

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012**

MINUTES

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, February 16, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Present:

Jim Dokken	Chair
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

Others present: Frank Yanish – Mayor, Andrew Bjur – Green Step Cities, David Little – West Central Tribune.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

2. GREEN STEP CITIES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Andrew Bjur presented additional information about the Green Step Cities program (See Attachment A). Mr. Bjur had been asked to return to the Committee to continue discussion of the program. The information included an executive summary for City of Willmar participation. The required best practices can be tailored to address specific City needs.

Mr. Bjur volunteered to be the local contact. He estimated that the process to set program policy could be accomplished within approximately one year. It is anticipated that the only cost to the City would be that of staff time that is already budgeted. Program benefits to the City include recognition as a progressive City committed to energy efficiency and economic savings. Staff was asked to prepare a formal resolution to bring to the Committee at their March 1st meeting. Local citizen names will be provided to Mayor Yanish for the necessary committee appointments.

3. DOWNTOWN PLAN PROGRESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Staff updated the Committee on downtown planning efforts. It was noted that a meeting had been held earlier in the day with the Steering Committee to discuss five selected main topics for the plan. Each main topic has three to six plan elements that will be discussed in greater detail within the plan. Staff said that the Steering Committee would be meeting again within the month to review additional work prepared by staff and the consultant related to the individual elements, responsibilities for accomplishing them, and possible sources of funding.

4. MISCELLANY (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Staff presented updates on the land release process, John's Supper Club redevelopment, and the EDA grant application for infrastructure at the expanded industrial park.

Council member Ahmann mentioned that local representatives were selected to make a presentation at the National Main Street conference about the community owned grocery project. He was suggesting that in situations where citizens bring positive recognition to the community that the Council consider covering some of the costs of their travel. The Committee discussed City policy, the issue of public purpose, precedent, and lack of available finances.

5. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning and Development Services