

Hackensack Comprehensive Plan Kickoff Meeting



Date: Tuesday, July 28th 2020

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: Birchwood Char House

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- *Tad Erickson started the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and thanking them for being a part of the planning process.*

Opening Remarks

- *Bill Kennedy from the Hackensack City Council opened the meeting by expressing the need in the community for an updated Comprehensive Plan. Kennedy explained how the Comprehensive Plan will provide the City Council guidance moving forward.*

Region Five Development Commission Introduction

- *Cheryl Hills, the Executive Director of the Region Five Development Commission thanked the City of Hackensack for contracting with Region Five and also gave a brief summary of what Region Five brings to the region it serves through transportation, community development, economic development and more.*

Region Five Development Commission Staff Introductions

- *Tad Erickson introduced himself as a Senior Regional Planner for Region Five Development Commission and focuses on transportation and community development mainly. Next Matt Kallroos introduced himself as a Regional Planner for Region Five Development Commission who focuses mainly on transportation and community development. Lastly Erica Bjelland introduced herself as a Regional Planner for Region Five Development Commission who focuses mainly on community development and environmental planning.*

Comprehensive Planning Overview

- *Tad Erickson and Matt Kallroos provided an overview of Comprehensive Planning to the group by giving an overview of what exactly Comprehensive Planning is and how it benefits a community. Key points discussed included:*

- *Comprehensive Planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development*
- *The elements of a Comprehensive Plan vary from community to community*
- *A Comprehensive Plan should be a vision of what a community is to be in the future*

Hackensack Comprehensive Planning Timeline

- *Tad Erickson and Matt Kallroos reviewed a timeline handout with the group which covers a 12 month planning process for the City of Hackensack. On the timeline is the schedule of the planning team meetings, public meetings, and approval process. Also on the timeline is the list of tasks the planning team will be focusing on at each meeting.*

MnDOT Update

- Brett Voth from HDR, Inc and Cole Nelson from MnDOT provided an update on the reconstruction of Highway 371. Voth and Neslon described possible designs that will be implemented in the downtown area as well as the location of the future roundabout located at the Highway 371 and County Highway 5 interesection.

Cass County Update

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Interactive Group Discussion

- Tad Erickson explained to the group that public input is vital in the development of a Comprehensive Plan and because of that the group will now have a discussion about 2 questions:

- 1) What do you love about Hackensack?
- 2) If you could make one change to Hackensack, what would you change?

The answers gathered from the group discussion are listed here:

- 1) What do you love about Hackensack?

- The comeraderie, it feels like home
- Relationships made
- Ability to feel like a local in a short amount of time
- Friendly people, feels like everyone belongs
- Small town feel where you feel like everyone knows eachother
- Decided to live in Hackensack because of the friendliness
- 2 rules: We wave here and we help those in need
- Neighbors help neighbors and the community helps eachother
- Ability to feel like a true northerner even as an outsider
- Life slows down as soon as you step into Hackensack
- Hardworking and dedicated people

- 2) If you could make one change to Hackensack, what would you change?

- Need more tree canopy
- Not worrying about change
- Potential for great collaborations
- Sun is brutal, need more trees
- More businesses invested into the community
- More businesses to open
- Fill vacant buildings
- Need more places to keep people in town
- Improved access to healthcare so we can stay in Hackensack longer
- Sidewalks and public access to businesses
- Improvements to Highway 371

Closing Remarks

- Jim Schneider from the Hackensack City Council closed the meeting by thanking the community for attending and providing public input during the public meeting and also thanked Region Five Development Commission for organizing and facilitating the public kickoff meeting.

Questions/ Next Steps

- Tad Erickson stated that the next step in the planning process is to have the first planning team meeting in late August.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40p.m