



Series 2: Defining Our Vision

September 2013

Introduction

This document presents a summary of responses from the first series of Plan Rapid City community engagement activities in September 2013. The series included the following community engagement events:

- Joint Worksessions (September 24 & 25)
- Community Workshops (September 24 & 25)
- Advisory Committee Meeting (September 24)
- Downtown BID Board Meeting (September 24)
- Teen Event (September 25)
- Event with Black Hills Homebuilders Association (September 25)

Each of the events included a background of the Comprehensive Plan, a discussion and keypad polling exercise related to draft Vision and Core Values, followed by a Community Preference Survey using keypad polling.

Joint Worksession

Meeting Notes – September 24, 2013
10:45 am - 12:00 pm – City/School Administration Building

Core Value 1: A Vibrant, Livable Community

- Need to make sure specified building materials are affordable
- Strike a balance between preservation and growth of cultural and historic sites
- City has limited authority to create cohesive neighborhoods

Core Value 2: Healthy, Safe, Inclusive Community

- Diversified neighborhoods need to include multiple incomes and ethnicities
- Access to healthcare needs to be improved, consider making healthcare neighborhood based

Core Value 3: Efficient Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

- Providing seniors with better access to transportation is vital. Reference the Coordinated Public Transit Plan recently developed
- Regional rail authority is under discussion
- Work on enhancing multimodal neighborhood connectivity
- Focus efforts on implementing what is already in the Major Street Plan, despite resistance from developers or political pressures

Core Value 4: Economic Stability and Growth

- Healthcare can be an economic strength for Rapid City
- Workforce housing is a key issue
- Government is the largest employer and should be included in job count
- Note importance of agriculture to local economy
- City needs to find the land to accommodate new uses
- Comp plan should clearly state that the City needs to be more coordinated – don't mince words
- Use land trusts to preserve opportunities for affordable housing, and try to integrate affordable housing with rest of the city to reduce stigma

Core Value 5: Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

- Try to bring parks closer to where people live
- Need to secure funding for park and sidewalk improvements
- Skyline ridge a good area for improvements

Core Value 6: Responsive, Accessible, and Effective Governance

- Very difficult to get people involved in local government
- Government is getting spread thin, need to improve at strategic investment

Other Feedback

- Alleys exist in many older neighborhoods, but can be costly to maintain
- Areas for attention include Mt. Rushmore Rd. Corridor, Baken Park, City gateways, Cambell Street, St. Patrick Street

Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes – September 24, 2013
1:00 – 2:30 pm – City/School Administration Building

Core Value 1: A Vibrant, Livable Community

- The strength of the community needs to include taking care of the most vulnerable people. Consider these needs in the comp plan.

Core Value 2: Healthy, Safe, Inclusive Community

- Consider adding strength to statement 2.4 to make it more welcoming of all people

Core Value 3: Efficient Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

- Consider setting goals for multimodal performance
- Use the bus system to promote/advertise community events and initiatives
- Need better information for new people and visitors on how to get places
- Need more covered bus stops
- Look beyond City to regional connections such as ports to plains, rail network, north-south corridor. Regional connections need to get better as Rapid City is isolated

Core Value 4: Economic Stability and Growth

- I-90 is a priority corridor for land use/development
- Try to diversify economy beyond Ellsworth AFB
- Consider ways to make Rapid City more appealing to new businesses, including regional coordination with adjacent cities and counties
- Try to expand communications infrastructure
- Add language to emphasize community small business development

Core Value 5: Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

- Parks are a tremendous asset, put more in throughout the city
- Even small parks are valuable

Core Value 6: Responsive, Accessible, and Effective Governance

- City is more transparent of late, but level of transparency can vary with mayoral changes
- Continuity across election cycles is vital
- Try to institutionalize the comp plan, to increase council awareness of the official plans that are in place
- Oklahoma City model is effective, city admin stays in place through elections, and former mayors stay involved
- Increase public/private partnerships

Other Feedback

- All social services are moving to locations that are difficult to reach for those who most need them
- Social services should be included in future land use plans

Downtown BID Board Meeting

Meeting Notes – September 24, 2013
4:00 – 5:15 pm – City/School Administration Building

Core Value 1: A Vibrant, Livable Community

- Need a more cohesive look to neighborhoods as they relate to downtown
- Crime is a concern with panhandling and art alley

Core Value 3: Efficient Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

- “Denver-style” congestion would be a major deterrent in Rapid City
- Consider implementing light rail transit in Rapid City
- Roadways are totally disorganized
- Single-occupant vehicle is dominant mode of transportation now
- Make travel by bicycle safer to improve bike commute. Don’t ride on the sidewalk
- Expect more growth in Rapid City
- Freight costs are major consideration for downtown businesses. Some do backhauling
- Need to tie the bike network with Mickelson trail
- Safe crossing of Main Street is important

Core Value 4: Economic Stability and Growth

- Try to grow downtown as an economic hub
- Slipping healthcare facilities
- City is isolated
- Firearms and credit are big industries here
- City should identify locations to remotely park downtown workers and shuttle them to employers
- Need to strengthen the non-tourist economy
- Recent success of “que pasa” bus indicates more of the same could be successful
- Try to enhance corridor from downtown to SDSMT
- Downtown curb appeal is vital
- Land use should emphasize I-90 corridor
- Cement Plant area will be redeveloped at some time
- High and low end housing downtown don’t always mix well

Core Value 5: Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

- Can’t seem to get the Dahl center rented
- Pocket parks good

Community Workshop

Meeting Notes – September 24, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 pm – Lakota Community Homes Oyate Center

Core Value 2: Healthy, Safe, Inclusive Community

- School systems are rife with inequality

Core Value 3: Efficient Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

- Right-turn on red a problem for bicycle commuters
- Need more path linkages to parks
- Bus routes should extend farther north, review Transit Development Plan

Core Value 5: Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

- Review the “Black Hills Needs Assessment” document
- Need new skatepark and more teen spots
- Rapid City is rich with cultural and fine arts resources, but it can be difficult for artists to set up shop here
- Local school music programs are a strength
- Hill City an example of nearby excellent arts culture
- Need more places to sell art
- Need to make all forms of art welcome in Rapid City

Core Value 6: Responsive, Accessible, and Effective Governance

- Need better code enforcement, particularly for the affordable housing areas. Lots of bad landlords do not maintain property

Joint Worksession

Meeting Notes – September 25, 2013
10:45 am – 12:00 pm – City/School Administration Building

Core Value 1: A Vibrant, Livable Community

- There is a significant poverty challenge in Rapid City
- Not enough centralized control to make neighborhoods attractive and cohesive
- Fire Department has some standards for building materials, which helps cohesiveness of new neighborhoods

Core Value 2: Healthy, Safe, Inclusive Community

- Need to uphold rule that 40-plus home developments need more than 1 point of access to protect infrastructure against natural disasters

Core Value 3: Efficient Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

- Mode split is low, how do we increase multimodal use?
- Coordinate social services to locate more strategically
- Adapt transit to meet needs of dependent population

Core Value 4: Economic Stability and Growth

- Rapid City's isolation presents challenges

Core Value 5: Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

- Need better connections to parks and trails
- Omaha Street is a major barrier

Core Value 6: Responsive, Accessible, and Effective Governance

- Very difficult to generate public interest
- Try to expand “public education” not public involvement

Other Feedback

- Work on ways to fund sidewalk improvements
- Urban systems funds for road improvements don't typically fund capital improvements
- Rapid City is segmented by the presence of a number of suburbs, making regional coordination more of a challenge

Teen Event

Community Preferences Survey Results—September 25, 2013

1:30-3:00 pm – Elks Theatre

Introduction

At the Plan Rapid City Teen Event, the attendees participated in the Community Preferences Survey using keypad polling. A summary of results can be found in the general survey summary document.

Black Hills Homebuilders Association Meeting

Meeting Notes—September 25, 2013

3:30-5:00 pm – West River Electric Association Community Room

Housing

- Affordability is a big issue in Rapid City. It is hard to deliver new houses at affordable prices so extra costs will further inhibit this
- Upper end amenities
- Density, smaller square feet
- Open concept plans, smaller bedrooms
- Townhouse/Multi-family shift is on—these are selling quickly
- Buyers are becoming more willing to sacrifice yards, house size for location, certain housing attributes and amenities
- Lots of younger families
- Need flexibility if Accessory Dwelling Units are coming
- Sewer most important to get first to open up new development areas
- The extension of services, specifically sewer, greatly reduces cost to developer
 - Willingness to pay greater connection fee to help fund extension to shift burden of first developer in
- Most of the market is for homes between \$150,000 and \$200,000
- Growth most likely in northeast and south parts of town
 - Townhomes near hospital are in demand
- Very few/no tools available for developers to provide enhanced neighborhood amenities
- Reduced street width will reduce costs (also mentioned was not requiring curb and gutter)

Activity Centers/Corridors

- Bicycle Amenities—Access to trails/destinations
- Need more bike facilities and provide better access to them
- Need better strategy for how to mix pedestrians and bikes on trails
- Mt. Rushmore Road is an area to focus on for redevelopment
 - From downtown to “up the hill”
- Careful about adding more parks—maintenance costs are high
 - Don’t want to be told where new parks are
- A new community garden on Lemon Street is a new amenity that is helping area
- East Rapid-needs more parks (dog parks, non-school playgrounds_
- Should require some level of greenspace in all new developments
- Incentives for parkland dedication—partnership
- Need partnership with City to plan out how to build/include amenities in new neighborhoods
- The east side of town needs more parks
- School of Mines starting to buy block and redevelop

- Northeast commercial emphasis—North of Country Road, ideal for housing

Community Preferences Survey

A summary of results can be found in the general survey summary document.

Community Workshop

Meeting Notes—September 25, 2013

6:00-8:00 pm - South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

General Comments

- Inclusiveness
- Greenway protection
- Housing affordability is a big issue for the community
- Do not too development to be too dense
- Appealing plan to capture younger demographics
 - Dakota Roots Project
- The City needs more “Hip things” to attract people
- Don’t like smaller lot sizes
- Development hasn’t been coordinated in Rapid City
- More density not that palatable, but may be a selling point for folks relocating here
- St. Patrick Street Housing
- Neighborhoods not developments-- Rapid City needs more planned communities
 - Coordinated growth
 - Don't like when all houses are the same; cookie-cutter homes
 - Mix of homes types in a neighborhood
- View corridors/hillside protection
- New development on hill sides is making the hills not natural
- Neighborhood centers
 - Create distinct neighborhoods
 - Need neighborhood gathering places/spaces
 - Sense of community—living around community with similar values
- Picnic tables & tornado shelters
- Multi-use facilities

Activity Centers

- Bakken Park—underutilized
- Vacant buildings near Lakota Homes
- Southeast side, restaurants very limited
- Move or repurpose grain mill and railroad—Franklin, TN grain mill redevelopment opportunity
- Community gateway from airport needs improvement
- East side of town lacks services
- Limited Right-of-Way limits ability to do street improvements
- Focus on existing areas, they are more important
 - Catalytic projects for existing areas
- Provide incentives for things we want

Community Preferences Survey

A summary of results can be found in the general survey summary document.