Haugen (and two health interns), Mark Fabel, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Robb Luckow, Karen Nikolai, Lisa Perlick

Planning Group Recap:

Jeff Jacobs welcomed the planning group to our first meeting since December 2006, when we were convened by our Active Living by Design (ALbD) team. He reviewed our role – to be the driving force of a countywide engagement and policy development around Active Living in Hennepin County.

Karen Nikolai reviewed our activities last fall, including our **September 2006** meeting when we brainstormed elements an active living community and toured development around the county in our tour bus, our **November** meeting when the concept of conducting an assessment was introduced, the pilot sites idea was explored and Mark Fenton took us for a walking tour of downtown Hopkins, and finally to our **December** meeting when we determined the types of pilot communities we thought we needed to assess to get an overview of development patterns and physical activity, and what specific kinds of information we needed to glean from those communities. The need for a steering committee also was introduced at the December meeting.

Karen then reviewed our End Products (deliverables) under our grant from Blue Cross, including Active Living Vision and Mission statements, Guiding Principles, and policies Around Active Living to be brought to the Hennepin County Board in December 2007 for adoption. Several cities in our group may bring similar resolutions to their city councils.

Steering Committee Work:

Karen Nikolai thanked the members of the steering committee, and gave some brief background on the work they've been doing so far in 2007. The committee has been the "think tank" for the assessment process, and has guided the work of the pilot cities of Brooklyn Park, Golden Valley and Independence.

Community Assessment Action Plan Update

A brief overview of the three pilot cities was provided. **Golden Valley** is an inner ring suburb whose streets follow the standard grid pattern. It has a greater influx of workers to its employment centers during the day than its total population. **Brooklyn Park** is an outer ring suburb with some streets still on the grid pattern, but with most new development along curvilinear streets and cul de sacs. **Independence** is rural, with large lots on former farms, and no downtown. Businesses in Maple Plain and other surrounding cities serve its residents.

Those who conducted **one-on-one interviews** shared their learnings, including that people in Independence like their privacy afforded by large lots, Brooklyn Park has thousands of Liberians and other immigrants, and that while some areas of Golden Valley are difficult to maneuver in for seniors and some disabled people, its Town Square is a vibrant gathering place for residents. The group then viewed slides of various **camera shots** taken in each of the three communities, while Marvin Johnson, Jan Ficken and Joe Hogeboom described them to the group, and then Joe

and Mark Grimes gave the group a recap of the **Walking Workshop** conducted in Golden Valley on May 18th. The workshop was highly successful! Action steps were developed following the walk and small group discussion, and are being followed up on by staff and incorporated into the comprehensive plan where appropriate.

Kendra Verbeten then shared information on **school districts** and their struggles to maintain physical education classes and also provide nutritious foods when funding streams reward academic success through standardized testing. She shared an article from the Mayo Clinic on classrooms that encourage learning through activity. The article can be found at:

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/medical-edge-magazine/2006-sept-magazine.html>

Jan Youngquist also noted an article in the Star Tribune on May 29th on private amenities in high end developments. Here is that link: <http://www.startribune.com/462/story/1211263.html>

The group had a long discussion of personal safety and how that, as well as people's perceptions of safety, might impact our work. Child safety specifically was discussed, and people felt that the more people out and about, the safer children are. The group thought that we must address this as part of our media message. Karen said she would follow up with the Active Living by Design (ALbD) team prior to our meeting with them on June 28th so they can speak to that.

Robb Luckow then turned our attention to the **Resident Surveys** conducted by telephone as part of our assessment and provided the group with his preliminary findings. These, as well as the overview of the pilot communities, camera shots, and other assessment activities are in the PPT that accompanies these minutes. Robb also reiterated that **Focus Groups** will be conducted over the summer and fall to gather follow up information from key stakeholder groups and ensure that our work resonates throughout the county.

Vision and Mission Concept Discussion

Clark Arneson then provided a recap of the work the Steering Committee has done on our draft **Vision and Mission** statements. Our top three choices for vision statement are:

- Hennepin County Residents are Actively Living Life (acronym could be "ALL")
- Hennepin County Residents: Active Living Everyday
- Hennepin Active, Fit, and Healthy

The planning group overwhelmingly chose the third statement:

Hennepin Active, Fit, and Healthy

This will be our draft vision as we move forward with engagement over the summer. The group then moved on to a discussion around our mission, and Clark reminded the group that the mission statement expresses the organization's purpose, business or reason for being. After reviewing the list of ideas developed by the Steering Committee at their April 26th meeting, the Planning Group simply amended one of those and adopted it the following statement as our working draft for our engagement phase:

Plan, provide and promote active living environments and opportunities for everyone.

Next Meeting Date

Our next Active Living Planning Group meeting will be held on

Thursday, June 28, 2007

9 AM - 4 PM

Bloomington Civic Plaza and City Hall

1800 West Old Shakopee Road

Haeg Conference - 2nd Floor Across from HR/ Mayor Manager's Office

END OF MEETING