

CITY OF NISSWA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3 – PART II SUMMARY



Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Location: Nisswa City Hall

Meeting Chair(s): Ashley Kaisershot and Dawn Espe

Summary by: A. Kaisershot

In Attendance: Dawn Espe, R5DC, Ashley Kaisershot, NJPA, Brent Jones, Nisswa Planning and Zoning Administrator, Steering Committee Members: Molly Raske, Mark Ronnei, Mike Sedivy, Cari LaRose, Bob Fier, Reed Larson, Larry Petron, Shawn Hansen, and Anne Laufman, Nisswa Planning Commission

CC: Mark Hallan, WSN, City Engineer and Tom Blomer, Public Works Director

Copies: To all steering committee members

1. Introduction and Presentation: Meeting facilitators, Ashley Kaisershot of NJPA and Dawn Espe of R5DC, started the meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Nisswa City Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to continue goal development efforts.

2. An overview of the agenda and progress update was presented. Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

3. An overview of the definitions of *goals* and *policies* was provided and a summary of the S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic, time-based) goal concept was given. The following goals were reviewed: Nisswa character and community vision, land use, transportation and infrastructure, economic development, sustainability, and tourism. The policy and strategy section will work together to provide solutions and “next-steps” and timelines to assist in implementing the goals.

Nisswa Character and Community Vision Goals |

Goal 1: Ensure that people can live, work, and play in the City of Nisswa

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the sense of place and character of Nisswa

Goal 3: Support and enhance the health and integrity of the natural environment that sustains the spirit of the community

Goal 4: The stock of trust, relationships, and networks that support community collaboration improve annually by at least 1%

Land Use Goals |

Goal 1: Provide for orderly development by establishing proper relationships among natural resources, commercial, residential, and other land uses

A recommendation was given to add pertinent definitions to into a separate “definitions” section of the document.

Goals 2: Maintain and adopt a Land Use Plan that designates land use areas and guides development to appropriate areas; ensuring desirable land use patterns and minimizing conflicts

Goal 3: Enhance Nisswa’s image as a community of vibrant, thriving, and desirable neighborhoods; a regional hub for commerce, recreation, arts, and tourism

Goal 4: Enhance the diversity and livability of residential areas

Goal 5: Support development that enhances community character; preserving the small town character and protecting natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas

Goal 6: Encourage mixed-use development that is focused on the integration of land uses

Goal 7: Provide physical accessibility throughout Nisswa

Recommendation to make this goal more specific and addressed accessibility, and possible locations/options further.

Downtown Goals |

Goal 1: Support the social and economic viability of Nisswa’s downtown

Recommendation to add language on “maintaining” and investigate other opportunities for growth if warranted. Possibly include further goals to expand and capitalize on history and future opportunities.

Transportation and Infrastructure Goals |

Transportation |

Goal 1: Trail systems are interconnected throughout the Nisswa community and to regional systems by 2035.

Recommendation to omit SMART goal concept and be consistent throughout the goal section. Make policies/strategies SMART goals.

Goal 2: Improve connectivity throughout the community

Add “connectivity” and “accessibility” to definitions section. Conversation occurred around what connectivity means, and what it could look like.

Goal 3: Plan and develop a safe, accessible multimodal transportation system

Recommendation to combine goals 2 and 3.

Infrastructure |

Goal 1: Provide cost effective and quality city services

Discussion occurred around recycling programs and other services, environmentally friendly options, that the city could provide.

Goal 2: Plan for the expansion of public utilities to facilitate healthy and sustainable community growth

Discussion occurred on what this could include ex. recycling program, city water system and service.

Goal 3: Prioritize infill development on vacant lands and redevelopment of blighted, neglected properties

Goal 4: Avoid environmentally sensitive areas when extending and constructing utilities

Goal 5: Coordinate infrastructure improvements to maximize the economic benefits of street reconstructions that include sewer, water, power, and streetscaping.

Discussion occurred around the city's need for a water distribution supply system – not existence to date – and related fire protection concerns. There is a possibility that businesses have been deterred from possible development in the City of Nisswa because of the lack of city water service and fire protection.

Add a goal regarding broadband, and associated strategies to support its implementation.

Economic Development Goals |

Goal 1: Promote Nisswa as a great place for business and commerce

Discussion occurred around “light industrial” land use and zoning category. Research will be conducted around adding a light industrial land use category.

Goal 2: Develop a housing stock that meets the diverse needs of residents

Goal 3: Create cohesive residential neighborhoods that support the image of Nisswa as an interconnected community

Combine goals 2 and 3.

Goal 4: Support the development of tourist-related commercial enterprises that strengthens Nisswa's position as a tourist destination

Goal 5: Increase number of small and medium enterprises (SME) 5% by 2022

Omit SMART component of this goal – consistent with other goals. Make goal 5 a policy of goal 1.

Sustainability Goals |

Goal 1: Ensure that elements of the built environment provide sustainable, green places for residents

Overall perspective and point of view was discussed, and the possible unintended consequences on how residents would perceive this goal. The language could be too restrictive. Different options and approaches to this goal will be reviewed.

Goal 2: Maintaining natural resources and sensitive environmental areas are a priority

Goal 3: Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through various provisions

Tourism Goals |

Goal 1: Increase visitor spending in Nisswa by 5% by 2025.

Omit SMART component of this goal and focus language around “maintenance” and “increase” of visitors; not spending specific.

Goal 2: To have a sustainable, year-round economy through partnerships with local businesses, resort operators, and other agencies that creates opportunities for all.

Review goal in 2007 comprehensive plan that addresses supporting resort industries. Incorporate goal or have as separate.

4. The second visioning session is scheduled for April 18th at Grand View Lodge from 5:00 – 8:00pm. It will be an open house style event where participants can come and go as they please. Goals will be on display for participants to review, engage, and comment on. Discussion occurred about the importance of having photos associated with the goals to make it visually appealing.

5. Goals will be edited and created from meeting feedback and sent to SC for review. Policies will be developed and reviewed at meeting #4. Draft chapters will be created and sent to the SC during the month of April.

NEXT STEPS:

Project managers will summarize the meeting, e-mail it to the SC, and follow up with those who were unable to attend. Meeting content from session one (held on March 1) and session two (Held on March 21) will be combined and posted to the project website.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

SC Meeting #4 – April 4th from 5:30 – 7:30pm

Visioning Session #2 – April 18th at Grand View Lodge from 5:00 – 8:00pm

Our project staff believes that this document accurately reflects the business that occurred during the meeting. If any member believes there are inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the minutes, they should notify Ashley Kaisershot at Ashley.kaisershot@njpacoop.org. If feedback isn't received within seven (7) days, the meeting minutes will be considered approved.