



Downtown North Side Concepts

Jeff McMenimen (HKGI) presented the preliminary concepts and option alternatives for the North Side of downtown. The City has been studying potential opportunities to redevelop the North Side which is timely as the CAP Comp Plan is under development as well. These concepts offer a glimpse of how the North Side's redevelopment potential may impact the revitalization of the historic core of downtown.

Questions + Input from Committee members:

- What are the impacts to traffic with the proposed north side concepts?
- There were concerns mentioned regarding the parking that will be placed between the buildings on Knowles Ave and the river. Will the parking lots cut off access for riverfront dining/outdoor patios and the river?
- What will the accessibility be for pedestrian and vehicle traffic? There are conflicts between the proposed trail, the RR bridge, the dam, and the vehicular traffic.

Approval of CAP Vision and Guiding Principle Statements

The committee approved the overarching CAP vision and guiding principle statements that represent a culmination of values derived from each committee's vision and guiding principle statements.

Next Level of CAP HKGI Concept Development

Jeff and Gabriel (HKGI) presented the latest level of their CAP concept development reflecting the committee's preliminary work during the last four months. Each committee was encouraged to comment on their section as presented to ensure it reflected the nature of their work and recommendations. Comments affirmed the concepts presented embodied their work. Members also offered additional comments that could strengthen some of the concepts even further.

Input on the Next Level of CAP Development:

Creating Community (Land Use and Housing) Input

- Committee members will refine their Project Portfolios to examine the benefits of Life-cycle housing and where opportunities may exist to promote life-long living in New Richmond.

Economic Prosperity (Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization) Input

- In the Downtown Area Opportunity Sites diagram, some of the opportunity sites are low areas where stormwater ponding occurs – Will stormwater and environmental issues be evaluated when creating future concepts?
- It was mentioned that there needs to be a better transition of land uses between the downtown core and the residential neighborhoods.
- There was a question brought up about downtown parking. In the comp plan, downtown parking can be addressed with overall strategies and guidelines. A detailed parking study or downtown study would need to be completed in order to have a better understanding of parking issues and to make detailed recommendations.

Quality of Life (Parks and Trails) Input

- The diagrams should include all athletic facilities, west of Freedom Park and at the High School.
- The diagrams should include non-profit facilities, such as the Heritage Center.
- Downtown parks and trails should flow better and connect to Mary Park. Many people would like to see the beach at Mary Park re-opened to swimming.
- People should have access to the water downtown.
- Question about sidewalk connections in areas that are already developed – how can we make these connections?
- Can we take a closer look at a potential signature park or plaza in the downtown and establish a site for this?
- How can we continue with Willow River clean-up activities

Community Connectivity (Transportation and Mobility) Input

- There are issues connecting north to south through the city – Hwy 65 is the only connection.
- There is limited access from the new residential developments on the east side of the city along Hwy K coming into town – you can only turn right (north) onto 65. Can a traffic signal be installed at this intersection to create the ability to turn left (south) onto 65?

Community Pride (Public Facilities, Safety and Services) Input

- Add public transportation to the concept ideas
- The committee is envisioning a community-wide indoor field house – arena, walking track, indoor athletic fields, potential sports medicine services – this could be a park/recreation concept, as well as a community service.

Next Steps

1. HKGi will revise the concepts to address the comments from the committees.
2. Next meetings – Jan. 10 CAP Committees and Jan. 13 City Council Workshop

Open House Planning

Todd review the upcoming planning needs for the committees to begin preparing their presentations, maps, and Project Portfolios for the City Council January 13th workshop and upcoming Community Open House.