

Envision 2035 Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14, 2014

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Task Force Present:

Deb Bunde and Bonnie Duffy

Advisory Board Present:

Jason Bieber

Others Present:

Nick Fosheim

Staff Present:

Scott Anderson, David Heinold, and Kevin Hoekman

Item 1 – Mindmap Activity

David Heinold distributed base maps of the county for an activity to develop a vision for the future of Minnehaha County. Members were given some time to think about the following questions and draw their ideas on the map:

1. What's special about your area?
2. Where do you go during a typical day?
3. Think about built, natural features
4. What is your vision of the county?

Scott Anderson mentioned that he thinks the river valleys within the county are the most important and best feature. Deb Bunde questions the water levels in some of the waterways because she commented that her family would kayak portions of Skunk Creek in recent years.

Item 2 – Discuss Growth & Conservation Chapter

Mr. Heinold presented the first section of the Growth & Conservation chapter, Economic Development. Deb Bunde questioned the distinction between hobby farms and primary income farms in the Farms by Size chart, which indicates that there was a much more significant increase in the number of farms 10-49 acres from 2007 to 2012. Mr. Heinold added that the chart includes all farms reported to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture, which may not exclusively include hobby farms or primary income farms.

Mr. Anderson asked if the Finance/Insurance category included Wells Fargo and the other financial institutions in Sioux Falls. Mr. Heinold clarified that the Finance/Insurance category is a cluster of all finance and insurance industries as an example.

Bonnie Duffy questioned whether we are meeting the action to discourage strip development along major highways when Sam Assam is developing strip centers along Highway 42 just east of Sioux Falls. Jason Bieber explained that the development along Highway 42 will be mixed use with multifamily apartments and commercial.

Nick Fosheim pointed out that it is enlightening to see the employment statistics in relation to the Change in Occupational Industry Cluster chart on previous page for a better explanation on how the local economy is performing with regards to the five-state region.

Kevin Hoekman presented the second section of the Growth & Conservation chapter, Rural Character & Housing Density.

Deb Bunde questioned the action to encourage Building Eligibility transfers to less productive farmland. She wondered what has been done to accomplish this and if anything will be done. She noted that past discussions included not approving the transfer of land locked BE's. Mr. Anderson responded that today's standards are no more restrictive than in the past. He also noted that there are fewer transfers today than there were even five years ago.

Bonnie Duffy commented about the parcels located near Sioux Falls. She noted the paradox of rural residents both wanting and not wanting to annex into the city.

Deb Bunde also expressed concerns for clustering of residential houses. Her main concern is that a housing cluster has more people that have the capability to band together against farm expansions and new operations. A group of people hold more sway for decision making than a lone neighbor.

Support for setback requirements came from multiple people. Deb Bunde expressed support for setbacks of new houses locating near existing CAFOs in order to allow the CAFOs to expand and grow.

Deb Bunde spoke up about the natural character and questioned why the rivers were running so low when there has been so much rain lately.

Mr. Fosheim suggested an idea for property tax abatement, or tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate in Minnehaha County. Mr. Anderson responded that he was unsure if this

option was something that the County Commission would take up. He also noted that this sort of request could be placed in the plan if people want it there then economic development could be established out of some sort of discretionary fund.

Announcements were made for the Capture the Character of the Community photo activity and for the next Task force meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2014 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Commission Meeting Room

Next Chapter: Environmental Stewardship