



PRESS RELEASE

March 28, 2008

CITY RESTRUCTURES PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTIONS DIVISIONS

Jane Kansier and Danette Walthers-Moore to Lead New Departments

Effective March 15, 2008, the City restructured its Planning & Building Inspections division in order to better utilize its staff resources to meet the goals and objectives of the City's 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. The 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan places primary emphasis on preserving our natural resources and being environmentally sensitive, as well as being fiscally prudent in our management of public funds. The current downturn in the development market has provided the City an opportunity to redirect staff resources previously dedicated to managing growth into these two areas, among others, without adding additional personnel.



Jane Kansier, previously the City's Planning & Building Inspections Director, has been appointed to Director of Building and Transportation Services, and will take on a number of new challenges. In addition to continuing to lead the Building Inspections and Code Enforcement divisions, she will also be responsible for transit planning & operations, regional roadway planning, grant writing, legislative monitoring and research. Previously the City has not had staff dedicated to seeking out and writing grant applications. While we have been successful in leveraging some grant dollars in the past, we believe there are many more prospective grants that could provide the City with the opportunity to maximize its investment in new projects and services.

Jane is an experienced planner and manager who is particularly accomplished in policy analysis and writing. Ms. Kansier has been with the City of Prior Lake since 1996, and came to us after serving the City of Rochester. She achieved her Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from the University of Minnesota, and her Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2002 from Hamline University.

Danette Walthers-Moore, previously the City's Planning Coordinator, has been promoted to Community Development & Natural Resources Director, and will also take on an expansion of duties. In addition to the administration of new development applications and traditional planning duties, Danette will also spearhead the City's economic development and redevelopment initiatives in collaboration with Economic Development Director Paul Snook, as well as move the City toward its 2030 Vision goals in natural resources. In a community like Prior Lake that is so rich in natural environment, and with a 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan that places a high priority on preservation of those resources, it seems appropriate that the City have staff dedicated to these initiatives. Danette will work closely in this regard with the City Water Resources Engineer and Park Maintenance Supervisor.



Ms. Walthers-Moore is also an experienced planner, whose strengths lie in her enthusiasm for the preservation of our natural resources, her dedication to customer service, and her creative problem solving. She has worked at the City of Prior Lake for nearly 4 years, with previous experience at the cities of Eden Prairie, Inver Grove Heights, and St. Paul. Danette obtained her Land Use Planning & Environmental Studies degree from the University of Wisconsin and will be graduating with her Masters in Public Administration in May 2008.

For More Information, contact Asst. City Manager Kelly Meyer at 952.447.9802.