



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

A message from our Mayor:

Advancing our Vision Together

Almost five years ago we embarked as a community upon our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. It continues to be effective for two essential reasons. First, it is a plan that was developed and continues to be updated periodically by hundreds of Prior Lake stakeholders. Second, there is no question that the plan is the official road map the city council and staff uses to direct their daily city activities.

On Tuesday, February 13, 2007 our Long-range Planning Committee met at the Wilds to again update the plan. I was impressed that more than 115 Prior Lake stakeholders participated and that a good 75% of the committee members were Prior Lake residents. Those who were not Prior Lake residents were stakeholders that represented surrounding townships, cities, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Independent School District 719, Scott County and other governmental agencies.

Equally impressive is that each of these people had volunteered to spend their whole evening showing their commitment to the long-term development of the City of Prior Lake.

The assembled committee heard from our city staff about the progress our community has made over these last four plus years under the direction of the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. I was approached by several attendees after the session who expressed their surprise and delight regarding the breadth and depth of the progress which we as a community continue to make toward our 2030 vision.

But the key focus of the evening was groups of 10 to 12 Long-range Planning Committee representatives reviewing each of the Plan's nine vision elements and reporting their findings to the whole. It would be premature to report the specific results until they are reviewed a last time by the committee and adopted by the city council. Two observations are in order. First that a new vision element entitled, "Safe and Healthy Community" has been added recognizing that for Prior Lake to be a Wonderful Place to Call Home, citizens must feel safe and participate in efforts to make themselves and others safe.

The Long-range Planning Committee has also become better at refining our vision elements. As I walked from table to table observing the small groups, each was hard at work refining the specificity and measurability of existing goals and objectives or adding new ones to achieve our 2030 vision.

The staff will now refine each vision element based upon the input received. Next, the draft document will be reviewed by the city council at an upcoming meeting. I am confident the council will then direct staff to share the draft with all members of the Long-range Planning Committee so they have an opportunity to comment on all aspects of the revised plan. Once that input has been received, the final document will be considered for final approval by the city council. It is our intention to complete this process in 60 days.

Thanks to all of you who participated in this critically important community process. Your participation improves the quality and comprehensiveness of the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan which has a direct impact upon the quality of our lives both today and into the future. It is after all our most important planning document created by the community for the community!

Mayor Jack Haugen