



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

A message from our Mayor:

Be a Part of Prior Lake's Long-range Planning

Five years ago, an enthusiastic group of nearly 100 residents, business owners and representatives from various stake-holding groups ranging from the faith community to the school district gathered for a series of long-range planning meetings that forever altered our community. The result was the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan (available at www.cityofpriorlake.com).

At the time, that meeting and the document it conceived were unprecedented. Never before in Prior Lake's history had so many come together to envision a modern downtown streetscape, quality community growth, a strong diversified tax base, an efficient transportation system, strong financial management, a valued natural environment and much more.

The Long-range Planning Committee devoted its time and energy to our future twice more: in the fall of 2003 and spring of 2005, with several hundred people participating in total. Each time we met, it was a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through collaboration. Residents, business owners and other community leaders with a wide range of interests, came together to define what Prior Lake was to become and how we would get there.

During those early important meetings, the long-range vision of our community was studied and refined by the committee and the results can be seen in our parks, roads and business districts. Furthermore, thanks to those gatherings, we continue to look to an up-to-date and relevant 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan as the driving force for our past, present and future.

The intervals with which we come together are no accident. Given the importance of this visioning approach, my colleagues on the City Council and I vowed to revisit this important document every 18 months, each time assessing progress to date and specific ways in which our vision might be refocused or improved. Having that renewed vision is critical. Eighteen months may seem like a long time, but in a rapidly growing suburb such as ours, it is not.

Now, as we move into the early part of 2007, let us sharpen our pencils once again and get back to work. It is time for us to advance our Vision and keep it alive and vibrant and play a role. The City Council keeps the Vision alive through its policy decisions. The City staff does the same by accomplishing annual goals. YOU can keep it alive by participating as a member of our Long-range Planning Committee. Committee membership changes from meeting to meeting, based on your availability and interest. I believe allowing anyone who wishes to participate strengthens the validity of these efforts.

A Long-range Planning Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Wilds Golf Club. This is the time that you can join other residents unified in a common desire to help Prior Lake maximize its potential.

The meeting will feature a report on our progress and dinner will be provided. From there we will get down to business, devoting that evening to refocusing our vision for this community. After the meeting has adjourned and our capable staff has synthesized all the input, our community will have a renewed vision for the future to guide us for the foreseeable future.

I hope you take advantage of this thought-provoking and engaging discussion. As a resident or business owner in Prior Lake you have an enormous stake in keeping Prior Lake a wonderful place to call home.

Please RSVP your reservation for dinner no later than Monday, January 31 at 4:30 p.m. to Charlotte at cgreen@cityofpriorlake.com or (952) 447-9803.

Mayor Jack Haugen