



City of Faribault: Journey to 2040

"Shaping our Future"

Joint Steering Committee Meeting #2 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Purpose: Integrating Vision 2040

Meeting Date: June 21st, 2018

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Location: Faribault Public Works Facility

Meeting Goals:

- *Overview and discussion of feedback received to date*
- *Integrating Vision 2040 Exercises*

Meeting Overview:

Ana presents a brief overview of the feedback received to date along with the logistics of the exercises conducted for the meeting. Committee members discussed the challenges of addressing cultural clashes and needing to ensure a more integrated community. Some members are concerned of the feedback being received and they may not reflect community values.

The team explained that as part of the process, the goal is to discuss the challenges and ensuring a broader engagement with various groups in order to address and/or have an open discussion on how to move forward with a more integrated community as a common goal.

Ana then explained the logistics and purpose of the exercises and the time allocations for each. Below is a summary reflecting the conversations and results noted.

Summary/General Observations.

Below are observations and notes taken at each of the exercises conducted at the Joint Steering Committee Session as part of the Integrating Vision 2040 meeting theme.

Table 1: Facilitator: John

- Need to ensure enough growth and investment in the downtown to improve everyone else's investment
- There is a lot of animosity towards minorities in the community
- A lot of misinformation about public subsidies towards attracting minorities to the City
- Need to better educate people about other cultures
- There is a possibility the Hospital is leaving the City.....Medicare and Medicaid are key contributors towards this.

Table 2: Facilitator: Ana

Vision Session

- The group focused primarily on the rich and unique history Faribault has to offer.
- Another key component noted is the specialty educational facilities along with the rich architecture/history character
- Committee members recommended looking at previous videos high school students, community members, and businesses have developed highlighting the unique history of Faribault
- Some members mentioned the vast open space and park opportunities yet seem to be underutilized. Seemed to be an opportunity to attract visitors and investment opportunities

- Manufacturing being a differentiator was also mentioned along with the partnerships with local colleges

Community Values Session

The discussion focused mostly on defining what sense of community and/or place for Faribault should be. Most of the conversation circled around the subject of the opportunity to integrate diversity, multi-generational populations, and innovation. One agreeable topic was to utilize community gatherings/public spaces as a way to connecting community values and cultures.

Continuum Statements

- Discussion on topics among participants was easy and relatively agreed on where on the continuum bar wanted to be for most topics.
- Participants for the most part agreed that the city needs to invest on opportunities focusing on connecting and improving network systems.
- Some participants expressed their frustration on having enough places or play activities for the younger age group
- Participants were neutral when it comes to prioritizing passive recreation activities vs. more active programmed places. They felt that depending on location and/or opportunity, there could be a place for both and/or combined solution
- Participants slightly favored investment of additional improvements to accessing the river for people/visitors
- There was one minority vote stating that Faribault has enough amenities and activities for current and future needs. Perhaps focusing on investing on what's already in place and making it better should be a priority
- There was one additional continuum statement added asking to prioritize on universal access parks and make it inclusive to all ages, physical ability and/or culture

Table 3: Facilitators: Jennifer and Jay

Vision Session

- The discussion of our group members focused on specific examples, not 'stories' or personal experiences
- Several items that were recorded on the board were acknowledged to be 'good' but not necessarily 'unique' (for example good parks were discussed, and the qualifier 'for a City our size' was added to several of the items listed)
- Education was emphasized as a differentiator, particularly related to Shattucks; this evolved into discussion about the quality of attendees at the boarding school. Not much was provided as far as examples regarding other schools which was interesting given how many schools/educational opportunities they listed
- Innovation in business was a dominant theme (carried over into Core Principles discussion as well) – this was described as some of the pioneering businesses in the community through modern day companies (Faribo Foods and the Mill for example)
- Later in the discussion, arts as a differentiator became a strong theme. However, the items noted were almost exclusively related to specific venues and/or events (some of which no longer exist).

Community Values Session

Generally, this discussion was difficult for our group – conversation did not flow as well as in the Vision discussion. It was difficult to come up with how the group wanted the 'values' to be reflected within the Plans. I think this might be since the attendees don't necessarily understand what each Plan really entails. Some additional thoughts/notes from the discussion:

- The group had a fairly good conversation about increasing diversity in the community. Overall, there was a general tone that the community needs to figure out how to be welcoming to new residents, and to figure out how to 'bridge' the gap between new and old residents.
- One member brought up the idea of bringing different cultures together through food – and learning about each other, trying to improve understanding in the community – people responded favorably to the suggestions and indicated they know it's a problem.
- Again, there was a lot of reliance on the presence of Shattucks and what the boarding school 'means' for the community and its brand (or wanted brand). Several people mentioned it, multiple times (from high-level academics, to the arts, music, hockey, etc.) What was interesting to me as an outsider was that the school is a 'boarding' school, and the attendees and their families are not (and never become) Faribault community members. Yet it was clear that it is something our group was not only proud of, but that it was a community defining institution.
- There was an overwhelming desire to be viewed as excellent – the idea of 'good' is not really what they're after.
- One member of the group (Dr. Richie) often took on the role of explaining the original intent of the 2040 community value statements since he was involved in that process. At times this was helpful because it provided needed context, but at other times it was a hindrance because the group would have difficulty thinking beyond the original intention of the value statements.

Continuum Statements

- Agreement/consensus was fairly easy for the group to achieve; on nearly all statements the group could see both sides of an issue – and therefore the middle-ground was most accepted
- Generally, there seemed to be a belief that you can't say 'no' to developers and businesses, the answer should be yes even if it means leap frog development (this was not everyone, but where the majority of the group started)
 - However, there was some openness to learning about how they might be able to use the Plans to make better, or more informed, decisions (though I'm not sure they'll get to saying 'no')
- The group agreed that a diverse economic development program is necessary to support long-term sustainability of the community. You can't focus efforts on only one issue or segment of the market place.

Below are the results recorded on the exercise boards as part of Exercise activities.

Exercise #1: Expand on Community Vision. Unique characteristics of Faribault

Table 1:

Facilitator: John

- Riverbend Nature Center (educational opportunities, staff). Partnership with school district for almost 40 years
- Shattuck St. Mary's. Unique schools that set us apart, economic driver, blind and deaf
- Cultural History. 1862 uprising, native interactions
- Largest Historic District. Outside of metro/ Minneapolis + St. Paul
- Confluence of two rivers. Cannon and Straight River
- Proximity of lakes. Southern chain of lakes
- International investment in commercial development. Sage, Faribault foods, etc)
- Great place for "mom+ pop" types of businesses

Table 2:**Facilitator: Ana**

- Started as a cultural Center in the 1800's. Mark Twain History – Impressive History
- Faribault chosen as specialty education because of location
- Fur trading – Alexander Faribault (MN tradies.org), known for trading with natives
- Became a milling town
- First cathedral
- Strong French background (yet no French festivities – celebration of heritage)
- Manufacturing town (sage glass)
- Strong economic base: agriculture, education, diverse, financial
- Education destination: specialty schools
- Ample green space but underutilized – didn't know about straight river
- Improve on the story of the two rivers – awareness
- Great trails for all users
- Great performing arts center
- Medical specialties – Abbott – Qualified staff

Table 3:**Facilitator: Jennifer and Jay**

- Nature Center
- State Parks
- 10 lakes within 10-mile radius
- Public and Private schools at all levels (charter, national), blind and deaf access
- Historic and architectural integrity of school campuses and other
- Oldest factory in MN (Mill): Foods
- Performing Arts Center
- Largest Historic District outside of the Twin cities
- Diversity in History expressed in Architecture
- Mayo and Allina – larger health care providers (more than one)
- Iconic businesses that started here: fold craft, tilt a whirl, cheese cave
- Weekends with hockey (night level) – talent of young people at Shattuck
- Bruce Smith: only Heisman Trophy winner (1941)
- Ivan Whillock - Wood carver – carve figures
- Foester Lambert Series
- Shattuck – Art talent in school
- Camps, music, hockey
- Music in Park, Blue collar Festival

Exercise #2: Integrating Journey to 2040 Plan into Community Values

Table 1:**Facilitator: John**

- Sense of Community: Creating safe environment, walkability, “buddy bunch” (rotary club installed these), why don't we have?
- Sense of Place: Same as above
- Opportunity: Housing, retail, investment in the community, recreation (for youth, etc), collaboration (improve outcomes thru public private partnerships)

Table 2:

Facilitator: Ana

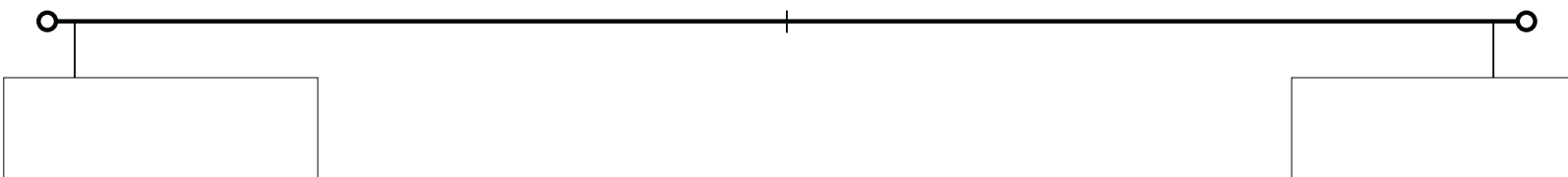
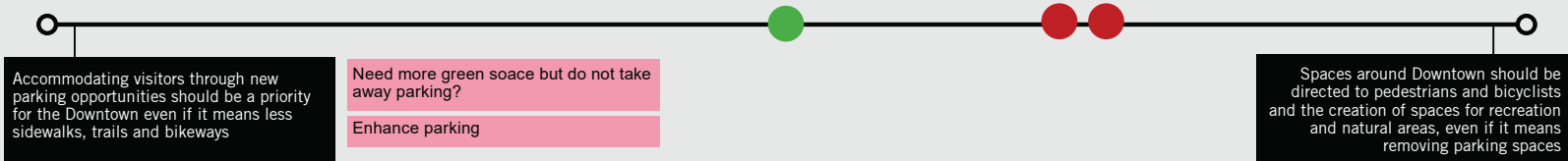
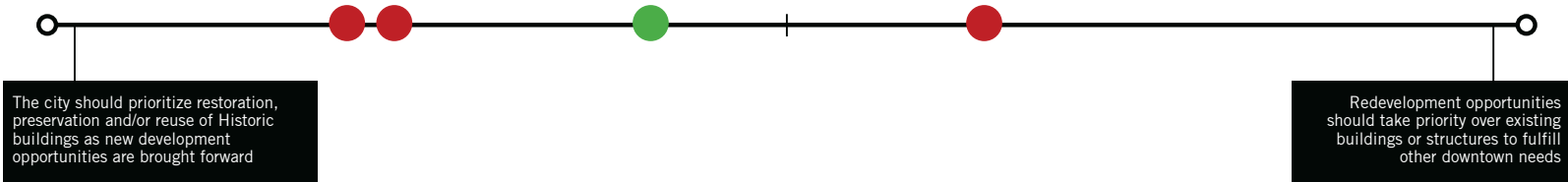
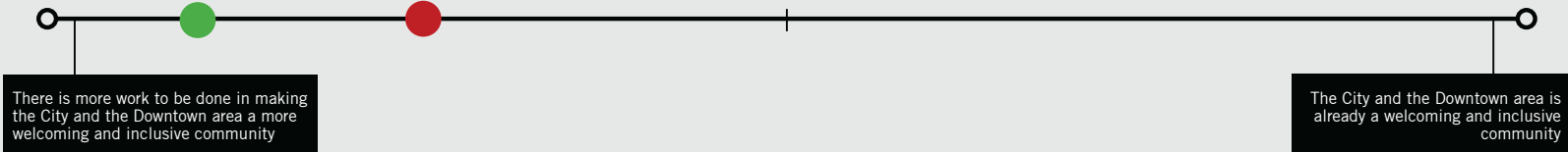
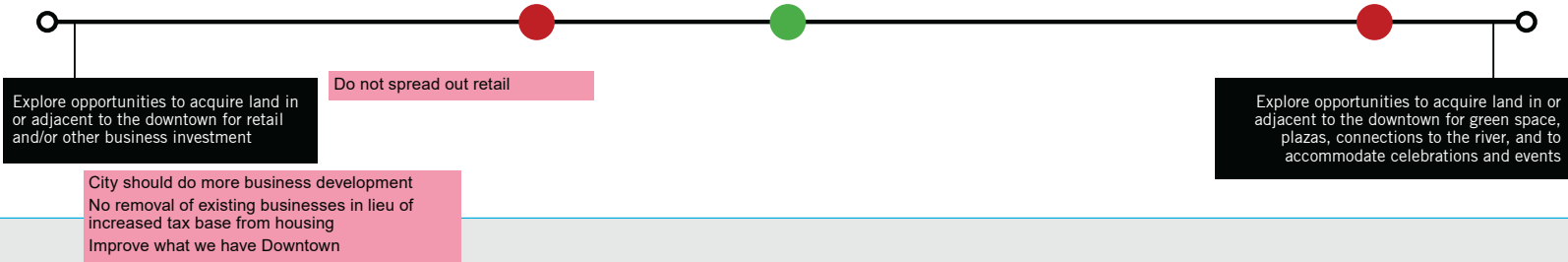
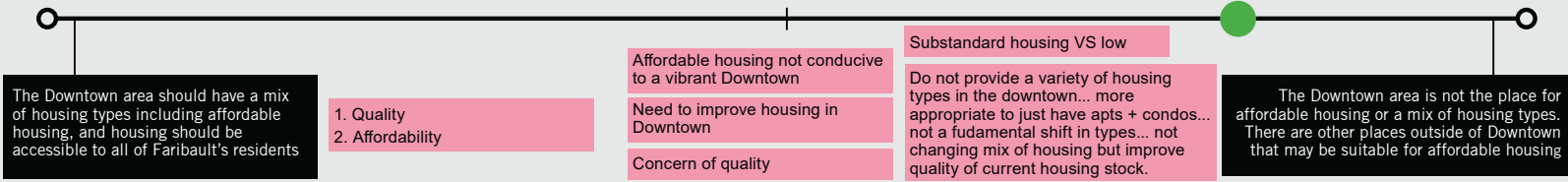
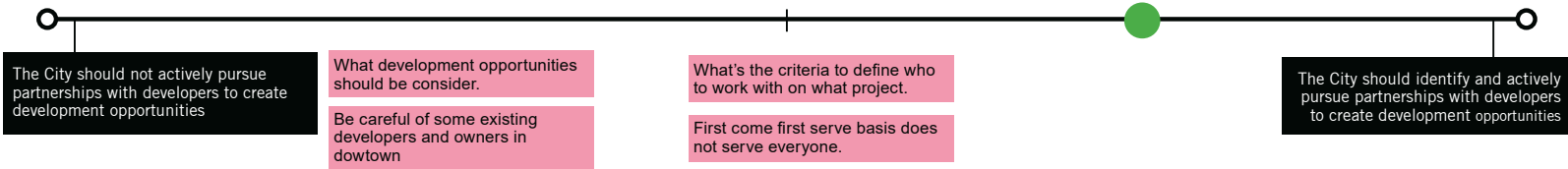
- **Sense of Community:** Differences – accept/expand perspective. Night to unite – library party, tours, good food, examples of great sense of community. Challenge: Different generations – how to bring them together – activities – millennial population. Individuality – adventure, some recreation activities in decline – what can bring them together?
- **Sense of place:** We need a central meeting space, attract everybody – distinct communities, a spot appropriate for various ages – age appropriate, provide a sense of togetherness
- **Opportunity:** What can we do to bring people together? What are the opportunities to bring us together? Relocate Fields at Tee Pee Tonka and provide a place for community gathering instead
- **Innovation:** Creative community in manufacturing, custom pieces, south central college – working together
- **Excellence:** Bruce Smith – Heisman Trophy, Movies taken place in Faribault, Known names, big city opportunities, businesses: examples of excellence – Shattuck, Famous architect – Deaf academy

Table 3:

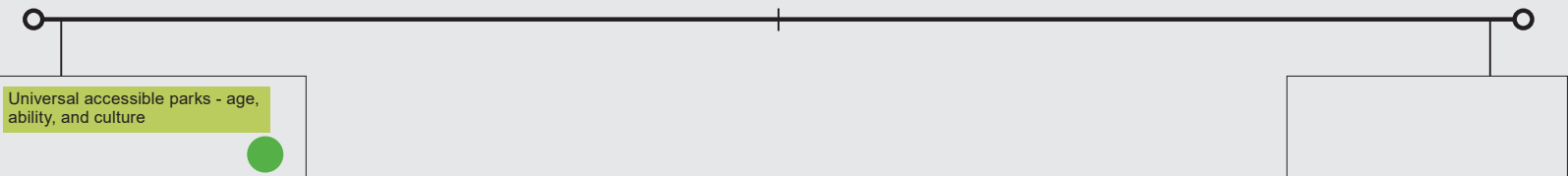
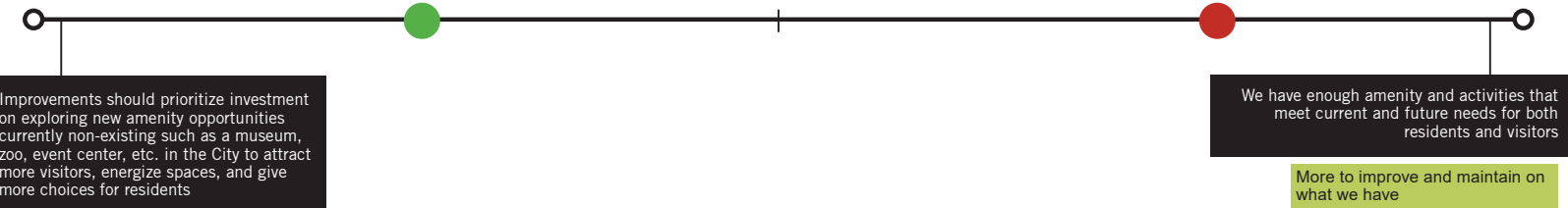
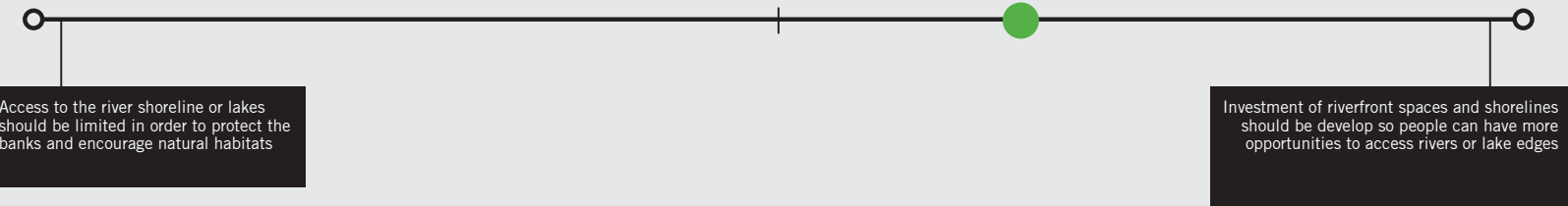
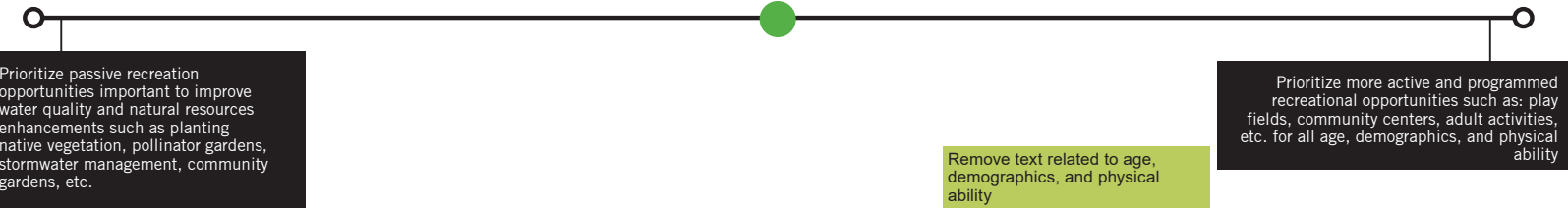
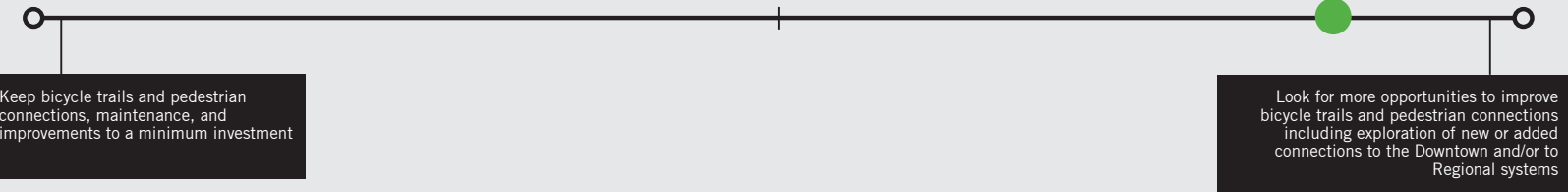
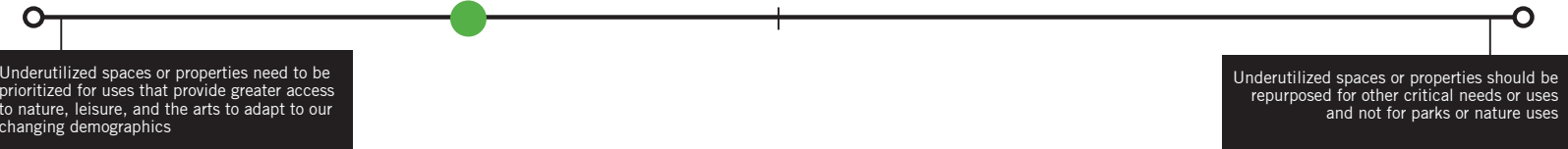
Facilitator: Jennifer and Jay

- **Sense of Community:** Place where you can live, work, and play; bike paths; high percentage of park land for community; one of best parks in the region (Alexander); bridge the diversity gap, embrace diversity; engage communities/cultures through use
- **Sense of Place:** Tell the story of the arks – its history, increase/improve message of what community has to offer
- **Opportunity:** Soccer, raise awareness of natural systems – resiliency, Frisbee-golf (low investment, high return) uses 35 access – jobs/employment; high quality private education need public schools to compete
- **Innovation:** More complete bikeways/system, bringing people and cultures together through foods and arts; stormwater and surface water management
- **Excellence:** Dedication to finishing systems, i.e. bike trails, make it the best; focus to complete networks, raise the “level” of systems (jobs, schools) etc. --- strengthen wider community

Downtown Steering Committee Continuum Statements



Parks, Trails, and Open Space Steering Committee Continuum Statements



Exercise #3 Continuum Statements

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Continuum Statements



Opportunities to convert underutilized existing land uses for green or park spaces should be a priority

Priority to convert underutilized existing land uses should be focused on other development needs



The City should prioritize investment towards new or innovative green infrastructure or environmentally sustainable systems

The City should prioritize investments towards repairing or restoring existing infrastructure



Land Use and Neighborhood Patterns should prioritize development on vacant and underutilized properties that have access to existing city infrastructure (e.g., streets, water lines, sanitary sewer, etc.) before allowing new development into areas that currently do not have city infrastructure (i.e., farm/agricultural/greenfield areas)

Land Use and Neighborhood Patterns should consider new expansion areas beyond existing or established areas with little-to-no priority placed on infill or redevelopment areas



Economic development dollars should be broadly distributed among a variety of strategies, such as downtown business assistance, workforce training, employer attraction and retention, housing assistance, etc.

Economic development dollars should only be focused on attracting high-wage jobs



The market is the controller – we should allow for and plan annexations of land in adjacent townships. More land is better

The City is big enough within its current borders - we have land available for development and areas of redevelopment that will last us through this 2040 planning period

