

FOND DU LAC VISION & STRATEGIC PLAN

Neighborhood Livability Workshop Summary

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Overview

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, an *Envision Fond du Lac* workshop was held at the YMCA in the Multipurpose Room from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. The workshop focused specifically on issues relating to neighborhood livability.

After a brief introduction to the *Envision Fond du Lac* planning process, participants were given one hour to brainstorm ideas on how to improve Fond du Lac's neighborhoods. To focus the discussions, participants could select any of the following topics to discuss:

- Schools
- Parks
- Housing
- Trails & Bicycling
- Public Safety
- Historic Neighborhoods & Downtown
- Transportation & Transit
- Other

The working group wrote down their recommended ideas, programs, and policies on a worksheet provided by the consultant.

Note on Summary Context

The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received. Some comments were shared with the entire audience, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. It is important to note that the items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop.

Community Ideas

The ideas developed are presented below and collated based on the discussion topics chosen by each discussion group.

Parks

- Implement Lakeside Park Plan
- Activate the riverfront by ensuring development faces the riverfront and through strategic investments
- Ensure funds are available for routine maintenance and replacement at parks – they should be the showpiece of the community and be well landscaped with flowers
- Leverage Buttermilk Park – use park for the arts, capitalize on outdoor auditorium
- Enhance publicity of existing events in the community such as the outdoor ice rink in Veterans Park

Schools

- Evaluate the size of the existing high school and consider developing a second, smaller magnet/satellite campus
- Publicize the benefits of the local school system – strong public and private schools; local public high school offers college credit via UW-Fond du Lac, many teachers have a Master’s Degree in their fields, etc.

Transportation & Transit

- Work to better align transit routes, stops, and times with the needs of the low-income community, particularly those working in retail
- Evaluate opportunities for smaller buses and quicker routes similar to bus rapid transit (BRT) or arterial rapid transit (ART)

Housing

- Work to develop more senior and starter-home housing with access to Downtown and transit
- Work to combat negative perceptions that exist against multi-family housing and low-income housing
- Work to combat racism

Public Safety

- Get the media and residents to recognize that crime is decreasing and that the community is safe – crime is way down
- Work to combat the negative perceptions about Fond du Lac that are untrue
- Need more public information and communications campaigns
- Engage the media, business community, advertisers, and more to ensure better coverage of Fond du Lac
- Promote neighborhood watch programs