



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION TEAM

Livable Communities Action Team Meeting

October 10, 2016

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Minnesota Discovery Center

Mineland Reclamation Classroom

1005 Discovery Drive | Chisholm

MEETING OBJECTIVE:

To clarify our purpose and mission, review input and direction from the second session and agree on our goals, an organizational approach, how we will communicate and coordinate, and expectations for this effort together.

PROPOSED AGENDA:

5:00 PM	Group Networking – Grab Pizza	
5:00 PM	Business Meeting Welcome and Introductions	Randy Lasky, Facilitator
5:10 PM	Review Proposed Agenda and Expected Outcomes of the Meeting	Facilitator
5:15 PM	Recharge the Range - Update on Other Action Team Organizational Meetings, Initiatives and Approaches and	Mary Finnegan, Deputy Commissioner
	A Brief Introduction to the new IRRRB pilot grant program "Downtown & Business Corridor".	Whitney Ridlon, Community Development Representative.
5:35 PM	Livable Communities Action Team Draft Mission and Goals Review and Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members share one initiative (ongoing or new) that you would like to see succeed in our region • Review and approve draft Mission Statement...why do we exist? • Review and approve the draft goals of the Livable Communities Action Team 	Facilitator and Co-Chairs Vicki Hagberg and Mary McReynolds-Pellinen
5:50 PM	Organizing for Action: Review Information Shared at the July 27 th Action Team Meeting on Areas of Focus and the Proposed Direction for Organizing, Coordinating and Communicating as an Action Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on areas of focus/major Livable Initiative Groups to be organized...build on the direction highlighted at our last meeting • Where does your passion, interest or initiative fit into these Groups? • How will we communicate and coordinate group efforts? • What role will the Livable Communities Action Team play in supporting these efforts? How often should we meet? 	Co-Chairs and Facilitator

6:30 PM Break and Prepare for Livable Initiative Breakout Groups

6:40 PM Taking Action: Aligning Livable Initiative Groups and Getting Focused

- Self-select your Initiative Group and connect as a team
- Briefly discuss current or new initiatives of interest
- Select a Group Leader and date/location for your first group meeting
- Prepare to report back to the large group on next steps

Small Group Breakout and Discussion with Facilitator and Co-Chair Support

7:30 PM Report back to the Action Team by Individual Livable Initiative Group Leaders

Initiative Group Leaders

7:45 PM Plan Next Meeting of Livable Communities Action Team

Facilitator

8:00 PM Critique and Adjourn

Facilitator



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Mission

To encourage positive change on the Iron Range by working collaboratively towards more livable and vibrant communities

Goals

1. Network – Generate social capital and connections. Work together across communities and initiatives to bring change to the Range.
2. Share Best Practices – Build on the successes of existing initiatives. Initiative Groups share successes and challenges to help move initiatives forward.
3. Plan – Connect RAMS, IRRRB, ReGen and other key public, non-profit and private stakeholders to support new initiatives and funding for vibrant communities priorities.
4. Action – Facilitate Initiative Groups efforts to achieve measurable successes in our communities.

Livable Communities Action Team: Collaborative group that will facilitate initiative successes by providing a forum for sharing best practices, experiences, and tools to move projects forward

Livable Initiative Groups: Local action teams working on specific, measurable initiatives within their communities and across the Iron Range.

**Livable Communities
Mineland Reclamation
October 10th, 2016
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

In Attendance: Randy Lasky, Mary McReynolds, Vicki Hagberg, Whitney Ridlon, Sara Ferkul, Mary Finnegan, Jim Plummer, John Ongaro, Julie Marinucci, Raymond Jobe, Jean Larson, Kelsie Anderson, Chris Fulton, Jennifer Reyes, Larry Killien, Cheryl Killien, Joe Guertin, Tammy Mattonen, Sonja Merrild and Josh Bergstad.

Randy Lasky did a brief review of the agenda.

Whitney Ridlon discussed the new pilot grant program – Downtown and Business Corridor Grant.

Jim Plummer did a short presentation about StrongTowns, also showed a video of Chuck Mahrone being interviewed by Channel 10.

-Short discussion about using IRRRB grant resources to bring StrongTowns back to the Iron Range to speak with the Livable Communities focus group.

Mary Finnegan gave update on Recharge the Range and what is going on within each focus group.

Mission and Goals Review:

One initiative or major focus from new members of the group or if you remembered your idea from the first meeting:

Androy sign revitalization, downtown revitalization through new grant programs, Arts, Housing and housing for handicap individuals, food access for low income individuals or families, use of vacant spaces or storefronts, clean up and beautification of cities and towns, downtown enhancements (banners, pavilions), making downtowns fun, family engagements, community activities center for older kids (8-15 years old), connect downtown to nature fun and more activities for older adults.

Review of the Mission: Stayed as it was before.

“To Encourage Positive Change on the Iron Range by Working Collaboratively Towards More Livable Communities”

Review of Goals:

Network, Share Best Practices, Plan and Action.

Discussion:

What would be the best way to communicate in this group? Mary McReynolds to send out a survey with different options.

Where would funding for projects come from? By using the people in this room to draw resources that not everyone may be aware of.

Keeping or bringing in young couples/families can be difficult because of the lack of affordable housing.

Example of a healthy vibrant downtown: Bemidji -

Organizing for Action - Discussion:

Areas of Focus (Subgroups): Downtown and Creative Communities, Housing, Local Home Grown, Healthy Active Community, Outreach and Collaboration

Trying not to duplicate efforts that may already be in place. What exactly is the downtown and creative community? Is it the opportunity to reuse empty store fronts in a creative way? Is art in this group as well? Is art too broad to be a part of this group? Maybe changing the name to Downtown and Innovative community or Downtown Vibrancy? Downtown Revitalization is a backbone to livable communities. Great example of a vibrant downtown, Bemidji, Bemidji Leads (Dave Hengel) was a grassroots effort to improve the city of Bemidji. Arts, downtown storefronts have murals, many restaurants, people were milling around Main Street, microbrew and a Co-op. Should we see if Dave Hengel will come and speak with this group to see what worked and what didn't in their community?

Locally Grown Foods/Healthy Active Communities: Bike Lanes, Recreation, Parks, Farmers Markets

Creative Communities: Infuse a new level of knowledge of what the arts can or do look like. (Aesthetics, arts, culture, entrepreneurs)

Everyone broke into initiative groups: 9 people went into the downtown revitalization group, 2 people in the Healthy active community group and 3 people in the creative communities group. After each group discussed for a bit they came back with what their major initiative will be for their group:

Downtown Revitalization:

Leader: Vicki Hagberg

Major Initiative: Revitalization of the Androy sign in Hibbing, Pop up parks and vacant store fronts in Chisholm and speculative development in Virginia (Revive Virginia)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 25th, at 5:30 p.m. at Mineland Rec

Healthy Active Communities:

Leader: Raymond Jobe

Major Initiative: Mental Health, Healthy Food and Active Living/Disease Prevention

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17th, at the Virginia Essentia Health Hospital, Room TBD from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Creative Communities:

Healthy Active Communities:

Leader: Mary McReynolds

Major Initiative: Recruit more members for this group (inform the Cool & Creative attendees about this group), Resource reference book for the arts community, Educate the area of the economic value and significance to the community and create a regional arts forum on arts.

Next Meeting: Meeting time and location - TBD

Next Livable Communities Meeting:

Wednesday, December 7th at Mineland Rec from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Next Steps:

- Randy to provide agenda and meeting notes
- Mary to poll the group to find the best way to keep in touch as a whole
- Discussion the possibility of a housing forum

Everyone: Encourage people to join initiative groups