

## **CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson, Mayor Hallback

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** Fritsinger, Klassen

**Other:** J. Lund, Pine Journal

### **City Council Values Statement**

Council requested at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Work Session to continue discussion on a Values Statement Priority. Mr. Fritsinger provided examples of statements from other Cities to get an idea of different approaches. The Values Statement's intent is to tie Council responsibilities with how we function as a unit in general. Discussion highlights are as follows:

- Agreement that the statement needs to be short and to the point.
- L. Wilkinson commented the statement should include the statement as a value and then a description of what it means.
- Discussion of the purpose of the Council in City Code. Cloquet has a Code of Conduct that was adopted and based on LMC.
- This priority was identified at the retreat as a concern of the lack of participation from Council members.
- Mr. Fritsinger asked for thoughts of what Council feels the Values Statement should include:
  - Ethical and responsible
  - Open and transparent
  - Operate openly and honestly
  - Encourage engagement of participation of residents, business, Council and community
  - A Democratic Council. Each member has a voice and vote.
  - Dedication to the community
- L. Wilkinson – Decisions should reflect visions and need to be based on the big picture. The Council needs to step back every once in a while to look at the initial vision.
- Council members agreed that the Grand Rapids Values Statement is a good example of how Cloquet's should look.
- D. Hallback – Once the statement is established, suggestion to put on a plaque in the Council Chambers, put on the City website and include on every council agenda as a reminder.
- K. Kolodge expressed that each Council member needs to challenge themselves to become involved and stay involved. 100% participation is just part of it, the rest is as a group
- Mr. Fritsinger commented that 100% participation is just one piece of the priority, the rest is as a group.
- Mr. Fritsinger will put the Council member thoughts on paper and bring back to council on December 15<sup>th</sup> for feedback.

### Community Vision/Goal discussion

Mr. Fritsinger shared 3 approaches to a community vision: consultant led process; community led process; and City Council led process. The vision process is very important because it looks at the past and where it's going into the future. This will include more community meetings, task forces, studies, etc. As things change around us and are evolving rapidly, we need to understand what the community wants.

- Identify a vision team. What approach does the council want to take?
- D. Bjerkness recalled an Economic Development gathering several years ago that took place at FDLTCC where 80-90 people participated and attended facilitated break-out sessions. Very successful.
- D. Bjerkness questioned the value of doing this by Council alone hand picking community members and Commission/Board members to take part.
- Discussion on doing a community survey and how to get the community to take it. Community members take more ownership when they actually have a voice. How do we develop neutral questions? What is the next step?
- L. Wilkinson commented the need to be thoughtful in this process. How comprehensive do we want the vision to be? Ask the right questions that will show the strengths and weaknesses and where the priorities lie.
- J. Rock stated he feels more time is needed to think about community vision. Ad in the paper asking for community input?
- K. Kolodge – important to know what the people want. What route do we take to cover the broad range of people, electronic? Newspaper? Social Media?
- Mr. Fritsinger clarified that a vision statement should help with decision making. Helps to identify priorities. It's a challenge to hear community ideas. Example of that challenge was the broad and diverse groups for the Waterfront and Master Plan task forces and getting them to provide ideas and participate.
- Issue of a possible merger of Scanlon/Cloquet. What will that change?
- K. Kolodge voiced concern that if money is going to be spent on this, it needs to be done correctly to maximize the participation. Give to boards and commissions, any groups. If spending money to do this right, then it's worth it.
- What does Council need from staff to help figure out where to go with this? A preliminary timeline; more clearly definition of the process; options to do it properly; community survey samples; and cost. None of these options are in the current budget.
- Staff will come back to the Council with options to look at.
- J. Rock asked what is the value in doing this? Will it change our participation or help the City on the path to decision making?
- Mr. Fritsinger stated this is what helps community get what they want and why do we do what we do. But how do we make it an effective tool? There are underlying issues that the Council is faced with and this would help us engage in that. Mr. Fritsinger again reminded Council that this is very time consuming process, don't take it lightly. It takes commitment and energy.

### Budget

D. Bjerkness questioned not having a Truth and Taxation Public Hearing. Mr. Fritsinger said this was a change from several years ago, the City is not required to have one.

Mr. Fritsinger noted there were no changes to the budget other than some minor changes to CIP reflecting some projects being finished this year.

Future Work Session Agenda Items

- CAB interviews on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Four applicants for one vacancy.
- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Andy Hubley will discuss the Safe Routes projects.
- Council pay discussion.
- CAHA Agreement feedback. Need to discuss the historic relationships with some of the agreements the city has.
- Discussion of Council members rotating Boards/Commissions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger,  
City Administrator