

Imagine Duluth 2035

Vision Committee Meeting Summary

April 19, 2017

Attendees: David Ross, John Schmidt, Ed Hall, Lynne Williams, Dave Sarvela, Luke Sydow, Kevin Skwira-Brown, Janet Kennedy, Drew Digby, Garner Moffat, Laura Mullen, Pam Kramer, Gary Eckenberg, Christina Woods, Lee Stuart, Tony Cuneo, Angie Miller, Barb Ross, Bill Gronseth, Alicia Lyr, Jill Keppers, Susan Coen, Max Taubert, Elisia Hansen and Rosita Clarke

City Staff: Keith Hamre, Adam Fulton, Ben VanTassel, Kyle Deming, John Kelley, Steven Robertson, Chris Lee, Kate Van Daele, Jenn Reed Moses, Cindy Voigt and Emily Larson

- I. **Presentation** by Elissa Hansen and John Kelley regarding Walkability Action Institute Conference – Atlanta, GA

- II. **Group Activity – Policy Priorities.** Task: review concepts from focus group meetings and consider how those options best fit with the goals and desires of the community.

A. GROUP ONE

Transportation:

1. Adopt complete street ordinance – green street design – prioritize design elements.
2. De-politicize road design.
3. Sidewalk – snow removal – maintenance – sidewalk further back from road on one side.
4. Public transit – limit fossil fuel use.
5. Northern Lights Express – recruitment for University and business – taxi, bikes, bus at Depot.
6. Electric car use – charging station.
7. Prioritize getting kids to schools – sidewalks, high use areas – sidewalk condition – priority routes.
8. Rental bikes.
9. Water taxi.
10. Bridge design for pedestrians and bikes.
11. Goal – trolley/bus to tier 1 parks.
12. Design Skyline to accommodate pedestrians and bikes – connection to parks.
13. Good trail connection plan – system issue.
14. Air
15. Harbor – Economic
16. Accommodate shipping for tourism.
17. Shipping – Human trafficking – non-traditional transportation issue.
18. DTA – East/West – use good streets – up and down hill.

Housing:

1. Rehab funding needs to be available on an easier basis. Working with contractor is a problem. Help H.O. find good contractors.
2. Develop skills in contractors to improve the pool.
3. Explain to people how tax value is effected by home improvements versus home maintenance.
4. Address quality of rental housing – improve.
5. Policies that encourage mixed-income housing by dispersing affordable housing.
6. Promote home ownership for all income levels and throughout the community.
7. Be cautious about unintended consequences when seeing housing units shifting to vacation rental. Balance out across the city and/or limit the number of units city wide.
8. Recognize value of households east to west.
9. Curb appeal – address neighborhood infrastructure deficiencies (curbs, sidewalks, streets, trees).
10. Public campaign to encourage property owners to improve their property (i.e. Portland Square).
11. Incentivize creating/improving residential above commercial. Can building codes be revisited to make reuse of these spaces?
12. Assist people wanting to down-size or age in place al all income levels.

B. GROUP TWO

Transportation:

1. Boulevard landscaped – traffic 6th Ave. E.
2. Median – trees.
3. Narrow streets – challenge concept of four lanes.
4. High priority – safe driving and walking.
5. Pedestrian crossing on streets.
6. Organize trash removal – trucks on roads.
7. Defining approach to achieving safety.
8. Dedicated sidewalk repair funding.
9. Walkability/biking to needs – connectivity – sidewalks.
10. Winter maintenance for sidewalks – repair damaged sidewalks – up and down hills.
11. Assess sidewalks and roads on a scale basis.
12. Sidewalk – public safety.
13. Density near transportation infrastructure and utilities.
14. Minimum maintenance roads.
15. Plan shrinkage.
16. One-way streets – safety – liability
17. Light rail system.
18. Use rail lines – Northern Lights Express
19. Air transportation – support airport – employment center – public transit
20. Access to Superior.
21. Bridges to Superior and downtown Duluth – connectivity canal park and downtown.
22. London Rd. and 35?
23. Lincoln Park traffic and 35 intersection.

24. Up and down hills – Hermantown down.
25. Equality with schools for transportation – access to food.
26. Trucking and streets/roads.

Housing

1. Move senior housing – smaller and want to own and want to be on the hillside.
2. Absentee owners need to fix their rental housing (improve quality of housing).
3. Infill density – duplex – owner occupied senior duplex on other ownership models.
4. “Gold Star” landlords who are given privileges for being good operators (i.e. Mankato)
5. Mixed income housing needed. Some high-end units with affordable units.
6. Avoid cookie cutter development – capture Duluth’s vibe (i.e. Lake Superior Condos and Bluestone).
7. Rent-to-own program for housing (co-housing).
8. More units for homeless – hostels for homeless.
9. Need permanent supportive housing/housing first model.
10. Create a fund where developers contribute a portion of their profit for use on affordable housing – leverage funds.
11. Incentivize smaller builders in their housing rehab for rental and home ownership.
12. Housing for former prison inmates who struggle to get housing.
13. Tiny house neighborhood – find a place for it and regulations.
14. Regulation of property management companies.

III. Updates

- A. Keith Hamre – Update on overall process
- B. Kate Van Daele – Update on outreach to students, ISD 709

IV. Adjourn – 5:45pm