Met Council Continuing the Comprehensive Plan Conversation Series

Planit Workshop

Community Working Committees

Creating relationships through engagement
Community Working Committees

Creating relationships through engagement
“Coming together is a beginning."
Keeping together is progress.
Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

Henry Ford
Working together is success.”

Henry Ford
Community Working Committees

Creating relationships through engagement

Todd Streeter
Community Collaboration

Lynda Woulfe
City Administrator, City of Cambridge

Beth Thompson
Community Development Director, City of New Richmond

Doug Menikheim
City Council, City of Stillwater

Jane Stevenson, President
St. Croix Valley Foundation
Welcome

Community Working Committees
Creating relationships through engagement

Community Collaboration
Community Engagement

Traditional Engagement Approach
Traditional Engagement Approach

Traditional Method

- Top down (City/Firm driven)
- Committee discussion
- Minimal meetings
- Open houses with community
- City/contractor does the work
Introduction

Traditional Engagement Approach

Deficiencies – Doesn’t ...

• Allow community to drive process
• Create “working” committee
• Develop mutual understanding and respect
• Build collaborative relationships
• Generate a Common vision
• Establish buy-in and ownership
New Community Working Committee Approach

Bottom-up Method

- Community driven (City encourages participation)
- Formation of “working” committee
New Community Working Committee Approach

**Bottom-up Method**

Structured process focuses on:

- Expanding understanding, acceptance and respect
- Solutions through research and success examples
New Community Working Committee Approach

Bottom-up Method

Structured process focuses on:

• Building collaborative relationships
• Establishing a common vision
• Creating collective ownership
Introduction

New Community Working Committee Approach

Method Outcomes

• Establishes “We’re in this together”
• Focuses on the future
• Solution-focused outcomes
• Establishes implementation buy-in
• Establishes ownership and continued support
Introduction

Four Components of Relationship Building
Approach Genesis

Stillwater

Downtown Revitalization Committee
Downtown Revitalization Committee

- 40-member committee:
  - City, County, State officials; downtown business and property owners; organization and community leaders
- Formed property owners coalition to advance opportunities
- Submitted grant proposals
Downtown Revitalization Committee

Outcomes

- Achieved approximately $100,000 in grants, contributions and architectural pro-bono services
- Transformed divergent business community into a collective forward focused group with expanded common vision
Downtown Revitalization Committee

Outcomes

• Final committee opportunities incorporated into downtown Comp Plan RFP and subsequent formal City Comp Plan activities
What is Cambridge doing now?
Applying The Process

New Richmond
Comp Plan Working Committees
New Comp Plan Approach

• Change Plan to a “Community Action Plan” (CAP)

• Goals are to:
  • Let community drive the process
  • Establish greater understanding of community
  • Create a “living plan” by restructuring the process and final document/supporting materials
  • Make the outcomes marketable
New Comp Plan Approach

Change primary elements:

- Internal to external process
- Design for public consumption
- Community friendly terminology
- Promote ongoing activities
- CAP recommendations
- Committee Project Portfolios
- Establish community outreach
Applying The Process

New CAP Terminology

Planning Terms
- Land Use & Planning
- Transportation/ Infrastructure
- Parks, Trails and Recreation
- Public Facilities & Services
- Economic Development
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Downtown
- Government Committee

Community Assimilation
- Creating Community
- Community Connectivity
- Quality of Life
- Community Pride
- Economic Prosperity
- Diversified Living
- Downtown Resurgence
- Civic Engagement
Applying The Process

New Comp Plan Approach
Change meeting locations
CAP Outcomes

Working Committees

Applying The Process

CAP Plan
Project Portfolios
Vision Brochure
Executive Committee
“Vision without execution is just hallucination.”

Henry Ford
1. Working Committee
2. Civic Support
3. Community Funding
4. Ongoing Structure
Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

— Jane Jacobs —
Panel Q&A

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