

6. Vision Update	Administrative Services
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**PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this discussion is to update the Council on activities related to Vision SLP and the 18-Month Strategic Directions the City Council adopted on March 19, 2007. Reports will be presented quarterly, with the next update for Council scheduled for November, 2007.

**BACKGROUND:**

Putting the ideas of Vision into action is a journey. The first step for the City Manager was to communicate the results of Vision and the 18-Month Strategic Directions to staff and the community. We believe that it is very important to make sure that those who work on Vision first understand what was adopted by Council in March.

We have been working with staff to put together a structure for communication and action to help support activities. When handling programs, projects and activities, we have already started looking at what we do through the eyes of Vision and the 18 Month guide.

Staff is spreading the word, working with others in teams and connecting with others in all departments to carry out Vision activities. The Vision report is out to the community and the Vision partners will accept the results of the Visioning process by the end of July.

As you may expect, some funds may be needed to carry out various Vision related activities. As we are putting together the 2008 budget recommendations, staff is reviewing Vision budget needs. These will be presented to Council during the regular budget process.

**The Details – Building the foundation to allow staff to work on Vision**

In order to work and track Vision activities, we found the need to set up a formal structure. After discussions with Department Heads and Supervisors, we set up teams to work in the four areas of Strategic Direction adopted by the Council and to work on the focus areas under each of these four main areas. In the attached July 2007 Activities Update for the 18-month Strategic Directions Guide you will see teams set up with “Strategic Direction Leaders” and “Action Champions”.

The Strategic Direction Leader (SDL) is the individual who will lead one of the four major Strategic Direction areas. Under three of the four areas, the Council identified focus areas related to the main topic. For example, John Luse, Police Chief, is the SDL for the first Strategic Direction area - “St Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community”. Each of the focus areas under this have Action Champions to lead this area.

The responsibility of the SDL is to make sure the Action Champions are moving Vision activities forward in a strategic and planned manner. The SDL also connects with the City Manager on a regular basis to provide updates and get guidance as needed for that Vision. SDLs work with Action Champions on activities, communication and reports.

The responsibility of the Action Champion is to lead a focus area. They may create teams of staff members to help with work and to connect activities throughout the city. Action Champions are responsible for keeping SDLs informed of activities and providing reports as needed. SDLs and Action Champions will also look into the Vision Workbook documents for guidance when following through with implementing the 18-month Guide.

Action Champion Teams may be formed to work with others on a focus area. Teams may also choose to invite key people to specific meetings to discuss pertinent items on a regular or as needed basis. In some cases, an Action Champion may not work with a team. Their task may involve research and will gather resources from others as needed.

**Status Report - What are the SDLs, Action Champions and Teams doing**

The attached report is a status update of activities from all areas of focus under the four major Strategic Directions.

**The Vision Journey - What have we been doing up to this point**

Below is the background and timeline of events showing our Vision process to date:

**2005:**

- Bridget Gothberg, Organizational Development worked with all partners, staff and consultants on the appreciative inquiry process for Vision.
- Staff worked with consultants from Mobius on the Vision process.
- Groups of community partners were gathered to reach out to expand and deepen the Visioning process for the City of St. Louis Park.
- McKnight awarded a grant to the City for Vision.

**2006:**

- Hundreds of people meet and had conversations on Vision goals and Challenging possibilities.
- Town Summit held to review data obtained from Vision appreciative inquiry interviews and set direction for next Vision steps (February).
- Vision Action Teams were formed around eight specific areas and were asked to take the information from the discussions on Challenging Possibilities, do additional research if needed, and develop recommended goals and actions steps for our Vision through 2016.
- Vision Action Teams developed the Book of Dreams (November).
- The Action teams created a Vision Workbook with recommendations and goals in the eight areas (November).
- Under the leadership of Jim Brimeyer, the Vision Action Teams completed their work and submitted their reports to the community partners (November).
- The city hosted the community Vision Celebration and expressed thanks and appreciation for the work of the Vision Action Teams. Their work in this process was successfully completed (November).

**2007:**

- Council participated in a workshop and discussed, in detail, the results of the community visioning process. An 18-month Vision Strategic Directions guide was developed as a result of the discussion and information in the Vision Workbook (February).
- Council formally received the 2006 Vision St. Louis Park recommendations and adopted the St. Louis Park Strategic Directions 18-month Guide (March).
- The City Manager held meetings with Department Heads to discuss Vision and implementation of the 18-month guide (April).
- The City Manager held meetings with Supervisors to discuss Vision and the 18-month guide. The purpose was to make sure supervisors understood the Vision process and to answer questions they had regarding the new Vision and guide. Supervisors were given direction to have conversations with staff about Vision and the 18-month guide (April).
- Vision communications were developed including creation of the Vision SLP Report to the Community (April-June).
- Tom Harmening, City Manager, was asked to write an article for the League of Minnesota Cities publication. Vision St. Louis Park – Setting Your Sights on the Future This article was published and distributed to all cities in Minnesota through the League (April).
- St. Louis Park received award from the LMC and AMM on the Vision process. (April)
- Staff presented an overview of the St Louis Park visioning process to other cities at the Transforming Local Government Conference - Alliance for Innovation. The City was sought out to present this concept because it was considered one most innovative and unique visioning activities that a city has successfully completed (June).
- A report on Vision and the 18-Month Strategic Directions were presented to our partners in the visioning process - St. Louis Park School Board and TwinWest Chamber. Park Nicollet is scheduled to be presented to in July (May-July).
- Staff developed the concept of forming teams to work on concepts, programs and activities. After conversations with Department Heads, it was determined that the four main areas in the Vision 18 Month Strategic Directions Guide would each have a Strategic Direction Leader (SDL). Leaders were also designated as Action Champions for each focus area (each bullet). Significant staff time has been used in meeting and determining the best method to help with ideas, action and coordination in our Vision journey (May-June).
- SDLs and Action Champions have met several times and are forming Action Champion Teams consisting of staff throughout the organization to assist in carrying out the direction provided by Council and reporting back to the City Manager (June-July).
- First quarterly update on our Vision activities is presented to Council (July 23).
- Our journey continues.

**What's Next**

As our journey continues, staff and Vision Action Teams will continue with their work on Vision and the strategic directions. This will include the following:

- SDLs work with Vision Action Champions on their focus area.
- Action Champions work with their team members on activities.
- SDLs work with and update the City Manager on Vision activities.
- Staff is reviewing funding needs and will incorporate requests in the 2008 budget process.

- Creation and implementation of Vision Scorecard to track our journey, activities and actions related to the strategic direction.
- All staff on Vision Action Teams come together on October 2 for updates and direction.
- Continued recording of Vision activities.
- Continued communication with all city staff on Vision.

Reports on Vision are planned for Council as follows:

**2007:** Quarterly reports presented at second study sessions in July and November

**2008:** Quarterly reports presented at second study sessions in March and July  
18-month report due September 2008

**Attachments:** Strategic Direction 18 Month Guide  
Vision Status Update

**Prepared by:** Nancy Gohman, Deputy City Manager/HR Director

**Approved by:** Tom Harmening, City Manager



St. Louis Park Strategic Directions  
18 Month Guide  
Adopted March 19, 2007

**St. Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community.**

Focus will be on:

- Conducting research to determine what makes a neighborhood organization strong, viable and sustainable with an aim toward increasing and strengthening neighborhoods.
- Developing an expanded and organized network of sidewalks and trails.
- Promoting regional transportation issues and related dedicated funding sources affecting St. Louis Park including but not limited to Hwy. 100 and SWLRT.
- Evaluating and investigating additional north/south transportation options for the community.
- Increasing use of new and existing gathering places and ensuring accessibility throughout the community.
- Exploring creation of a multi-use civic center, including indoor/winter use.
- Directing the Human Rights Commission to examine the Diversity section of Vision St. Louis Park and develop goals/recommendations for actions

**St. Louis Park is committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship. We will increase environmental consciousness and responsibility in all areas of city business.**

Focus will be on:

- Expanding energy efficiencies in the City's operations.
- Educating staff and the public on environmental consciousness, stewardship and best practices.
- Working in areas such as the rehab loan program, development projects, permits etc, encourage (and provide incentives where appropriate) green building design (LEED), creation of open spaces, environmental innovations etc.
- Preserving, enhancing and providing good stewardship of our parks.
- Investigating the need and purpose for an energy/environmental commission.

**St. Louis Park is committed to providing a well-maintained and diverse housing stock.**

Focus will be on:

- Remodeling and expanding move-up, single-family, owner-occupied homes.
- Property maintenance to foster quality housing and community aesthetics.
- Working towards affordable single-family home ownership throughout the city.

**St. Louis Park is committed to promoting and integrating arts, culture, and community aesthetics in all City initiatives, including implementation where appropriate.**

## St. Louis Park Strategic Directions 18 Month Guide July 2007 Activity Update

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY**

**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

### **FOCUS AREA**

Conducting research to determine what makes a neighborhood organization strong, viable and sustainable with an aim toward increasing and strengthening neighborhoods.

**Asset Champion:** Marney Olson  
**Action Team Members:** Other departments as needed.

### **Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Attended two Community and Neighborhood Revitalization courses in May, 2007 presented by NeighborWorks America. The courses were "Essential Tools of the Trade: Neighborhood Analysis, Visioning and Planning for Action" and a second course titled "Getting Things Done in Neighborhoods through Strategic Collaborations".

Met with Community Development on neighborhood comprehensive plan and will continue to work with other departments as consultants as I continue this research.

Researching other cities that have Neighborhood Revitalization Programs and working on getting contacts with these NRP groups to learn from their research.

### **Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Continue the research of other cities and continue working with St. Louis Park city departments. Research how St. Louis Park got started working with neighborhood associations.

### **How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

This research will be ongoing as I work with other cities and departments to research what makes a neighborhood organization strong, viable and sustainable.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
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**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Developing an expanded and organized network of sidewalks and trails.

**Asset Champion:** Sean Walther  
**Action Team Members:** Scott Brink, Public Works/Engineering.; Rick Beane, Park & Recreation; Others?

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Active Community Planning Initiative (July, 2006)

- City applies for planning funding to advance sidewalk and trail planning, fitness goals
- BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota announces St. Louis Park will receive funding through its Prevention Minnesota program (see attached press release)
- SLP proposal primarily updates bicycle and pedestrian system plans

City hires SRF Consulting Group to assist with Active Community Planning Initiative (February, 2007).

Active Community Citizen Advisory Committee (April, 2007-June 30, 2007)

- City Council appoints committee members on April 9, 2006
- Provides early direction to the planning process, evaluates public input, suggests priorities, and will make recommendations
- Met April 19, 2007 and May 30, 2007
- Completed goals exercise on June 30, 2007

Community Workshop (May 17, 2007)

- 35 citizens provide input on desired improvements to the sidewalk and trails system

Online Questionnaire

- 210 citizens respond to the questionnaire between May 17 and June 30, 2007
- Summary report of citizen responses (coming soon)

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

- Compile and report results of the Online Questionnaires and CAC Committee planning goals
- Prepare plan outline, begin drafting goal and policy language, sidewalk and trail plans
- Schedule a technical review meeting
- Set date for next Community Advisory Committee meeting
- Set date for Community Open House

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

<p>Compile and report results of the Online Questionnaires and CAC Committee planning goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SRF and city staff will summarize the data</li> <li>▪ SRF will report results to CAC members</li> <li>▪ City staff will post results of the Online Questionnaire on City website</li> </ul>	7/2-7/13
<p>Prepare plan outline, begin drafting goal and policy language, sidewalk and trail plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SRF Consulting is responsible for preparing the document</li> <li>▪ City staff will provide direction and assistance to SRF Consulting Group</li> </ul>	7/13-8/15
<p>Staff will contact the following representatives to schedule technical review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mpls, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Edina, Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District</li> <li>▪ U of M Metropolitan Design Center (Blue Cross Blue Shield Technical Assistance provider)</li> <li>▪ Park Nicollet</li> </ul>	7/9-7/20
<p>Set date for next Community Advisory Committee meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact Staff, Consultant, CAC members with possible dates</li> <li>▪ Send “hold the date” notice</li> </ul>	By 7/18
<p>Set date for Community Open House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinate with consultant, CAC members</li> <li>▪ Post date on website</li> </ul>	By 7/18

**Other**

- Attachments: BCBS Press Release  
Active Living, Sidewalks and Trails – Project Process  
Active Living, Sidewalks and Trails – Project Schedule  
Active Living, Sidewalks and Trails – Project Organization Chart



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Minnesota**

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Lyons

651-662-1415

Karl Oestreich

651-662-1502

### **Blue Cross Announces Finalists for Active Community Funding**

*Funding through Prevention Minnesota supports community-led efforts to adopt community design strategies that help residents incorporate physical activity into daily routines.*

EAGAN, Minn. (July 26, 2006) — Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) has announced the selection of 11 proposals for two programs that will help Minnesota city and county governments plan their communities to better support physically active lifestyles. The two programs — *Active Community Planning* and *Active Community Assessment & Engagement* — are part of Prevention Minnesota, Blue Cross' long-term health initiative to improve the health of all Minnesotans. Prevention Minnesota tackles preventable heart disease and cancers by addressing their root causes — tobacco use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy eating.

“Physical inactivity is one of the top causes of preventable death and disability in Minnesota,” said Marc Manley, M.D., vice president and medical director of population health at Blue Cross. “As more people recognize the need to build physical activity into their daily lives to improve their overall health, our environments need to support that choice. For example, safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle routes can make it easier for people to choose active transportation for commuting, daily chores and recreation.” continued Manley. “It’s all about improving the health of Minnesotans, and we’re pleased that counties and municipalities are eager to plan for active community environments so their residents have a choice.”

The selected projects emerged from a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Each eligible application went through a two-part expert review process, and funding is still contingent on successful contract negotiation. The following applicants were selected for the *Active Community Planning* funding. They will be incorporating active living principles into their comprehensive plans, which govern issues such as land use, housing, and transportation.

- City of Arden Hills
- City of Bloomington

— more —

*Blue Cross announces funding for Active Community Design Funding /Page 2*

- City of Eden Prairie
- City of St. Louis Park
- City of St. Paul
- City of St. Paul Park
- City of Two Harbors
- Ramsey County

The following applicants were selected for *Active Community Assessment & Engagement* funding. They will be working with community stakeholders about active living principles and help them apply those principles to their community planning processes.

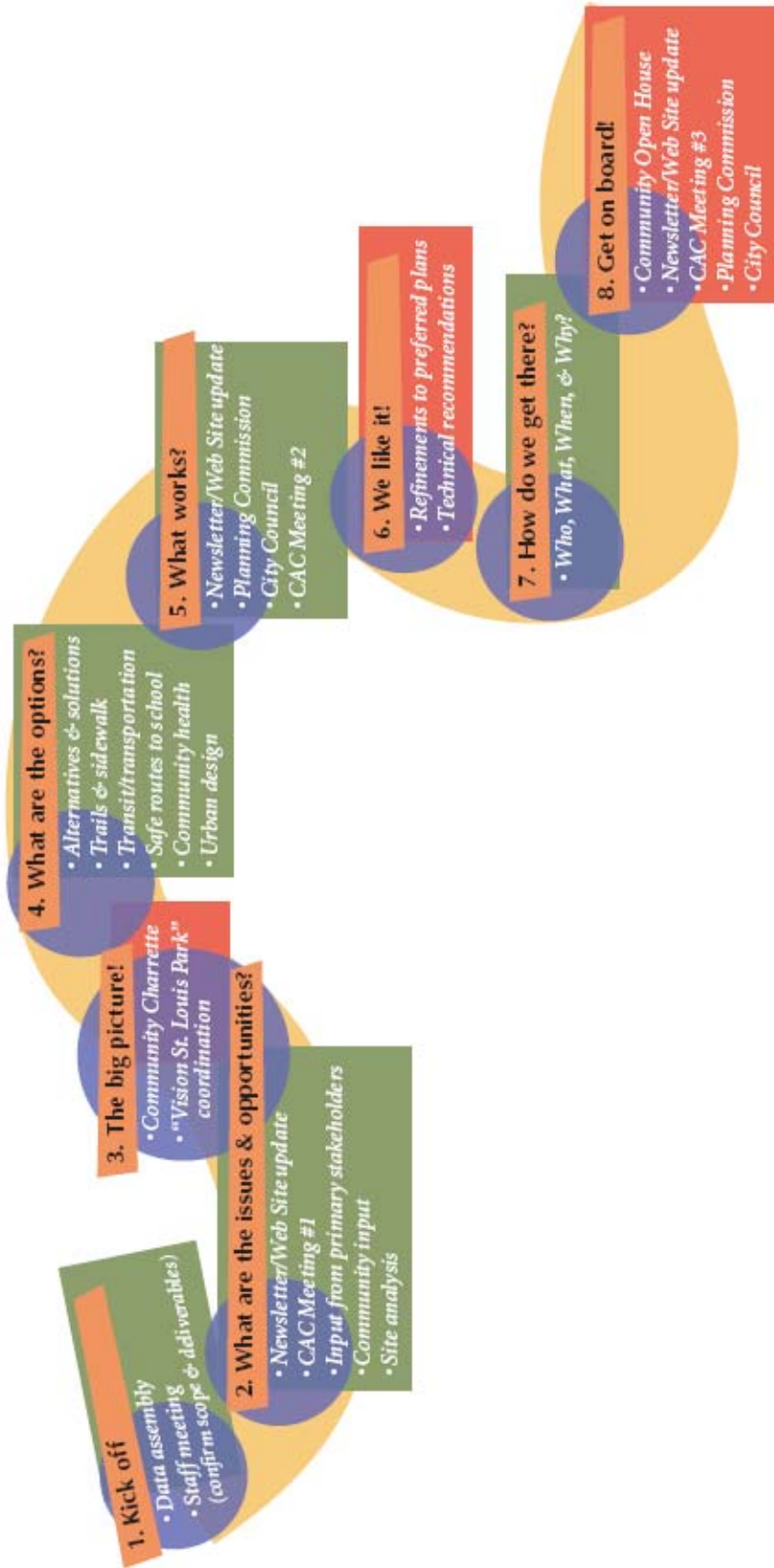
- Arrowhead Regional Development Commission/Northeastern Minnesota Obesity Prevention Project
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County

*Active Community Planning* and *Active Community Assessment & Engagement* funding is part of a larger community funding initiative by Blue Cross' Prevention Minnesota. *Communities on the Move* projects encourage regular physical activity among insufficiently active adults, and *Communities for Healthy Air* projects support community-led efforts to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke in the state. *Communities on the Move* is still accepting proposals through September and plans to fund an additional 20-50 projects. Funding for all these programs in 2006 will total approximately \$5.8 million.

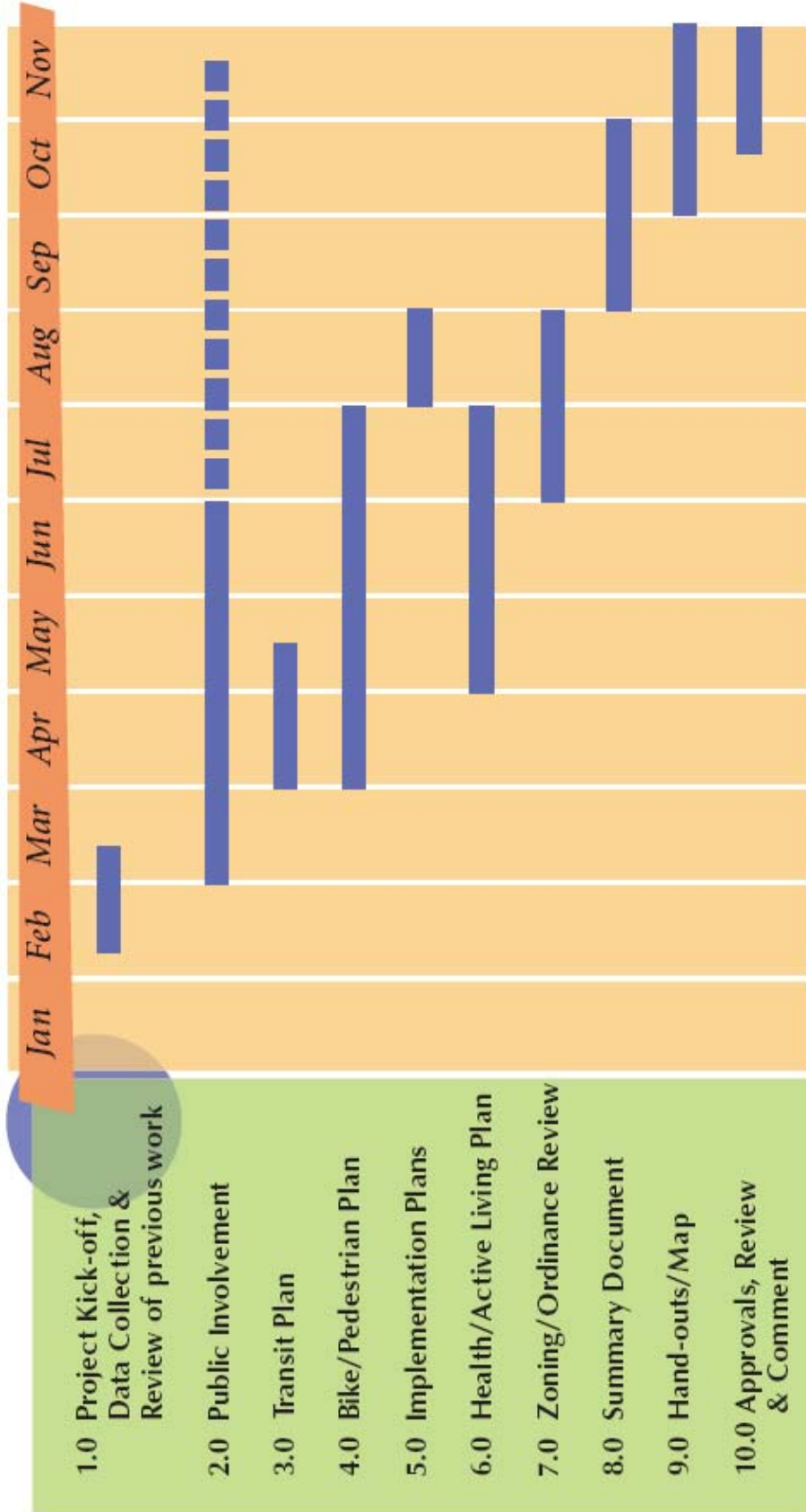
Community funding complements Prevention Minnesota's other core strategies, which include policy change, clinical initiatives, public awareness campaigns and outreach to high-risk groups. Prevention Minnesota's broad-based approach follows the strategic guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has cited community programs as an essential part of a comprehensive health improvement program.

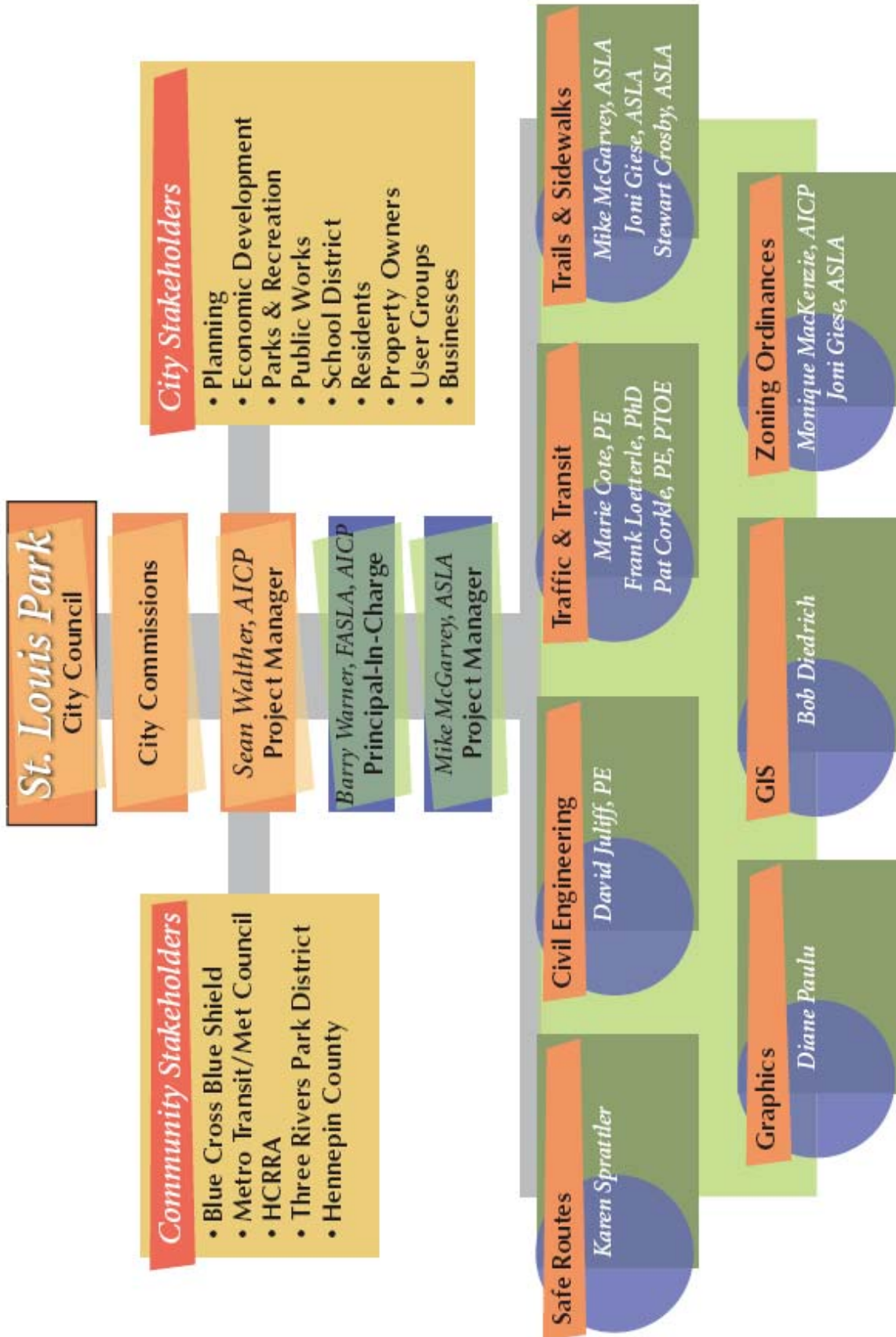
For more information visit [www.preventionminnesota.com](http://www.preventionminnesota.com).

*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, with headquarters in the St. Paul suburb of Eagan, was chartered in 1933 as Minnesota's first health plan and continues to carry out its charter mission today: to promote a wider, more economical and timely availability of health services for the people of Minnesota. A not-for-profit, taxable organization, Blue Cross is the largest health plan based in Minnesota, covering 2.7 million members in Minnesota and nationally through its health plans or plans administered by its affiliated companies. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, headquartered in Chicago. Go to [www.bluecrossmn.com](http://www.bluecrossmn.com) to learn more about Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.*



## Project Schedule





**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY**

**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Promoting regional transportation issues and related dedicated funding sources affecting St. Louis Park including, but not limited to, Hwy. 100 and SWLRT.

**Asset Champion:** Marcia Honold  
**Action Team Members:** Tom Harmening, Administrative Services; Mike Rardin, Public Works; Meg McMonigal, Community Development; Scott Brink, Public Works/Engineering.; Rick Birno, Park & Recreation

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Submitted bonding requests to the State Department of Finance for TH 7 & Wooddale and the TH 100 Full Build Project, \$9million and \$10 million respectively.

On July 5, held strategy meetings with elected officials on key transportation projects and toured elected officials and other delegates to key transportation sites in SLP. Press release on the tour was sent on Friday, July 6. A summary of the tour will be inserted into the next Park Perspective. Thank you letters sent to participants on the tour and meeting (elected officials).

Council adopted resolutions of support for both bonding requests on July 16 that were forwarded to the Department of Finance.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Waiting for announcement on the Federal Transportation Bill and the Glencoe RR Mitigation Project.

Washington D.C. legislative trip in October in coordination with travel for the 100 Best Forum with Mayor Jacobs.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

With assistance from staff and our legislative strategists

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**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Evaluating and investigating additional north/south transportation options for the community.

**Asset Champion:** Scott Brink

**Action Team Members:** Sean Walter, Community Development (still filling out remainder of team)

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Evaluate broad picture – what is the problem/issue in general and begin breaking down into smaller issues

Evaluate and discuss known issues of focus area through sidewalk and trail planning update (healthy communities initiative) and Highway 100, TH 7/Wooddale, TH 7/Louisiana and other current project and planning activities.

Evaluate information (citizen input and other) from previous vision activity.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Complete committee.

Provide agenda and hold committee meeting (brainstorming).

Determine next steps/courses of action.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

Will not know for certain until committee “brainstorming” occurs.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
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**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Increasing use of new and existing gathering places and ensuring accessibility throughout the community.

**Asset Champion:** Meg McMonigal  
**Action Team Members:** Not yet determined

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Began creating an inventory of gathering places:

Public facilities including city, school, county, etc., owned properties  
Private schools, churches and synagogues, cultural facilities  
Retail, dining and lodging facilities

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Inventory additional private facilities with rooms open for public use (Methodist Hospital, for example)

Inventory formal gathering activities:

Organized groups  
Programs  
Other

Discuss idea of using citywide survey in 2008 to determine interest in gathering spaces and activities.

Determine true interest in places and need for additional activities.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

Completing inventories currently – expect completion by October 1, 2007.

Will work with Marcia on survey – Fall 2007

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY**

**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Exploring creation of a multi-use civic center, including indoor/winter use.

**Asset Champion:** Rick Birno  
**Action Team Members:** Craig Panning, Park & Recreation; Adam Fulton, Community Development; Darla Monson, Finance; Nate Graham, Information Resources; Ann Boettcher, Inspections; Jim Lombardi, Park & Recreation (still waiting to hear from George Foulkes, Mike Harcey, Ali Fosse, Cary Smith & Jim Olson)

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Organized Action Team  
Scheduled first Action Team meeting (7-19-07)  
Developed first meeting agenda  
Organized community survey results into civic center categories  
Finalized plans to attend civic center facility design school in early August

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Set meeting schedule for Action Team  
Review community input  
Categorize input into high, medium and low options  
Identify expansion options and alternative locations  
Develop a list of partnership opportunities  
Organize off-site tour for Action Team  
Write/review document with civic center priorities and options for SDL  
Based on senior staff and council recommendations, begin working with consultant to develop formal proposal

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

Working with the Action Team at the scheduled work sessions.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING  
A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY**

**Strategic Direction Leader: John Luse**

**FOCUS AREA**

Directing the Human Rights Commission to examine the Diversity section of Vision St. Louis Park and develop goals/recommendations for actions.

**Asset Champion:** Lori Dreier, Marney Olson  
**Action Team Members:** Human Rights Commissioners, Ali Fosse, Administrative Services/Human Resources.

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

We reviewed the Diversity Action Team's report from Vision St. Louis Park prior to the June Human Rights Commission (HRC) meeting. A copy of the report was given to the Human Rights Commissioners and we discussed the role of the HRC in developing goals/recommendations for action.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Further discussion and review of the report is on the agenda for the July HRC meeting. At this meeting, we will identify goals from the Vision report that are unclear and then seek clarification from the Diversity Action Team. We will also begin to evaluate and prioritize the goals.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

We will devote a portion of our HRC meetings which occur monthly to this task. Marney Olson and Lori Dreier will work on clarification of goals that are unclear prior to the August HRC meeting.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. WE WILL INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL AREAS OF CITY BUSINESS**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Nancy Gohman**

**FOCUS AREA**

Expanding energy efficiencies in the City's operations.

**Asset Champion:** Brian Hoffman  
**Action Team Members:** Cary Smith, Fire; Craig Panning, Park & Recreation; John Altepeter, Inspections/Facilities Maintenance; Mark Hanson, Public Works/Operations, Mark Oestreich, Park & Recreation/Nature Center

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

This team will be exploring the various areas in which energy efficiencies can be improved in all city operations.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Initial meetings will be determining information we currently have and center scope to pursue including vehicles, existing building audits, new building designs and alternative ways of improving energy efficiency.

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**Strategic Direction Leader: Nancy Gohman**

**FOCUS AREA**

Educating staff and the public on environmental consciousness, stewardship and best practices.

**Asset Champion:** Jamie Zwilling  
**Action Team Members:** Mark Oestreich, Park & Rec. Nature Center and other Westwood Hills Nature Center staff as needed

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

We evaluated our charge to educate and continue as leaders in environmental stewardship and decided that making the Westwood Hills Nature Center a showcase for the community would be an appropriate and exciting goal for this focus area. I discussed this idea with our SDL as well as the Parks and Recreation Director and we all agreed to move forward.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Next steps will be to meet with Mark Oestreich and discuss how best to organize this initiative (i.e. regular meetings, involvement of his staff, others, etc.) We will be discussing the Nature Center as it is today and what it could be in the future. We will then develop a communication plan to begin promoting all of the great things currently happening at the Nature Center, and brainstorm other tenets of this showcase.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

This initiative is not just one big event, but really a series of continuing pieces that will be moving all at the same time so some of this action will start soon, probably within the next few months. I anticipate that there will be new/enhanced publications, Web presence, video production and activities and programming planned. The timeline for these activities will be determined during the initial planning to be done over the next two months.

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**Strategic Direction Leader: Nancy Gohman**

**FOCUS AREA**

Working in areas such as the rehab loan program, development projects, permits etc, encourage (and provide incentives where appropriate) green building design (LEED), creation of open spaces, environmental innovations, etc.

**Asset Champion:** Brian Hoffman  
**Action Team Members:** John Tilton, Inspections; Kimberly Bretza, Inspections; Adam Fulton, Community Development; Kathy Larsen, Community Development; Reg Dunlap, Information Resources

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Time to review the topic. A summation title for this working group, while not losing any of the specific potentials, may be modified to developing education, innovation and incentives for construction, development projects and rehabilitation programs.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

We will be setting up meetings to consider the wide range of possibilities for new programs and integration of existing programs operated by the city.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. WE WILL INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL AREAS OF CITY BUSINESS**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Nancy Gohman**

**FOCUS AREA**

Preserving, enhancing and providing good stewardship of our parks.

**Asset Champion:** Rick Beane  
**Action Team Members:** Chad Kraayenbrink, Police; Jenny Buskey, Park & Recreation; Jim Thompson, Park & Recreation; Jim Vaughan, Park & Recreation; Mark Oestreich, Park & Recreation/Nature Center

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

The action team members have agreed to be part of this process. I have printed copies of the Goals from the Vision CD to distribute to the members.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

I plan on getting together in a week with this group of people to start to get their opinion of what this means to them.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

ASAP

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO BEING A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. WE WILL INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL AREAS OF CITY BUSINESS**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Nancy Gohman**

**FOCUS AREA**

Investigating the need and purpose for an energy/environmental commission.

**Asset Champion:** Marcia Honold  
**Action Team Members:** None named at this time.

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Have conducted research into what types of energy and/or environment commissions exist in other communities

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Will continue to research and review this question.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

Fine tune research, meet with staff liaisons for Planning Commission and Park & Recreation Advisory Commission to learn more about possible need for a new and separate commission.

**When Will this be Done**

By September, 2007

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A WELL-MAINTAINED  
AND DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK.**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Kevin Locke**

**FOCUS AREA**

Remodeling and expanding move-up, single-family, owner-occupied homes

**Asset Champion:** Kathy Larsen  
**Action Team Members:** Michele Schnitker, Community Development/Housing; consulting staff from Public Works, Administrative Services, Housing Authority, Assessing, Zoning, Finance, Fire, Police Department

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Met with SDL, Kevin and Action Champion, Michele, to discuss overview of focus area within the strategic direction. Reviewed inventory of current ongoing activity that meets vision strategic direction/focus area. Planned initial brainstorming session with other staff to develop direction. Include Vision funds in 2008 budget.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Summer - Fall 2007 - Invite potential brainstormers to development sessions. The two housing focus areas will hold a joint session(s) with diverse city staff from Zoning, PW, Administrative Services, Police, Fire and Finance to review current housing programs and goals and review input from the Vision housing action team, interviews and community survey

Summer – Fall 2007 - Meet with other municipalities, non-profits and businesses to review best practice activities that are currently being implemented by others. Compile list of other possibilities.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A WELL-MAINTAINED  
AND DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK.**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Kevin Locke**

**FOCUS AREA: HOUSING STOCK**

Property maintenance to foster quality housing and community aesthetics.

**Asset Champion:** Manny Camilon  
**Action Team Members:** Possibly Sara Heling, Police and Dale Antonson, Fire, but not yet determined or Ok'd by their supervisors. I would also like someone from the City Forestry department.

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Begin putting team together from Fire, Police and City Forestry department.

Will put together a 5-7 question survey to distribute to housing staff, some long term residents and business owners.

The survey will include questions regarding housing & aesthetics for the Park residents and ask people what visible things may need improvement – roads, trees, buildings and properties, signage, curb & gutters, walking paths, open space, store front maintenance, etc. It will also ask what other things that they see in other attractive communities that we might incorporate here in SLP.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

We will meet and begin putting together this survey. We will also begin discussion on the purpose of our group and how this fits in the larger picture and why our group is important, etc.

Give a little history on the residential maintenance projects, past and current, but emphasize our work will entail ALL of SLP, including commercial and industrial, streetscapes, parks, infrastructure, signs, tree trimming – just about anything aesthetic to the City!

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

Through meetings, surveys, interviews and reporting back to strategic direction leader, Kevin Locke.

May need postage for surveys to be send out : budget item.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A WELL-MAINTAINED  
AND DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK.**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Kevin Locke**

**FOCUS AREA: HOUSING STOCK**

Working towards affordable single-family home ownership throughout the city.

**Asset Champion:** Michele Schnitker  
**Action Team Members:** Kathy Larsen, Community Development/Housing – Team Partner.

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

Inventoried programs and initiatives already underway, forwarded to Marcia Honold.

Meeting held with SDL, Kevin Locke and Kathy Larsen to discuss strategies for addressing focus areas.

Submitted letter of support and additional information needed for West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust (WHAHLT) application to MHFA Consolidated Funding NOFA. Funding would support the purchase of Land Trust homeownership units in SLP.

Met with Kim Bretza, Inspections, to discuss the duplex conversion program. Identified several neighborhood areas to focus efforts and several properties that might be possible prospects.

Proposed 2008 budget include Housing Rehab funding targeted for Affordable Homeownership.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

Summer 2007: Invite potential “brainstormers” to development sessions. The two housing focus areas will hold a joint session(s) with diverse city staff from Zoning, PW, Administrative Services, Police, Fire and Finance to review current housing programs and goals and review input from the Vision housing action team, interviews and community survey.

Duplex Program: Follow-up on identification of potential targeted neighborhoods and specific properties. Work with WHAHLT on potential partnership.

Review Section 8 Voucher Homeownership program/assess feasibility of implementing a program in SLP.

Summer/Fall 2007: Meet with other municipalities, non-profits and businesses to review best practice activities that are currently being implemented by others. Compile list of other possibilities.

**ST. LOUIS PARK IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING AND INTEGRATING ARTS,  
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY AESTHETICS IN ALL CITY INITIATIVES,  
INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION WHERE APPROPRIATE**

**Strategic Direction Leader: Cindy Walsh**

**Action Team Members:** Tom Harmening, Administrative Services; Marcia Honold, Administrative Services

**Summary of Activities-to-Date**

SLP Arts & Culture Grants have been awarded and we are waiting for contracts to come back from grantees.

FORECAST Public Artworks and Denise Tennen have completed work on their 2006 grant award, which is the temporary art installation at the Hoigaard's construction site fence.

Julia Caston and Perspectives will unveil her art mural on August 6 or 7. This project was also a 2006 grant recipient, which means that we will be closing out the grant files for 2006 by September.

Staff from the Westwood Hills Nature Center have been meeting with Friends of the Arts to design an artist in residence program. This would be a trial program funded through a grant we received to help kids gain appreciation for arts and nature.

The artists selected to work on 36<sup>th</sup> street are in the design development phase of developing their art pieces.

**Describe Upcoming Activities/Next Steps**

We are working with the SLP Arts & Culture Review Committee to strengthen the application and review process. Tom Harmening and I will be meeting with Friends of the Arts to review their accomplishments over the past year and talk about our relationship and the money we provide to them for a staff position.

**How and When will these Steps/Activities be Accomplished**

We hope to get some local media coverage on the arts through our local paper and/or cable TV.

**DEFINITION OF ROLES:**

**Strategic Direction Leader (SDL)** - individual who will lead one of the 4 major areas.

**Action Champion** - person assigned as lead for the bulleted area under a strategic direction.

**Action Champion Team** - a member of the team who is working with others on a bulleted area under a strategic direction. Teams may also choose to invite key people to specific meetings to discuss pertinent items, i.e., perhaps a team is talking about budget and wants someone from Finance to come to one meeting to talk about money; a team may be talking about gathering places and invite the Community Education Director to a meeting, etc. In some cases, Action Champions may not work with a team. Their task may involve research and they will use people resources (city employees, community groups, etc.) to move the strategic direction forward.