

**City of La Prairie – Comprehensive Plan Update**  
**Community Issues & Goals Meeting Summary**  
October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. La Prairie City Hall

**Attendees**

Margie Ritter  
Tim O'Brien  
Mike Nelson

Vic Moen  
Mike Fall  
Meghan Bown

Nancy Loscheider  
Justin Otsea

**Summary**

The Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. in the La Prairie City Hall with Justin Otsea, Planner, representing the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission-Regional Planning Division (ARDC) introducing himself, welcoming everyone in attendance, and inviting them to help themselves to refreshments provided by the City. After having everyone introduce themselves, he also commended the planning team and the city on the efforts for planning and implementing the 'La Prairie Proud' picnic, which was considered a great success. Next, he provided an overview of the comprehensive planning process to this point, and briefly what a comprehensive plan is.

Otsea continued by summarizing the goals of the evening which were to review the results of the survey, discuss draft chapter goal statements and categorized issues and opportunities handout, review the Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute's recommendations, and lastly outline the next steps of the project. In addition to the documented planning process, drafts of the presentation and other reference materials pertaining to the project can be found at [www.arrowheadplanning.org/LaPrairieCompPlan](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/LaPrairieCompPlan)

**Survey Results Presentation**

Justin Otsea provided meeting attendees with hard copies of both the full survey results and individual answers to each of the questions stemming from the 77 respondents to the community survey. Highlighted themes of discussion from the survey included: economic development desires, rental management practices, existing conditions regarding safe walking and bicycling, activity (walking and bicycling) trends and desired programming, among others. Justin also covered a summary of some of the noticeable trends from the survey, incorporated into his presentation, and led an open conversation among committee members regarding other trends or questions that they had regarding the survey results. The survey results, handouts, and Justin's presentation, are all available on the City's Comprehensive Plan website listed above.

**Goals and Categorized Issues and Opportunities Review**

Planning Committee Members were referenced to their meeting packets which included the previously identified issues, opportunities, and desired assets list, categorized into each of the respective plan's chapters. Additionally, a draft goal statement was included with each chapter to receive comment from the planning committee on. These goal statements set up the overarching theme of each chapter, so feedback is critical to establishing a community vision for each section of the plan. Additionally, feedback was sought for regarding the previously established 2008 vision statement. After discussion, it was decided that the visioning statement, and a few other chapter goal statements needed revising, and additional drafts of each will be presented and reviewed at the upcoming meeting for the comprehensive plan.

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### **Preliminary WALC Institute Recommendations Discussion**

Justin Otsea then facilitated a discussion regarding each of the recommendation components included in Dan Burden’s Walkable and Livable Communities (WALC) Institute recommendations for the City of La Prairie which included traffic calming efforts, smaller housing opportunities, a form based zoning code, among others. Overall, the committee was very pleased with incorporating all of the recommendations provided by the WALC institute into the comprehensive plan except adopting a ‘complete streets policy’ and design manual. After extended discussion, it was agreed that incorporating complete streets, multi-modal, principles and components into the comprehensive plan would be desired, but the steps of adopting a policy and design manual would be left out.

### **Next Steps in the Planning Process:**

ARDC will summarize the meeting and email to the planning team along with posting the information to the project’s website. ARDC will also continue to develop recommendations for objectives, strategies, and action steps under each respective chapter of the comprehensive plan. These materials will be sent to committee members for review prior to the next scheduled meeting which is ***Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the La Prairie City Hall.*** Feedback will be taken on the recommendations prior to finalization and plan composition, which will come to a completion at a final, public meeting where the entirety of the plan will be reviewed and presented prior to adoption by the City Council.

Anyone not able to attend/interested in the planning project is encouraged to contact Justin Otsea of ARDC at (218) 529-7529 or [jotsea@ardc.org](mailto:jotsea@ardc.org) for more information as well as an opportunity to provide public comment into the vision of the City.