

**Hennepin County Active Living  
Steering Committee  
Wednesday, February 28 2007, Wayzata Public Library  
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

**Attendees:**

Clark Arneson, Boe Carlson, Gail Dorfman, Jan Ficken, Mark Grimes, Marvin Johnson, Carol Lezotte, Karen Nikolai, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Lisa Perlick, Kendra Verbeten, Jan Youngquist

**1. Role and Functions of the Steering Committee**

Karen Nikolai led a review of the draft document outlining the steering committee's role, and briefly discussed each of the functions outlined. The group then walked through examples of when one person might be tapped for a particular issue or to help make a key connection. For instance, if we need to get the buy in of certain schools, we'd ask Kendra to help make that connection. And if the issue or question was something related to comprehensive planning, we'd tap Jan Youngquist. The group also will tap into the expertise and existing relationships of other planning group members in the overall planning committee as we move forward. A copy of the steering committee roles is attached.

**2. Pilot Site Overview and slide presentation**

The group next was provided with an overview of the Pilot Sites: Brooklyn Park, Golden Valley and Independence. Carol Lezotte walked us through some background information on each site, and the representative from each city followed up with more detail.

Brooklyn Park:

Jan Ficken provided the following information about Brooklyn Park: The southern portion of Brooklyn Park (BP) began being developed in the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1990s, Edinburg Golf Course spurred development in the northern half of Brooklyn Park. The newer areas flow from winding, curvilinear streets, whereas the older southwest section areas are on the street grid pattern, flowing mostly north-south and east-west. Zane Avenue is a county road running north-south, and four grade schools and one junior high are located directly on this 40 mph street. North Hennepin Community College is located in BP, as are Hennepin Technical College and Rasmussen Business College. A major trail corridor, North Hennepin Regional Trail Corridor, runs east-west in the northern part. As part of the City's Trails and Sidewalks Master Plan, trails and sidewalks are being incorporated with new housing developments to complete north-south links and connect people to this major regional trail corridor.

Major roadways in Brooklyn Park slice the community into several sections - a pedestrian bridge was built over Hwy 252 in an effort to safely allow passage by bikers, and walkers over this busy freeway and to connect neighborhoods with the major

shopping area on 85th Ave. The City has used Decision Resources for some recent survey work.

#### Golden Valley:

Mark Grimes and Teresa Murphy shared the following information: Golden Valley's (GV) population is 20,674, but its daytime population swells due to business and industry, including General Mills and others. Major arterials in the city include Hwy 100, Hwy 55, I-394. Other arterials, such as Winetka Avenue, were designed to carry vehicle traffic and were not designed with pedestrians in mind on the same level as vehicles. This may be something we will want to explore. And while most people associate Wirth Parkway with Minneapolis, it is primarily located in GV. There are two Independent School Districts (ISDs) in GV – 60% of students attend Robbinsdale Schools, and 40% attend Hopkins. GV had its own ISD until 1980 or 1981. They carried out community visioning a few years ago as a city, and have contracted with Decision Resources (a group we may use for parts of our Active Living assessment) in the past.

#### Independence:

Marvin Johnson provided this information about Independence: It is 35 square miles and borders Maple Plain on three sides, which together create a 36 square mile area. The eastern 1/3 of Independence is zoned as Rural Residential. One-third of the homes near and on Lake Independence have sewer service connected to Mound. Amenities include Pioneer Creek and Windsong golf courses. Independence does not have a town center per se, but has a city hall and church, and clustered business areas. The closest grocery stores for residents of Independence are in Delano and Maple Plain, and the nearest senior center is a new facility in Delano. Because Maple Plain is fully developed, Independence is considering the development of townhomes on the edge of Maple Plain. Four school districts serve Independence: Rockford, Orono, Delano, and Mound Westonka.

### **3. Pilot Site Assessment Process**

Carol and Karen reported to the group that they had met with each of the three pilot cities. The meetings were to begin discussion of the assessment process, and the range of components that could be included, based on past assessments and what might work best in each of these three very different cities.

The steering committee then discussed the assessment process and reviewed the attached document outlining the components, including 1:1 interviews, a background community snapshot of the information we all worked on at the December meeting, having children, seniors and disabled individuals visit key intersections with disposable cameras, conducting a community survey by phone, doing a walking workshop, and focus groups. The pilot cities will work with Hennepin county staff to determine which components will work best in their communities.

The timeline for completion of the assessment is the week of **June 15, 2007**, which is when our Active Living by Design (ALbD) consultants plan to join us in a meeting they will facilitate. At that meeting we will review the results of the assessment, see how transferable this information is to the rest of the county, and start to develop messages that planning group members will use to help spread the word and create awareness of our work.

#### **4. End Products / Deliverables for Blue Cross**

The group reviewed and discussed the draft of potential end products for our grant, which is planned to end on December 31, 2007. End products include a County Board resolution that encompasses an Active Living Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles for the county, along with policies that potentially would influence future county planning. The group also reviewed some sample policies, and expressed strong interest in passing similar resolutions in their cities in the same time frame. There was a lot of enthusiasm in the discussion, and the group thought it might be helpful to start brainstorming components of a vision, mission and principles over the next few months, so that the planning group has ideas to work with during its next meeting and can move forward more quickly.

#### **5. Timelines**

The group reviewed the timelines for the various stages of our work under the Active Living grant. These timelines are part of the end product document and are attached.

#### **6. Schedule Ongoing Steering Committee Meetings**

The group agreed to two hour monthly meetings through the end of the year, but will not plan to meet during the months that the full planning group meets.

We plan to have a 2 – 3 hour **Planning Group meeting in May** to discuss progress on the assessment, as well as the mission, vision and other end products. We also will have a full **Planning Group meeting in June**, which will be facilitated by our ALbD consultants. Please stay tuned for further information on both of these meetings.

#### **Action Items**

There were no follow up action items for Steering Group Committee members.

End of meeting. Thank you!