

Community Development Department

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MINUTES
PLAN COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
MARCH 24, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM

Members Present: Dan Toland, Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Rebecca Prendergast, Chris Holtkamp, Mike Woolsey, Diane Odeen
Staff Present: Amy Peterson, Emily Shively
Others Present: Stephanie Falkers, SRF Consulting

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION

SRF Consultant Stephanie Falkers reviewed the agenda for the meeting which focuses on the survey and open house engagement results and what key themes are emerging that will inform the next steps in the planning process. She also noted that the Community Profile and population projections have been finalized, concluding that part of the process. The information from the Community Profile will provide the base level foundation for additional analysis moving forward.

Ms. Falkers presented a summary of comments received from both the open house and the survey (see attached). The committee discussed that the key themes from the survey and open house generally reflect what they have seen and heard in the community as well; there were no significant surprises. After the key themes have been identified, draft goal statements will be written around those themes.

The committee went through an exercise to identify the main issues and themes that arose from the engagement along with other known issues in the community which included the following:

- Maintain recreation
- Housing diversity
- Connectivity and access
- Mobility – moving people not just cars
- Creating destinations
- Heritage/sense of community and history
- Maintain feel and sense of place
- Downtown retail – affordable rents
- Increase business support
- Retail opportunities
- Connect parks and trails
- Redevelopment of strip centers (north and south Main Street)

- Cooperative agreements with the Townships
- Community centers
- Infill opportunities
- Percentage of people living in River Falls who commute out for work and those who work in River Falls who live elsewhere
- Compact growth and density
- Appearance and character
- Health
- Inclusivity

NEXT STEPS

Falkers stated that there will be no steering committee meeting in April, but an update will be provided to the Plan Commission with their regular meeting packet. The consultant team and staff will be working on developing draft goal statements from the key themes identified for discussion in May. Engagement will continue on engagerf.org as well as pop-up events and meetings with the townships throughout the month of April.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Shively, City Planner