

TOWN PLANNING WORKSHOP

The Town Planning Workshop is used extensively within the community planning process to involve citizens, organizations, and commissions in the formation of a vision for the planning area. The workshop typically involve two (2) hour session, scheduled during evenings or weekends, to foster the maximum level of participation, creative discussion and strategizing. This planning tool is tailored for the “citizen planners” within a community, with the purpose of utilizing their first-hand knowledge and experiences to identify problems and solutions in a teamwork-based format.

The use of citizen participation is an essential component in the development of a consensus or “common philosophy” within a community. The workshop process provides a forum for collecting, organizing and recording public input. The Town Planning Workshop allows stakeholders to influence decisions that affect their lives and communities, thereby increasing the likelihood of public support when the time comes to adopt and implement the resulting plan.

Format of the Hamel Town Planning Workshop: The Town Planning Workshop is based on workshop participants’ insight into their community and perception of the planning issues within their neighborhoods. The workshop is intended to be instrumental in identifying the needs of Hamel’s neighborhoods, including quality of life concerns. It will establish a direction for the future of the village and its neighborhoods. The responses provide the planning team with an understanding of the issues that are most important to Hamel’s citizens, as represented by the workshop participants.

The workshop is formed around teams of randomly selected participants. Teams are formed as participants sign in at the workshop. This procedure allows for the creation of teams composed of members with varying interests. Each of the teams will be provided with a work book containing discussion topics and a map of the Village. The questions do not have one right or wrong answer but are intended to generate a dialogue among the team members to create a vision for the community as well as potential solutions to issues that may arise.

TEAM- A WORKSHEET: DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. **Opportunities:** Identify and describe Hamel's positive features on the Map. This may that include **opportunity areas (OP)**, **positive development (PD)**, **village character elements (C)**, and/or **special amenities (SA)**. Place stickers on the areas your team has identified, or place stickers in the margin of the map and connect with a straight line. Discuss the origins of these positive areas and what you think can be done to maintain them.
2. **Economy:** In many counties sales tax revenue is distributed to municipalities based on a per capita basis, a point of sale basis (where revenues stay in the municipality in which they are generated) or a combination of the two. In Hamel, sales tax revenue is generated by point of sale. Should the Village encourage more retail development to help generate revenue or should the Village pursue other methods of generating revenue?
3. **Business Stability:** In your opinion, are Hamel's commercial areas being utilized for the highest and best use? What changes, if any are recommended to the current commercial areas? What specific uses and users would be most desired or recommended? What uses or development types should be prohibited?
4. **Housing:** Does Hamel's housing stock provide an adequate range of housing styles, types and price ranges? Is there an abundance of any housing type(s)? What type of housing types/density would do well? On the map, identify areas most suitable for: 1) multi-family housing, 2) attached single family homes, and 3) single family homes
5. **Public Services:** Does Hamel have adequate services (police, fire, school, water, sewer, etc)? What improvements to the Village's infrastructure or public services are of most concern with regard to future growth, development and annexation?
6. **Vision:** Provide examples of development (both within and outside Hamel) that is desirable. Consider the following physical characteristics: Public spaces, architectural style/quality, landscaping, sense of place, history, types of shops, restaurants, services, etc. List examples of local or regional cities your team members have traveled to that we should use as examples of a future Hamel?
7. Additional Comments....

TEAM- B WORKSHEET: DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. **Transportation:** How would you rate the condition of Hamel's streets and sidewalks on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the excellent? Are there any areas within the Village's transportation system that have a high frequency of accidents? Mark areas on the map with ongoing traffic congestion, access problems, poor pedestrian accessibility or parking problems.
2. **Future Growth:** Does the community have adequate land set aside for future growth? Identify areas on that map where Hamel should allow growth. Identify any areas that Hamel should preserve and/or prohibit growth and development?
3. **Opportunities:** Identify and describe Hamel's positive features on the Map. This may that include **opportunity areas (OP)**, **positive development (PD)**, **village character elements (C)**, and/or **special amenities (SA)**. Place stickers on the areas your team has identified, or place stickers in the margin of the map and connect with a straight line. Discuss the origins of these positive areas and what you think can be done to maintain them.
4. **Vision:** Provide examples of development (both within and outside Hamel) that is desirable. Consider the following physical characteristics: Public spaces, architectural style/quality, landscaping, sense of place, history, types of shops, restaurants, services, etc. List examples of local or regional cities your team members have traveled to that we should use as examples of a future Hamel?
5. **Parks & Recreation:** What types of recreation opportunities are most used and desirable within Hamel? Describe any improvements that Hamel should consider with regard to parks and recreation. Use stickers to show appropriate locations for future park and recreation expansions, if applicable.
6. **Image:** What can be done to improve the main entryways or major traffic routes? What can be done to enhance the image of the Village?
7. Additional Comments....