



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION TEAM

Livable Communities Action Team Meeting

May 10, 2017
5:00 – 7:15 PM

Minnesota Discovery Center

Mineland Reclamation Classroom
1005 Discovery Drive | Chisholm

MEETING OBJECTIVE:

To share updates on the Recharge the Range Initiative, specifically work underway by our three Initiative sub-groups that have continued to meet since our meeting on December 7, 2016. We will also have an update on other Recharge the Range Action Teams and communication efforts, and discuss and begin planning for an Iron Range Housing Event to assess housing needs and challenges, and determine the interest and support to continue to address area housing as part of the Livable Communities Action Team efforts.

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	Livable Communities Sub-Group Meeting Updates, Outcomes and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant Downtowns • Creative Communities • Healthy Active Communities 	Vicki Hagberg Mary McReynolds Ray Jobe
5:45 PM	Recharge the Range – Brief Update on Other Action Teams and Coordination and Communication of Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Teams Update and Coordination • Recharge the Range Web Site 	Mary Finnegan Deputy Commissioner, IRRRB Sara Ferkul Administrative Assistant, IRRRB
6:10 PM	Iron Range Housing Event Overview and Brainstorming on Approach and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Past Studies, Forums and General Findings, and Funding Initiatives for Past Housing Development Related Activities – Iron Range Housing 101 • Why Focus on Iron Range Housing Now – Interest Shown in Community Comprehensive Plans, Recharge the Range 2016 Forums and Discussion by Other Action Teams • What Should We Do with the Housing Situation? Brainstorm an Approach, Next Steps and Responsibilities 	Facilitator Whitney Ridlon, Community Development Specialist, IRRRB Facilitator
7:00 PM	Plan Next Meeting of Livable Communities Action Team	Facilitator and Co-Chairs
7:15 PM	Critique and Adjourn	Facilitator

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

**Livable Communities
Mineland Reclamation
May 10th, 2017
5:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

In Attendance: Randy Lasky, Jim Plummer, Drew Digby, Mary McReynolds, Whitney Ridlon, Kathy Dodge, Ray Jobe, Janene Glyn, Chris Strand, Kelsie Anderson, Sara Ferkul, Jan Carey, Larry Killien, Mary Finnegan, Barbara Akerson, Josh Bergstad and Dana Hiltunen

The meeting began with updates from the sub groups:

- Recharge Downtowns (Whitney Ridlon in absence of Vicki Hagberg)
- Healthy Active Communities (Ray Jobe)
- Creative Communities (Mary McReynolds)

Followed by an update on each of the Recharge the Range Community Committees and a demo of the new Recharge Website.

Housing Discussion:

Randy began the discussion about what has happened in the past in regards to housing in the area. He spoke about the Range Readiness Initiative that occurred in the 2000's. This was an effort that began to try to prepare for large businesses that would be coming into the area. This initiative was to focus on workforce housing and to address the needs at that time. However, the beginning of the recession shortly put everything on hold and the housing market never bounced back. There were numerous projects documented in this era as documented in the 2009 progress report.

Whitney discussed what came out of the Recharge the Range events and the Cool and Creative event about housing. It was agreed upon that housing is an important factor in supporting communities and the attraction of large business. As well as retaining professionals and businesses to the area.

Two main ideas came out of the Cool and Creative event:

- Clean up of existing housing so that younger people might like it. Especially the homes that are closer to downtowns.
- Focusing on having rental units for young adults that do not look like low income units but also have them at an affordable price.

Two goals that came out of the Recharge the Range events and was part of the Livable Communities committee were:

Convene a range wide discussion to address rental property problems and establish minimal standards that need to be abided by.

Identify and create a housing plan with current regional resources on housing programs.

Whitney also discussed some of the items/ideas that came out of the comprehensive plans across the range:

- The desire to remove blighted housing and reuse vacant lots.
- Rental licensing or registry.
- Ensure lifecycle housing options are available.
- Encourage aging in place.
- The need for senior housing.
- Enhance opportunities for new housing development.
- Encourage housing in 2nd floor of commercial districts.

In regards to renovating current homes, funding can be an issue. It can take quite a bit of money to renovate homes. Once the home is renovated, the majority of the time the resale value doesn't make up for the amount of money that was used to renovate.

Knowing what people want in housing is an issue. The younger generation doesn't want the same things that the older generation wanted. Should we create a survey that is targeted at the younger generation to find out what they want in housing? How would we go about distribution of a survey to target the correct age group? Finding out what the appeal in housing is and what they want is important.

Would incentives in communities help urge people to purchase land or homes?

Moving forward let's look at housing models across the U.S. Utilize best practices. Should we reach out to stakeholders or have another event to discuss and see what flows out of it? Or has that been overdone?

The discussion will be continued in a smaller group who will report back to the Livable Communities group.