

Hennepin County Active Living Steering Committee Minutes

April 26 2007 – Golden Valley City Offices

Attendees:

Clark Arneson, Mark Fabel, Jan Ficken, Mark Grimes, Joe Hogeboom, Robb Luckow, Karen Nikolai, Lisa Perlick, Kendra Verbeten, Jan Youngquist

1. School Districts

Kendra provided the group with an overview of school districts, distributed a handout of those located fully or partially in Hennepin County, and shared information on current initiatives.

- Physical education is not specifically funded and not evaluated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, so it is often one of the first programs cut, especially in the middle, junior high, and high schools.
- The most recent renewal of the U.S. Nutrition Act included a requirement that all schools must have wellness committees that include community members and must create wellness plans. Hopkins hired a chef to update their food service and make it healthier. (They now offer public catering, and are the group we used at our November Planning Group meeting at the Hopkins Fire Station.)
- Three for Ten is an exercise initiative that elementary schools can implement. It is a curriculum of how to build in three sessions of ten minute exercise units into the normal school day.
- Hennepin County Public Health Promotion offers consulting and small grant assistance to schools in the areas of physical activity and nutrition.

And there is a lot of other innovation going on in districts throughout Hennepin County. Many districts offer language immersion programs from Spanish to French to Mandarin Chinese, Perpich Center for the Arts is an alternative arts high school, with a lottery application to attend and very high in demand, Independent School District (ISD) 287 is a cooperative effort of multiple districts a special school district for gifted students, as well as those with special needs. In addition, there are additional educational initiatives going on involving desegregation efforts. The most well-known is West Metro Education Program (WMEP).

2. Case Study Pilot Community Updates

Updates were given on the assessment work being conducted in Brooklyn Park, Golden Valley and Independence. It's moving along nicely. The key informant one-on-one interviews have started, and interviewees have been very interested in the work we're doing. Cameras are being distributed in each of the pilot communities so that youth, seniors, and people with disabilities can record areas that are difficult to navigate on foot or wheelchair, as well as those sidewalks/trails and crosswalks that are well done and should be replicated.

The Hennepin County resident survey was also progressing well. The county had received several bids and decided to contract with Directions in Research. The research bid was for a 47-question telephone survey with 500 interviews in Hennepin County. An additional 230 interviews were also to be conducted in the three pilot communities. The field work was expected to begin in mid-May.

3. **Focus Groups**

The group continued the discussion from the April 2nd meeting looking at identifying potential participants for the focus groups. The group reviewed the types of people (e.g. planners, developers, bikers and walkers, etc.) that could be included in the focus groups. Committee members were asked to email Karen / Robb with lists of suggested participants within these categories.

4. **Visioning 2nd Pass**

The group reviewed the visioning work that was brainstormed at our April 2nd meeting, and narrowed those ideas down to the top three choices. These will be taken to the larger Planning Group in May:

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

Original choices from our April 2, 2007 meeting:

- Healthy, active County
- Citizens lead active lives
- Variety of opportunities to be active
- Promoting everyday fitness
- Promoting and doing everyday active living
- Active, healthy people
- Incorporate active lifestyles into daily life
- Live life actively
- Actively living life
- Hennepin active; Hennepin fit; Hennepin healthy; Hennepin strong
- Healthy Hennepin

These will be presented to the Planning Group in May for further discussion and preliminary approval for what will be taken to Hennepin communities as our draft Vision Statement for their feedback.

5. **Mission Brainstorming**

The group brainstormed the Mission Statement concepts below, and will present these to the Planning Group in May.

- Implement
- Incorporate active living into everyday life
- Better planning
- Promoting and educating
- Ease of access for average person to activities
- Promote environments and opportunities for active living and all ages
- Making things greener
- Designing for active lifestyles
- Be proactive in planning and design
- Sustainable
- Raise the bar

END of Meeting