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Sauk County Comprehensive Plan
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Town of LaValle Town Hall
May 27, 2009

Committee Members Present: Blakeslee, Borleske, Broughton, Carlson, Gerdman, Green, Iausly, Knight, Kriegl, Ladas, Lehman, Murray, Prem and Robkin.

Others Present: Mark Steward, Dave Tremble, Brian Simmert and Victoria Solomon, Sauk County Dept. of Planning and Zoning, Jenny Erickson, Sauk County-UW Extension, Cal Breunig and Bev Vaillancourt, Town of LaValle.

Mark Steward, Planning and Zoning Director, called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm, and asked members to review the agenda. Members adopted the agenda by consensus. Steward asked that members review the minutes from the April 22, 2009 Steering Committee meeting. The minutes were then adopted by consensus.

Public Comment

Cal Breunig introduced himself as the Chair of the Town of LaValle Board of Supervisors, and offered to conduct a tour of the new Town Hall. Bev Vaillancourt, Town of LaValle Town Board member, introduced herself and commented on the importance of cultural resources to Sauk County.

Simmert lead members through a discussion of draft worksheets of Strategic Objectives, Policies and strategies. Members discussed relative urgency of strategy implementation as expressed by “tier” ranking. Key issues addressed included the identification of important stakeholders and partners, a recognition that County government is not capable of addressing all the strategic needs by itself. Members completed an initial review of the Agriculture and Natural Resources worksheets, and agreed to independently review the other four worksheet sets, covering the Economy, Quality of Life, Transportation and Government. Members will email or phone comments on these strategies to Dave Tremble at Sauk county Planning and Zoning. Staff agreed to email ALL the completed strategy worksheets to members.

Erickson led members through a discussion of the draft public opinion survey, explaining that staff will consult with the UW River Falls survey research group to edit the draft and make final improvements before the Steering Committee has a final review before its June meeting. Members offered numerous comments, e.g. could an “I don’t know” response be added to the multiple choices? Can the survey be structured to serve as a gauge to the public’s understanding of the strategies being proposed? The technique of conjoint analysis offers a way to directly compare responses to two strategy options; there may be no value to the responses to these strategies; Should the questions limit responses to an opinion of whether Sauk County “government” should address the issue in question? The questions could be stated to say “Should the following actions be taken to address the issue...”

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Tremble briefed members on a proposed presentation by Dr. Kelly Cain scheduled for June 10, 2009 at the Sauk Prairie River Arts Center Gallery, in Prairie du Sac. Dr. Cain is the director of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable community Development, and teaches on the faculty of the UW-River Falls. Dr. Cain's presentation will focus partly on building sustainability into community comprehensive plans. The public will be welcome to attend.

Nick Ladas volunteered to give the Committee's periodic update to the Sauk County Board of Supervisors at the June 16, 2009 meeting, if Carolyn Davis is unable to attend that meeting.

Staff asked members to volunteer to form a subcommittee for the purpose of drafting a Vision for Sauk County's future. The draft would be submitted for review by Steering committee members prior to discussion at the June meeting. Kriegl, Blakeslee, Carlson, Borleski, Gerdman and Green volunteered, and agreed to gather following the meeting to arrange a meeting date. (5:00 pm June 10, 2009 at the River Arts Center Gallery, Sauk Prairie High School in Prairie du Sac).

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee will be Wednesday June 24, 2009, at 6:30. Location to be announced. Staff proposed to organize a cookout and social hour, beginning at 5:00 pm for members and interested public.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Steward, Director
Sauk County Dept. of Planning and Zoning