

Richfield 2020 Visioning Project Feedback October 24, 2001 General Discussion

These notes reflect the general discussion which was held with all the attendees as a group at the October 24th community forum.

RECORDER/SPOKESPERSON FEEDBACK

- Why is this 2020 activity important to you? Comments were: "I want to live here the rest of my life!"; "We need some planning, identify goals to guide the future and to meet the needs of the community."; "Carrying on the positives that we can support."; and "Carry out this 2020 plan for the future positive development of our City."
- Why was there the requirement that there be 20% of affordable housing in new developments? Information provided that this 20% is consistent with policies established by other housing authorities and was a recommendation of the Richfield Task Force on Affordable Replacement Housing. The overall intent is to maintain overall affordability in the community across a wide range of incomes.
- Is there a golf course in Richfield's future? No longer having a golf course in the City is a tremendous loss. It is unfortunate the collaborative effort did not work out. Richfield thought it had a good plan worked out with Minneapolis, but Minneapolis decided to pursue the use of Fort Snelling land on its own. The City is open to other partner relationships. Land in Richfield is at a premium currently and it is extremely difficult to fit in a full-size golf course. Some planning is underway to explore the possibility of a driving range at one of the parks.
- One apartment family couple were impressed with the 2020 plan, especially the section on Recreation. They asked about establishing a bicycle trail along the railroad line. Information was provided that the City is collaborating with other communities to have a bicycle trail linked with other Hennepin County trails and the City is exploring a trail along the railroad line. There also was a complaint that the railroad had not cleaned up debris, especially ties, in the general area along Pleasant Ave. and 64th Street.
- In the discussion of recreation in general, the City Recreation Department is pursuing collaboratives with other communities to meet some of recreation needs. One example presented was a "skateboard park" being developed involving Richfield, Edina and Bloomington, with the Southdale YMCA operating it to serve youth. It also is important to work with business and other communities to form collaborative ventures to seek funding grants which funding sources might be reluctant to give to only one entity.
- Why did the Multi-Purpose Community Center referendum fail? There was a great deal of interest and discussion on this topic. Views and comments were made such as: "Are there enough families with children?"; "Is the large proportion of the elderly

a factor?"; "Some (residents) want it, others consider it frivolous."; "We need affordable meeting space for non-profit organizations, physical activities, classrooms, etc."; and "There is need for space for cultural activities."

The general view of those present was that there is a need for a community center and one way to "bring the community together." The need for a community center comes up often in various groups and meetings. Richfield 2020 identified it as a continuing high interest activity. The Task Force and residents' support in such a center allow for pursuing the interest, keeping the vision and engage in ongoing exploration.

- Does the City have a hotline? A hotline might be developed in the future. The City does have an ongoing resource on Cable Channel 16 which provides updates, information, events and televises City Council meetings.
- Will the City be installing more sidewalks? The information provided indicated that sidewalks for the most part are along major arterials and streets. There are no current plans to build sidewalks on/in neighborhoods. It was added that even though these arterials are county roads, the City maintains and plows the sidewalks. One person pointed out the importance of sidewalks to disabled persons in wheelchairs. She commented that there were cracks in the sidewalk at 12th Ave. and 76th St. which is her route to Walmart. She was encouraged to call the City Street Maintenance Department and bring this to their attention and was given the appropriate telephone number.
- Why is there a need for a shuttle bus? The response was to reduce the need for parking space, especially in business districts; reduce the use of cars; increase pedestrian safety and mobility; and link neighborhoods to neighborhoods and neighborhoods with the commercial/retail districts.
- How will traffic be controlled in the 66th & Cedar area when the bridge is expanded? There was a concern that traffic in general, and heavy air freight truck traffic, could intrude on the residential areas. The enlarged bridge is one factor in controlling traffic by accommodating more vehicles speeding pass-through time. Exits and entrances will be designed with neighborhood concerns in mind. Efforts will be made to redirect traffic, especially heavy, noisy trucks around residential areas.