

City of Wabasso
City Council
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
6pm

The meeting called to order by EDA President Pat Eichten at 6:00 p.m. with members Chuck Robasse, Jeff Olson, Steve Burns and Karl Guetter present.

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Larry Thompson, Mayor Carol Atkins and Council members Brad Salfer and Roger Bauman, Planning Committee member Stef Goblirsch and Paul Sobocinski, consultant Cheryl Glaeser and EDA Consultant Pat Dingles were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive the vision/planning report interim report from planning consultant Cheryl Glaeser.

Ms. Glaeser gave an overview of the process to date noting

- The planning committee held a kickoff meeting where the goals of the committee were set focusing on community value, community vision and key opportunities in the Highway #68 corridor, downtown and community center.
- A survey of selected community residents.
- Materials for a visioning session of selected community leaders was held.

Highlights:

- Demographics
- Labor Market
- Trends
- Business retention and expansion vs. new business development

Discussion points at the visioning session:

- Understanding trends: Opportunities and potential challenges.
- Guiding principals for development: Survey results – values and principals and areas that need additional clarification.
- Development types for the downtown and Hwy 68 corridor – types of businesses that are lacking and potential opportunities.
- Community center opportunities and future.
- Questions presented to focus groups:
 - a. What does a future vibrant downtown look like to you? An active downtown, community that supports the downtown and a downtown with strong curb appeal.
 - b. What is your vision for strengthening/preserving the Hwy 68 corridor? Expanding and developing new business opportunities and is visually appealing, safe and convenient.

Potential action steps for the downtown and Hwy 68 corridor were presented.

A general discussion and Q&A session followed. Ms. Glaeser indicated she would present a specific action plan for Council/EDA consideration. Mr. Thompson indicated he would place this item focusing on the next steps on the EDA agenda for discussion, fine tuning, and place the EDA recommendations on the next council meeting council agenda for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Larry Thompson
EDA Director