

TO: Planning Commission Chair and Commissioners

FROM: Bruce Nordquist, Community Development Director, AICP

DATE: November 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Discussion on the topic of Sustainability/Energy/Conservation for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Commission has scheduled workshops between now and the end of the year to discuss aspects of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update related to:

- Sustainability/Energy/Conservation, at 7:00 p.m. November 15
- A review of chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (Vision) of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, to be updated to 2040 at 7:00 p.m. on November 29

Background

To coincide with the workshop for November 15, the following reference notebook has been assembled to offer examples of the City's progressive best practice history of responses to the subject. The multiple tabs provide an overview of concepts, programs, examples, the regulatory environment, and new directions.

Attached to this cover memo are examples of how the City has integrated sustainability into our policies, practices, long range planning, development applications and ordinances. The attached provides a listing of talking points and an informed baseline for discussion.

Also attached are the notes from our SRF consultant, Cindy Gray, generated from a focus group of interested residents on the topic of Sustainability/Energy/Conservation.

This group gathered around a common cause; "to improve health, water, greenspace, energy efficiency and more", according to a front page article that was published on October 13 in the Sun/Thisweek newspaper. Working with the Sustainability Alliance and Conservation MN, this group seeks the formation of an "Environmental Advisory Commission in Apple Valley". Their ideas are important to preparing the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and they have been invited to attend and offer input at the November 15, 2017, workshop. A "sustainability chapter" in some form is sought by the Metropolitan Council as part of the 2040 Update.

Next Steps

In addition to the input the Planning Commission may offer at the workshop, it is recommended that the Planning Commission offer direction to staff to incorporate the following next steps into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update:

1. Leverage the interest of residents and others in addressing topics related to Sustainability/Energy/Conservation.
2. Advance the simple, proven, practical, effective and money saving strategies that are the GreenStep framework.
3. Having achieved a GreenStep City level 3 designation in 2015, consider advancing to and through level 4 and 5 best practices as part of the Comprehensive Plan effort.
4. Encourage education and marketing messages that lead best practice sustainability, energy efficiency and conservation actions. Incorporate this material into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.
5. Continue to lead by example in energy efficiency of City buildings constructed and improved. (Green Globe certifications and Ameresco type assessments).
6. Working with Great Plains Institute, consider a baseline “Energy Use Profile”. Use the material assembled in the Sustainability/Energy/Conservation Reference Notebook and analytics from the Profile to be included in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update and future GreenStep measurements.
7. Discuss and becoming better informed on:
 - a. solar power
 - b. ongoing surface water quality strategies (through work underway with Public Works)
 - c. pervious pavement demonstration
 - d. autonomous vehicles
 - e. electric vehicles and charging stations
8. Consider whether TOD overlay zones should be considered ½ mile north and south of County Road 42 given County Road 42 (150th Street) supports an east/west development of sustainable, mixed use development and future transit service potential.

A staff presentation will begin the November 15, workshop, followed by questions and discussion lead by the Chair with Commissioners and then residents.