

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Results Meeting



Commitment to Community Task Force



# Background – Mission

- To enhance through proactive steps the City of Chaska’s small town “sense of community”. Chaska’s sense of community can be developed through promoting items that enhance the following four categories:
  - Community Pride
  - Community Identity
  - Community Opportunities
  - Community Involvement



# Background – History

- Earlier Groups
  - 1990 – 13 members
  - 2001 – 19 members
- Current Group
  - 2009 – 15 members



# Background - Accomplishments

- Theater and Arts addition to the Community Center
- Arts in public places
- Livery Stable History Center
- The Lodge addition at the Community Center
- Neighborhood Block Party Wagon
- City-wide WiFi (Chaska.net)
- Chaska Today
- Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission



# Task Force Members

- Richard Kvitek
- Molly Koivumaki
- Joyce Bohn
- Troy Miller
- Jim Battenberg
- Kevin Norby
- Bob Roepke
- Mike Huang
- Nicholas Mason
- Jay Rohe
- Laxmi Govindan
- Christopher Schulz
- Nancy Kracke
- Kaitlin McGee
- Julie Betker
- Matt Podhradsky  
(Ex-Officio)
- Bart Fischer  
(Ex-Officio)



# Methodology

- SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Discovery and Fact-Finding
- Large-Group Brainstorming
- Sub-Group Refinement
- Prioritization and Consolidation
- Drafting Final Report



# Recommendations – Active Community Engagement

- Provide Intergenerational Opportunities
- Facilitate Community Involvement
  - Encourage community groups to develop additional historic and diversity education programs
  - Raise priority and focus of community service
  - Identify community engagement opportunities
  - Appoint youth to advisory commissions
  - Develop Chaska High School Alumni Association
  - Identify needs of elderly



# Recommendations – Active Community Engagement (cont)

- Develop and engage with business community
  - Enhance business community connections
  - Understand baby boomer needs related to late/post-career employment
- Build Healthy Neighborhoods
- Include Community Engagement as part of Comprehensive Plan



# Active Community

## Engagement: 1 year Results

- Establishment of Chaska's Let's Go Fishing Chapter
  - City provided \$40,000 seed money and staff time
  - Largest Chapter in State after only 1 year
  - Provides intergenerational opportunities-also major program for AOAs to sponsor and run
- Diversity Educational Programming
  - Community Dialog on Bullying-Human Rights and Police
  - Community Wiccupi in Summer-Human Rights, Parks and Recreation, Jonathan
    - Will be 3-day event in summer of 2011
- Addition of Youth Member to Downtown Master Planning Task Force



# Recommendations - Downtown

- Address parking issues
  - Add additional parking
  - Develop as part of master plan
  - Improve signage
- Leverage riverfront and develop downtown
  - Utilize river to draw people downtown
  - Develop additional community park spaces (e.g. Winkel Park)
- Emphasize historic character
- Retain public services downtown



# Downtown: 1-year Results

- Completion of Downtown Master Planning Process
  - Included comprehensive look at many aspects of sustaining a healthy downtown, focusing on implementation strategies
- Athletic Park Master Planning Process
  - First result was City/Chaska Cubs \$100,000 grant through State of Minnesota for reinvestment back into Grandstand
- Highway 41 Safety/Aesthetics Project
- Re-establishment of Street Reconstruction Program
  - Moving into downtown this summer
- Cooper's \$500,000 Met Council Grant



# Recommendations – Parks & Recreation

- Improve trails
  - Connect to regional trails
  - Develop downtown and riverfront trails
  - Create easier access for trail users
- Build indoor sports facility
- Build an outdoor performing arts center (e.g. amphitheater)
- Preserve and leverage green belt



# Parks and Recreation: 1-year Results

- Financial Partnership with Carver County to receive Grant for connection of Chaska Trail System to LRT Regional Trail
  - Land Acquisition Negotiations in 2011-construction allowed by grant in 2013
  - Participation in Multi-City Trail Group-Goal of connecting Chaska Trails to Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail with addition of trails through Victoria
- Acquisition of Abandoned Union Pacific Rail-City financially participate, allowing intercity trail connection to Carver
- Downtown Master Planning Process
  - Discussions on Off-street trail connections from levy trail system into downtown business/residential district



# Parks and Recreation-1 year Results

- In discussions with US Fish and Wildlife about connections from Chaska into Wildlife Reserve to south of Downtown
  - Included in Athletic Park Master Planning Process
  - Discussions on Formal Trailhead facility in Athletic Park, trail connections and signage
- Examining Feasibility of Indoor Field House facility for Chaska



# Recommendations – Community Celebration

- Weekly summer “Celebrations in the Park” event to build community pride
- Expand and create annual events
  - River City Days
  - Holiday Lighting Contest and Summer Garden Tours
  - Independence Day celebration



# Community Celebrations: 1-Year Results

- Expansion/Combination of Multi-Cultural Holiday Celebration and Hometown Holiday
- Included in Discussions with Downtown Master Planning Process
  - Including discussions on resource generation, organizations to house responsibility, etc...
- Homecoming Parade/Coronation Brought back into Downtown Chaska
  - Emphasis more on community celebration instead of just a school celebration



# Recommendations – Marketing and Communications

- Add staff position to focus on marketing and communications
- Improve communications infrastructure
- Develop and implement unified marketing and communications strategy



# Marketing & Communications: 1-year Results

- Addition of Communications Coordinator Position at City
  - Started with 12 hours-moved to 40 hour position on February 1
- Replacement of entire Cable TV Equipment and Studio
  - Provides more opportunities for including programming on-line
- Replacement of Town Course Web Site/Marketing Package
  - Web Site/Marketing/Services to match caliber of golf course

Thank You!

