CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING

City Council Goal Session, Monday, June 30, 2014
Governors' Room, Community Center – 3:00 p.m.

I. **WELCOME**
II. **RULES FOR THE DAY**
III. **BREAK CALLER**
IV. **DISCUSSION**
- A. Retirements/Staffing Changes/Advancement Process Planning
- B. Private Line Maintenance Agreement
- C. Zero Lot Line Certified Survey
- D. Heritage Preservation Regulations
- E. Industrial Sites Need
- F. Economic Development Authority Action Process
- G. General Fund Budget Preview
- H. Electric Rates
- I. Treatment Ponds/Moist Soils
- J. Parks Update (Lambert Land)
  1. Use
  2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
  3. Joint Planning with School District
  4. Parks Renaissance
  5. Veterans Memorial
- K. Sidewalk Placement Needs
- L. Minimum Wage Considerations
- M. Code of Ethics
- N. Organizational Health
  1. Staff
  2. Council
- O. Communications Review
  1. Internal
  2. External
- P. Pavilion Project Update and Needs
- Q. Child Care Study Group
- R. Others

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Office of the City Administrator
Todd Prafke

CITY COUNCIL GOAL SESSION
JUNE 30, 2014
3:00 P.M.

I. WELCOME

II. RULES FOR THE DAY

Typically the Council will take a few moments to review the brainstorming rules. We might also delve into "Hurling Day", determine a "break caller" and generally visit about how your time will be spent together.

III. BREAK CALLER

The Mayor will select a person to be in charge of calling breaks so Todd does not keep going and no one has a chance to use the restroom or eat or drink.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. RETIREMENTS, STAFFING CHANGES AND ADVANCEMENT PROCESS PLANNING

A review of the data on employees and discussion on that data. Additionally I hope to discuss processes to replace retiring employees and in particular Department Directors just as we did with the Hospital CEO a couple of years ago.

B. PRIVATE LINE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

A review of our work so far on this idea that started about three years ago on a catch as catch can basis.

C. ZERO LOT LINE CERTIFIED SURVEY

A short discussion on this issue and the idea and the implications of both action and inaction.

D. HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Discussion of a suggestion that was brought up at your last Goal Session related to a process to save or require maintenance on buildings prior to the point they may need to be razed.

E. INDUSTRIAL SITES NEED

A review of the space you currently have available for industry and what options may exist to fulfill future needs. Additionally, a discussion about priorities for resources for this.

F. EDA ACTION PROCESS

A review of staff's understanding of what EDA action you want to see at Council meetings and workshops.

G. GENERAL FUND BUDGET PREVIEW

A review of budget information to date and a look forward to your process for the 2015 year. That process is already going and you will get your first whacks at it in late July.

H. ELECTRIC RATES

A review of electric rates and various structures in an effort to look forward to changes that you discussed during your last budget and rate setting process.

I. TREATMENT PONDS/MOIST SOILS

A review and update of this program. Setting of your goals and staff's effort thus far.

J. PARKS UPDATE

1. Use (Lambert Land)
2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
3. Joint Planning with School District
4. Parks Renaissance
5. Veterans Memorial update

K. SIDEWALK PLACEMENT NEEDS

A review of the sidewalk master plan and how and when sidewalks are placed where they are.

L. MINIMUM WAGE CONSIDERATIONS

A review of the changing rules and laws related to minimum wage and planning for moving forward as we work to meet the requirements of the laws and the impact to finances, operations and other matters.

M. CODE OF ETHICS

A review of this idea that I have pushed in front of you a bunch of times.

N. ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

1. Staff
2. Council

O. COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

1. Internal
2. External

P. PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE AND NEEDS

A review of the activity here and a request for assistance in specific area of project and financing development.

Q. CHILD CARE STUDY GROUP

An update of the work of this group which was established based on Council direction.

R. OTHERS

A discussion on any topics that may interest you. After all...it is your meeting!

V. ADJOURN

Office of the City Administrator
Todd Prafke

CITY OF SAINT PETER

EMPLOYEE TENURE AND AGE

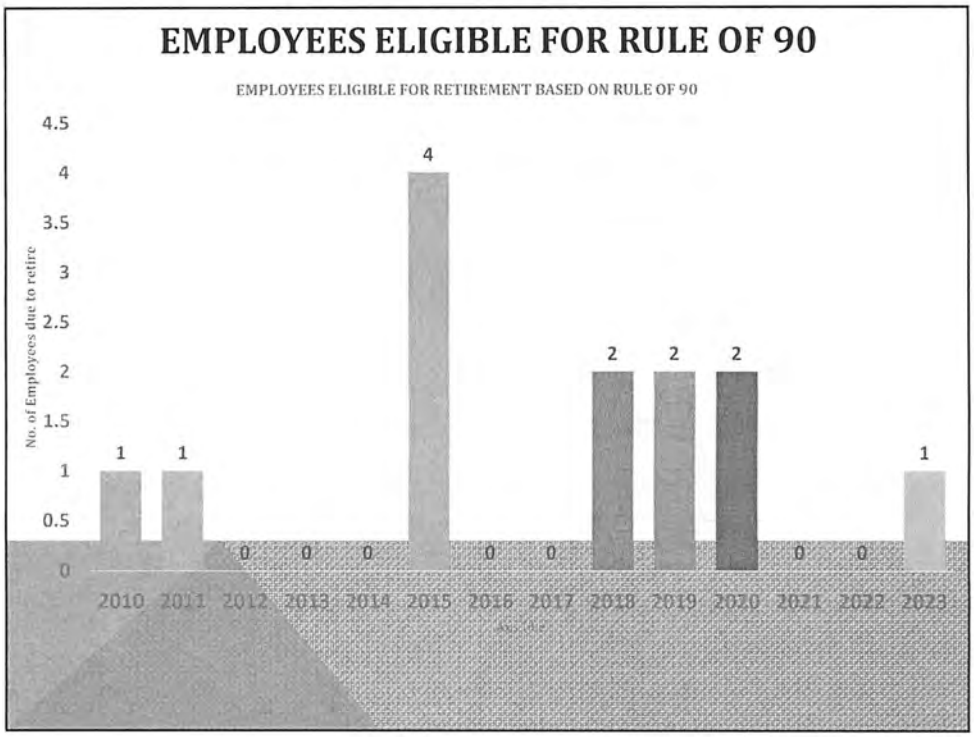
PRESENTED BY:

BENJAMIN EFFAH

CITY OF Saint Peter
WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

GOALS OF THIS EXERCISE

1. Identify the number of City employees who are eligible for Rule of 90 and those for retirement at age 66.
2. To examine times of greater separation from employment so as to better understand the needs of the Organization.
3. To determine the extent to which retirement affects labor pool in employment and develop a replacement plan.



EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR RULE OF 90 BASED ON DEPARTMENTS (2010-23)

DEPARTMENT	ELIGIBLE FOR RULE OF 90
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	2
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	6
POLICE DEPARTMENT	2
CITY ADMINISTRATORS OFFICE	1
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	1
RECREATION & LIESURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT	1

EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE AT AGE 66 (2014 AND 2035)

PERIOD OF GREATER SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OF GREATER EMPLOYMENT SEPARATION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
2015	4
2024	3
2026	5
2027	3
2029	6
2031	3
2033	4
2034	4
2035	4

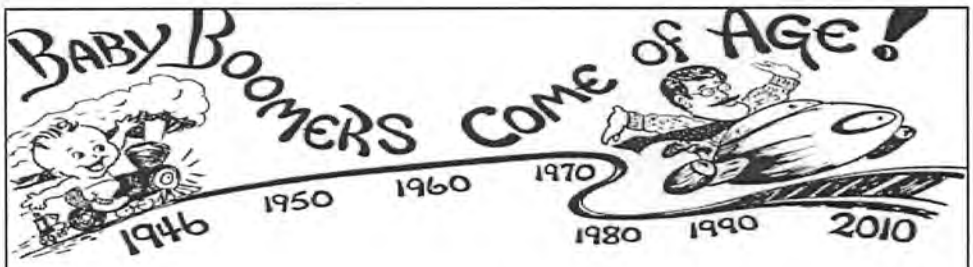
QUESTIONS

1. How will the exit or retirement of eligible employees affect the performance of existing employees?
2. Should the City make provision for hiring new employees or develop a new replacement plan?

TYPES OF EMPLOYEES

The global population workforce has three categories. These include;

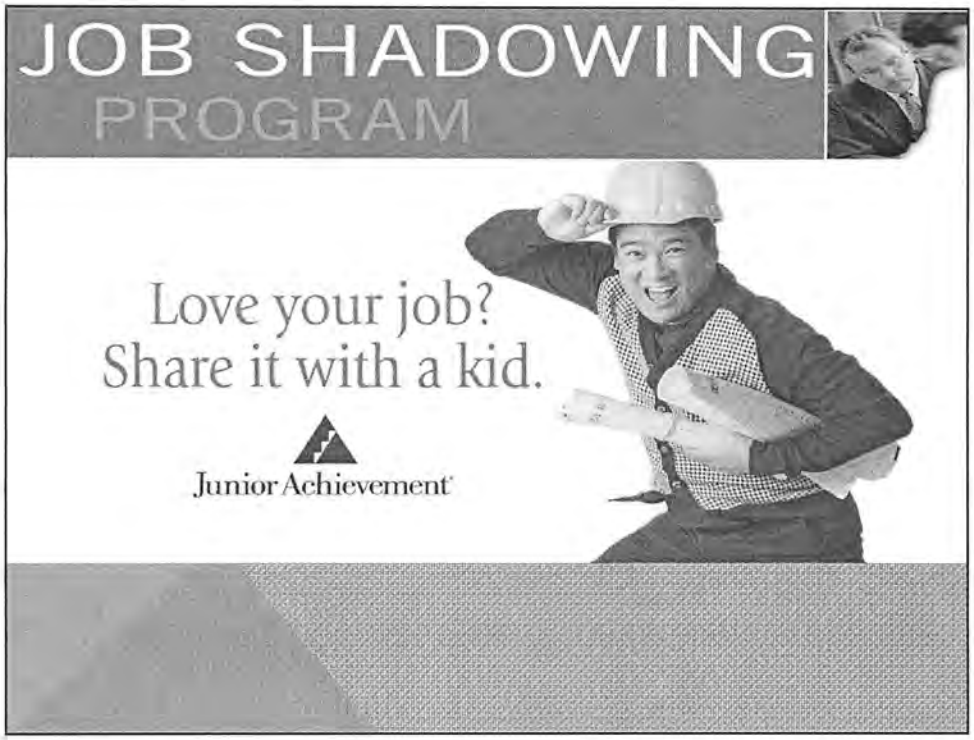
- ❑ The Baby Boomers (65 to 48)
- ❑ The baby Bust/ Gen X (47 -31)
- ❑ Baby Boom Echo/ Gen Y (30-17)



As baby Boomers come of age and prepare for retirement, are the Baby Bust within the organization prepared to step in to their shoes?

THE WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Introduction of Shadow Program
- ❑ Mentoring for Specific Skills



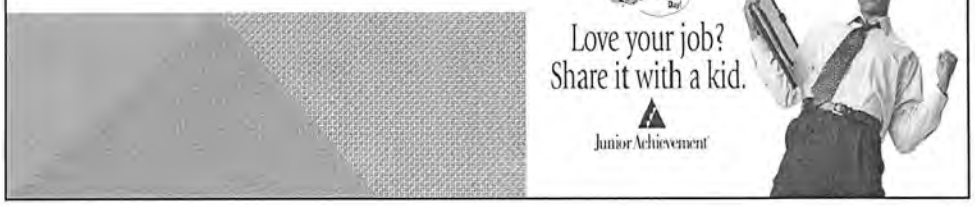
THE SHADOW PROGRAM

PLANNING FOR EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DEFINITION:

A powerful learning strategy where one person staying close and unobtrusive (like a shadow), observes another person over a period of time.

In other words: A strategy for observing the components of another persons job.



ACTORS IN THE SHADOW PROGRAM

- **THE HOST**: An experienced host or team in their everyday work.
- **THE SHADOW**: An observer or (upcoming leader)

FORMS OF SHADOWING

There are two forms of shadowing including:

- **TRADITIONAL SHADOWING**
- **REVERSE SHADOWING**

TRADITIONAL SHADOWING: A Shadow or an observer will accompany an experienced host or team in their everyday work. Essentially the shadow;

- Observes and accustoms him/herself with the content of their working day.
- Adopts leadership skills and methods of decision making.
- Observer gains new perspectives from work experiences with host.

REVERSE SHADOWING

DEFINITION: A transition from being an observer to putting what you have seen into practice.

- ❑ First you watch the experienced host do it. At the end of that experience you spend some time in a reflective professional conversation with the host.
- ❑ Second, the host watches you do it and provides you with a secondary opportunity to reflect and get feedback.
- ❑ In the third stage you do it, you are well equipped and confident to do it on your own. You can then meet your host for the last time and reflect.

GETTING STARTED

The following steps could be followed in implementing a shadow program:

- ❑ Assess the strategy of shadowing in relation to the organization and decide if this is the right strategy for the organization.
- ❑ Select host and shadows.
- ❑ Create an agreement of understanding between the host and the shadow.
- ❑ Establish clear outcomes.
- ❑ Communicate plan to all affected staff.
- ❑ Initiate the plan by undertaking the shadowing.

CONTINUED

- ❑ Evaluate outcomes. What worked? What did you achieve? What could you do better next time?
- ❑ Redesign program for the next cycle. Continuous improvement is the essential component.

WHAT HOSTS NEED TO DO

- ❑ Prepare your staff, observers, and all others who will be involved.
- ❑ Do not allow the presence of the shadow to disrupt normal routine.
- ❑ Keep shadowing and socialization separate.
- ❑ Save explanations and discussion until appropriate time(s)
- ❑ Prepare for an alternate option if a confidential interview unexpectedly occurs.
- ❑ Process the experience together and provide advice for further learning in areas raised in the discussion.

R&R | SHADOW PROGRAM

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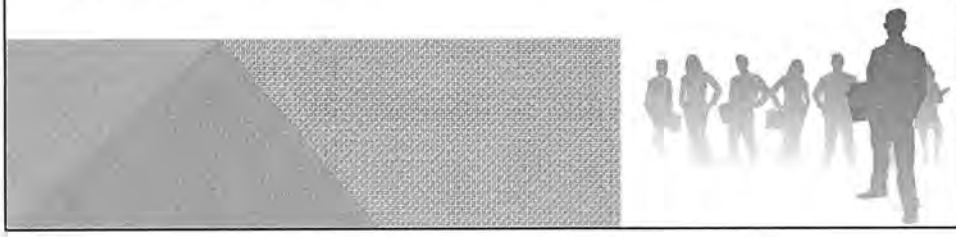
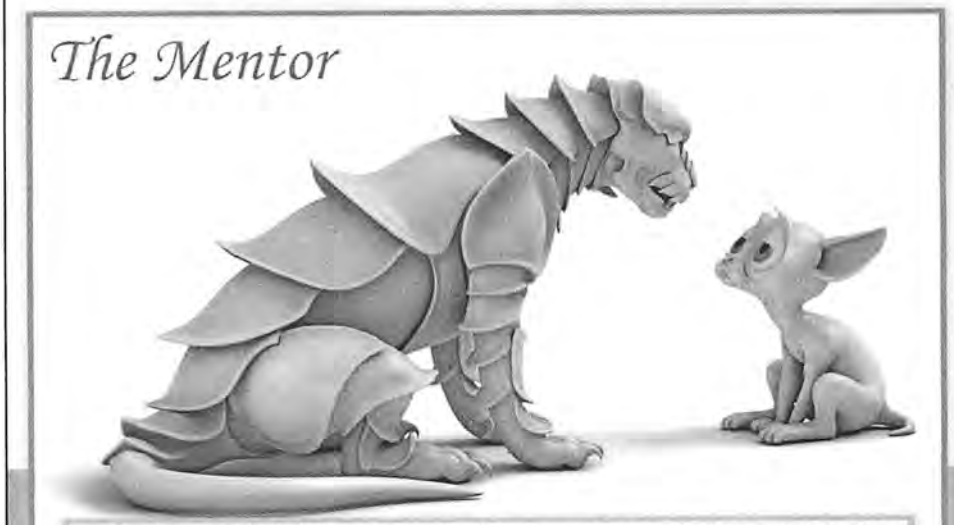
WHAT OBSERVERS NEED TO DO

Capture the normal work routines of the person being observed in your shadow record. You should try to:

- ❑ Record observable events without inferences or judgments
- ❑ Summarize conversations, noting key words and phrases
- ❑ Jot down questions you want to ask
- ❑ Relate what you have seen to the relevant frameworks of the department or organization.
- ❑ Refrain from asking questions and remain unobtrusive while you are shadowing your host



MENTORING FOR SPECIFIC SKILLS



"How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world. How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution...how we can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness"
~ *Anne Frank*

MENTORING FOR SPECIFIC SKILLS

Mentoring is the matching of an experienced worker with one who has no experience for the purpose of career exploration and development.

Unlike job shadowing, mentoring is more in-depth, continues for longer, and involves more interaction between the mentor and the mentee.

A GOOD MENTOR

- ❑ Knows the organization for which he/she works
- ❑ Committed to the role of mentor and to the person being mentored
- ❑ Listens well
- ❑ Is approachable
- ❑ Is a good role model
- ❑ Gives constructive feedback

THE MENTEE

- ❑ Listens well
- ❑ Willing to learn and accept advice
- ❑ Approaches new situations with curiosity and an open mind
- ❑ Willing to commit to the mentoring process
- ❑ Has interest in the area in which he/she is receiving mentoring

HOW TO MENTOR FOR SPECIFIC SKILLS

- ❑ Set your program goals: Is it to groom newcomers, groom future leaders, increase minority management?
- ❑ Recruit your more experienced employees to help teach and guide mentees.
- ❑ Pair up Protégés and Mentors. This can be done by managers or the human resource department.
- ❑ Pairing should be based on skills desired by mentees and goals of the program.
- ❑ Set the rules of engagement - make sure mentors and mentees meet regularly and know what to talk about based on a designed agenda.

CONTINUED

- ❑ Make sure mentoring is providing the results you want.

REFERENCES

National mentoring partnership. (2005). How to Build A Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice. Retrieved from http : //www.Mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring _413.pdf

Benefits of having an organizational mentoring program. Retrieved from http://www. Getintowaterco.org/linkservid/67870A3F-A0A6-4AA0-856BE779C343F636/showMeta/0/

Digital education revolution. (2009). A Guide to Shadowing. Retrieved from https://www.det.nsw .edu.au/proflearn/der/docs/shadow/shadobk.pdf

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA

POSITION OPENING

PART-TIME UTILITY METER READER

The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for the position of UTILITY METER READER in the Finance Department. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma or equivalent; experience working with the public; and valid Class D driver's license. Desired qualifications: record keeping experience and previous meter reading experience. Position works over the first two weeks of each month. Meter Readers must work in all weather conditions. $12.78 per hour or $10.28 per hour with health insurance. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm, March 13, 2014. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted.

AA/EOE

CITY OF SAINT PETER

UTILITY METER READER

RATING FORM TO SELECT CANDIDATES FOR INTERVIEW

Training and Experience - 100 Point Review

TOTAL POINTS _____

APPLICANT NAME: _____

Minimum Qualifications:

		YES?	NO?
1.	High school diploma or equivalent	____	____
2.	Experience working with the public	____	____
3.	Valid Class D driver's license	____	____

IF THE APPLICANT DOES NOT HAVE A "YES" ANSWER TO ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, THE APPLICANT IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION. If the answer to all of the above questions is YES, the application may be reviewed for desirable qualification points.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS (circle the appropriate points)

Possible Points		Points Awarded
	Record keeping experience	
	Previous meter reading experience	

If the applicant is a veteran or a veterans widow and has met the minimum qualifications the applicant is eligible for additional veteran preference points. Circle the additional points earned.

	TOTAL DESIRED QUALIFICATION POINTS	
	Veteran of United States Armed Forces with honorable discharge **OR**	
	Disabled veteran with honorable discharge	
	TOTAL POINTS	

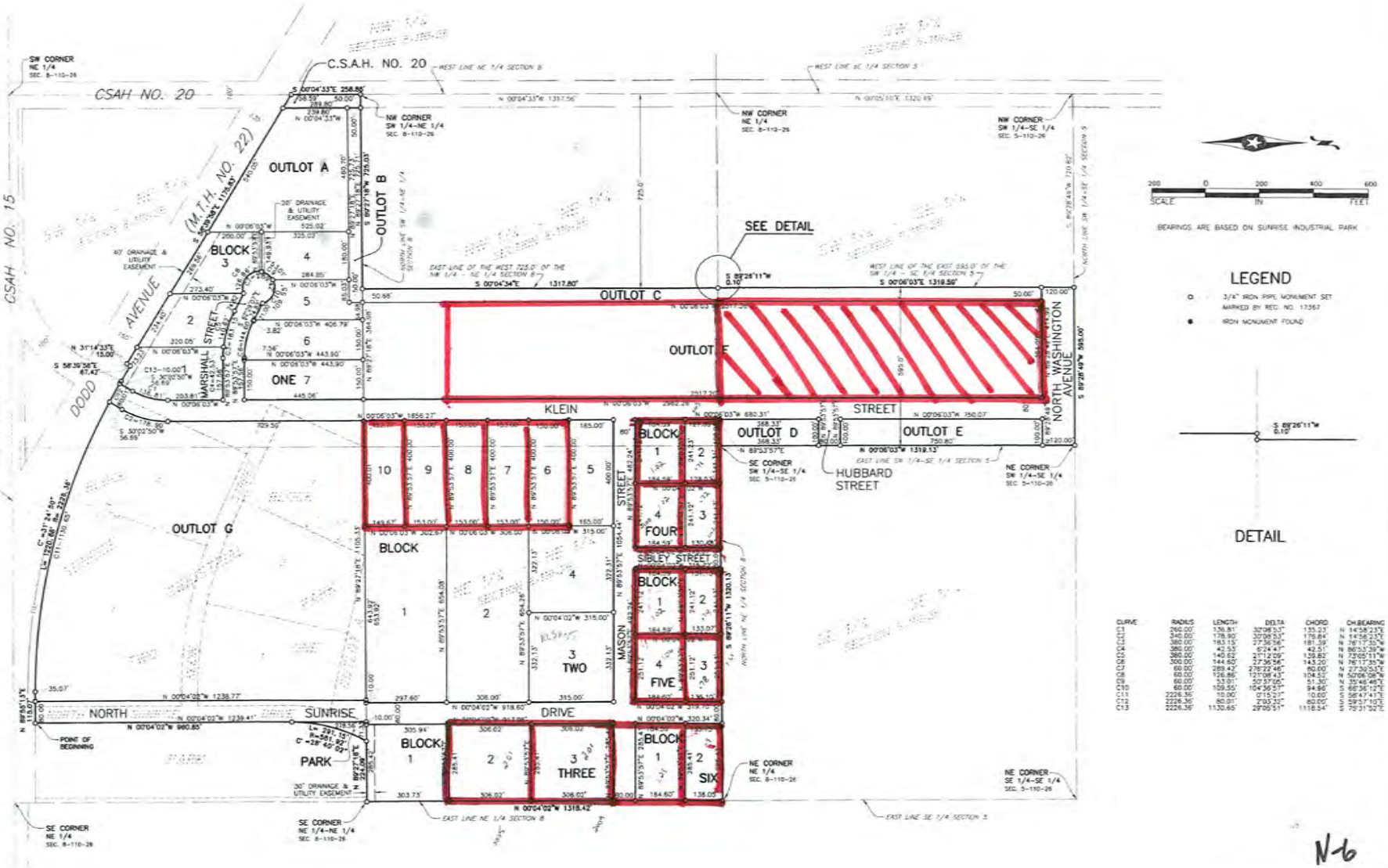
The veterans preference points will be added to the desired qualification points for a rating to obtain an interview. In the case of a tie, a veteran will be given preference.

The testing portion of this process shall be worth ___% of the applicant's total score and the interview portion shall be worth ___% of the total score.

Date: 07/19/2012

COPY

NORTH INDUSTRIAL PARK SUBDIVISION



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C11	260.00'	136.81'	30°08'53"	135.23'	N 14°58'23"E
C12	340.00'	178.90'	30°08'53"	176.84'	N 14°58'23"E
C13	380.00'	183.13'	27°36'56"	181.39'	N 76°17'35"W
C14	380.00'	42.53'	6°24'43"	42.51'	N 86°03'39"W
C15	360.00'	140.62'	21°12'09"	139.82'	N 73°05'11"W
C16	300.00'	144.60'	27°36'56"	143.20'	N 76°17'35"W
C17	60.00'	289.42'	276°22'46"	60.00'	N 27°30'53"E
C18	60.00'	126.86'	121°08'43"	104.52'	N 50°06'08"W
C19	60.00'	53.01'	50°37'05"	51.30'	N 35°46'46"E
C20	60.00'	109.55'	104°36'51"	94.86'	S 68°36'12"E
C11	2226.36'	10.00'	0°15'37"	10.00'	S 58°43'41"E
C12	2226.36'	80.01'	2°03'31"	80.00'	S 59°57'10"E
C13	2226.36'	1130.65'	29°05'51"	1118.54'	S 75°31'32"E

N-6

SHEET 2 OF 2

THIS PLAT PREPARED BY BOLTON & MENK, INC.

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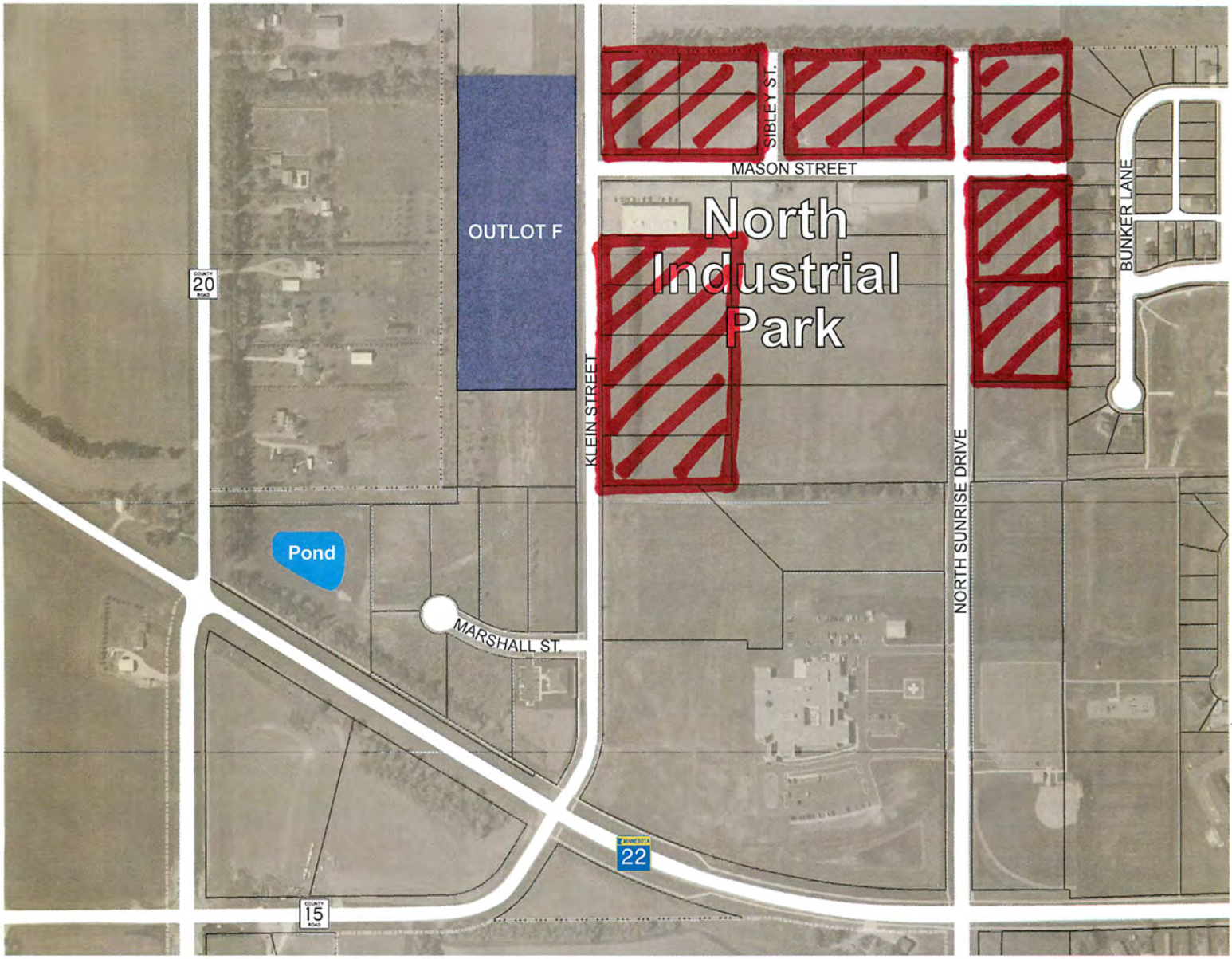
MASON STREET
BUNKER LANE
KLEIN STREET
NORTH SUNRISE DRIVE
Pond
MARSHALL ST.
COUNTY 20 ROAD
COUNTY 15 ROAD
MINNESOTA 22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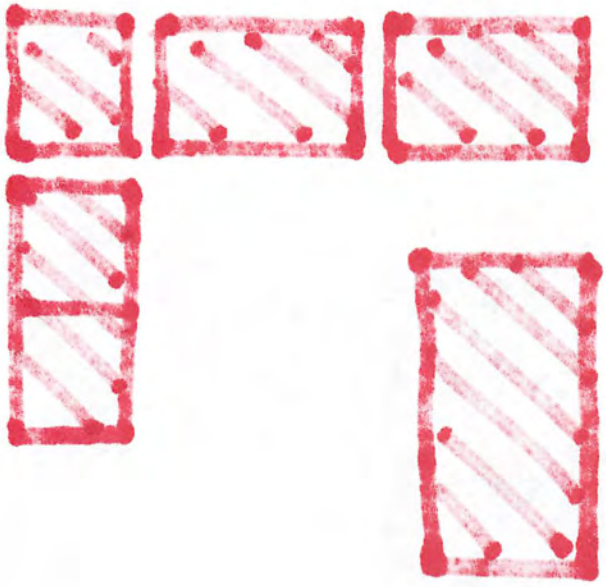


City of Saint Peter

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor Strand
Members of the City Council

DATE: 12/4/13

FROM: Todd Prafke
City Administrator

Paula O'Connell
Finance Director

RE: 2014 Budgets for General, Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital Funds, and Agency Funds.

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2014 budgets for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Funds, and the Agency Funds.

BACKGROUND

We continue to work to provide a budget that is based on Council priorities for our customers and taxpayers while providing the financial resources needed to maintain a quality and quantity of staff that provide those services.

Goals for this discussion are:

- Provide an update on the 2013 projections and budget modifications
- Provide an update on the 2014 budget progress
- This budget and levy, the means by which you provide for the policies you have in place, is a substantial opportunity for you to provide input in making this the Council budget and not the Staff budget.

This discussion will include a summary explanation of the budgets that we hope will enhance your understanding of the big picture of the budget. We hope to not get into the minutia of the budget exampled by how many stamps we use or the number of handcuff keys we purchase, but rather focus on the way this budget supports your wants and policies.

We continue to look at the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund budgets as a portion of a larger business and believe we are very cognizant of the impact that modification in any of these areas has on other portions of the City business. The 2014 budget is based on the ideas expressed below.

The changes within the budget, as compared to 2013, are very small with a few specific exceptions:

- Street maintenance for 2014 is planned for a $42,500 increase over your 2013 budget. To be clear, you may remember making a change and adding $90,000 in April and another $30,000 in July, so this increase would be less than the work completed in 2013 after the additional dollars were provided by the Council. This is a response to what we believe are increasing material costs and continuing to provide maintenance on one of your biggest investments that is very expensive to replace.

- Police capital expenses include computers, video and a copier in the amount of $37,900.
- Parks will see $19,000 in miscellaneous improvements.
- The fire department budget includes $25,000 of replacement equipment that have certification issues and also garage door openers.
- The 2014 budget also includes an allocation of $2,500 for the youth center.
- $50,000 of cuts were made to allow the same value of transfer to the 2014 debt levy. The majority of these cuts ($42,000) is the reduced transfer to the pooled insurance fund.
- General Fund reserves will be lowered to a projected 46.6% of expenditures. This includes the use of $66,445 to fund the 2014 operations. The percentage of Reserves is within your policy of 35% to 50% of years expenditures.

For 2014, we will use the same philosophy we have over the past years. We do not look at the total levy and then make cuts or additions. We look at the divisional budgets line by line and think about needs and priorities set by you, make changes, and then look at how that would influence the total.

The philosophy in the past was to bring you budgets based on the programs and service standards we have had in place without puffing it up needlessly, simply to be cut later in October or November to show how great a job we can do budget cutting. That is to say, we bring a budget that will provide for the operation you have told us you want. In this case, the service levels are still based on the 2010 and 2011 budget modifications. Reserves are used for emergencies or efforts that are unknown to us at this time. In some past years we have used reserves for a deal that is too good to pass up. We do not believe that additional information about costs projected in a month or two will substantially impact our thoughts on needs and/or priorities so we don't plan to come back to you multiple times between now and December and modify the budget. It may be important to note that once the legislative session starts in 2014 there is always the potential for a change in the ground rules. Election results and budget surpluses or deficiencies at the State level all influence those issues and right now, we do not have any supernatural ability to predict future outcomes.

We also believe the results from past budgets speak for themselves and that our budgeting philosophy has shown very positive results both from a financial and a service perspective. The positive results are that deviation from budget at the end of each year has been very small, as reported by the City's auditors. Further, the Council does not see a flurry of purchases at the end of each year based on the theory of, "if we don't spend it we won't get it next year." We just don't do that.

Lastly, based on State funding changes over the past nine years, local property taxes are more heavily depended upon to make your operations go. Also, Local Government Aid (LGA) continues to make up a large portion of our General Fund budget.

Our Financial Position Today - The City, as reported by our auditors, is in very good financial shape. The General Fund ended the 2012 year with revenues over expenditures by $421,131 and reserves increasing to $3,483,074. The projected change to fund balance in 2013 is anticipated to decrease $471,092 this is $101,092 larger than the anticipated reductions due to bond prepayment ($250,000) and additional street maintenance ($120,000). Both of these expenditures were done according to the plan approved by the Council.

Working Plan Thus far - The 2014 budget is not balanced. Revenues will be lower than expenditures. This is not a good or bad thing it is just the plan and we are happy that our understanding of these issues has evolved over the last number of years. Based on your Fund

Balance Policy for the General Fund which says the reserve should be "35% to 50% for the following years budgeted expenditures", we believe a $66,445 use of fund balance is reasonable.

Based on the proposed budget we will have a projected fund balance of $2,945,537 at the end of budget year 2014. Based on our current projections, the reserve percentage for the end of 2013 will likely be approximately 47.7%, and 2014 at 46.6%.

General fund expenditures are planned for an increase of $359,610 driven by personnel costs, utilities, and capital purchases. Alternatives to this increase are discussed later in the memo. Major changes have been made in the past due to the LGA reductions and trying to maintain reasonableness in our tax levy, but this year we are relatively confident that the State will provide the levy of LGA promised for the 2014 year. Again, this budget is premised on your service level decisions for 2010 and 2011 and the budget modifications that resulted.

Some of the tools used to provide the 2014 budget year include:

- Enterprise funds have been estimated based on projected sales for the 2014 year, assuming rate increases and lower use possibilities in 2014. This is a very conservative approach, but we have seen consumption reductions at the initial rate increase. Transfers will remain at 6.5% of sales for the Electric, Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater budgets. Please know that the transfers are based on percentage of gross revenue, so even though they are likely to change, we believe this assumption is appropriate as a starting point.
- Health insurance costs are budgeted with a 10% increase.
- Wage modifications for all union and non-union are about 3%.
- No significant changes in personnel levels with no position additions and no eliminations compared to the 2010 modification list and actual FTE in 2011-2013 budgets. In other words - no changes. The Streets Division still operates with an Equipment Operator position going unfilled.
- We will continue to make operational changes that we hope will reduce overtime and may mean changes when and how some activities are undertaken. We budgeted hours of overtime at the levels we have seen for 2011-2013.
- Budget modifications, and in particular cuts articulated for the 2010 year, are also cut as a part of the 2014 budget.
- Fire Relief Association levy of $10,000 for the 2014 year.
- Self-funding a higher deductible for Property/Casualty Insurance coverage across all funds. This plan is not anticipated to transfer an amount for 2014 from general fund, there is anticipated that the enterprise funds will continue to contribute to the insurance pool. After the claim deductibles are closed, the 2013 fund balance will be approximately $275,000.
- 2013 Local Government aid is not planned to be reduced from the certified amount. We have an additional $292,382 for 2014.
- Additional Debt related to the purchase of a fire truck. We have a seven year levy necessary for the debt service.
- Reserves are contributing $50,000 to the reduction of the 2014 equipment certificate debt.
- The levy includes the additional $30,000 allowed under levy limits, which will go to the general fund budget.

Projects in 2014 that are being planned include:

- Equipment Certificate for $380,250. These potential purchases will be discussed closer to the final budget approval and are (not prioritized). The $14,000 allocated for a transit bus has been removed as our potential for 2 bus purchases has been removed from the Department of Transit.
    - $30,000 - Squad car

- $57,000 - City share of a new TRT Armored vehicle
- $26,000 - Turn out gear (Fire Dept) possible place holder if grant is available.
- $29,250 - share of $65,000 mechanics service truck w/winch
- $200,000 – Street Sweeper
- $38,000 - Replace 1999 72" Toro mower

Below are items that we discussed earlier and some items we just think you should have opportunity to understand and discuss.

- Seal coating and patching work increase by $42,500. (Compared to Budget 2013)
- Additional parks repairs of $19,000 for enhancements to dugouts and picnic tables.
- We have planned no funding in the budget for Pavilion work as an amount is not known and our planning, thus far, has been to work to solicit other peoples money (OPM) once a scope is determined.
- Purchase of the land, on the west of Saint Peter, made earlier this year has been funded by the 2013 reserves in the Parkland Dedication, Tornado fund, and the Nicollet Meadows Capital fund.
- There will be other modifications to fees, which are insignificant to the budget, but more reflective of actual costs.
- There is no funding for issues related to the development north of Union Street. These will be funded elsewhere.
- The budget includes Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities ($15,600) and Third Floor (funding by restricted funds).

Miscellaneous things to consider -

- As always, our goal is to construct a budget that meets your goals and priorities. We have provided additional information so that the Council might be able to determine if this budget does that.
- There are many, many requests that go unfilled; a large number of those are removed at the Department or the Administrative level. We continue to under-fund depreciation on assets and road maintenance. That is not only the case in Saint Peter, but in just about every community in the state.
- Our dependence on Local Government Aid remains significant.
- This budget delays some capital equipment wishes that in past years we may have funded. Some of these reductions are made because our needs have changed and others because we continue to work to be good stewards of the resources. Some are done with the hope that we can limp to another year based on cost of money or serviceability. Others are done because we believe strongly in the idea of budget responding to our customers and the services you wish to see provided.
- We will be prioritizing things like weed control and repairs throughout our various facilities and our efforts will be focused on areas with customer needs as the driving force behind the prioritization.
- You can change how you look at resource balance between Tax driven and Enterprise Funds. In the past we have maintained a very specific percentage of gross revenues of Enterprise Fund transfers to the General Fund. This budget anticipates no change in that balance. The Council could change that area if you wished. We will have the ability to discuss the general impact of changes in that balance if you wish. A slight twist to that may be the additional use of enterprise funds in a more targeted way. We can discuss this now, but it may be more valuable during your enterprise funds discussion that will come up in the near future.
- We have also assembled a list of some of the outside the box ideas that may assist us in our budget balancing. All of these need more discussion prior to any implementation because most represent a policy change and, frankly, a large shift in what our operations model has been in the past. Some of those are:

- Additional modification to fees. (Yearly adjustments are always done)
- Payment in lieu of taxes from other entities that are not taxed now.
- Modification to assessment policies that put more burden on individual taxpayers rather than the general fund. The last changes you made put additional cost on General Fund by transferring alley skirting from assessable to be paid by the City.
- When to take savings from Insurance Fund.
- Additional enterprise funds contributing to the general fund.
- Targeted utility increases.
- Franchise fees (Franchise fees as exampled by a Natural Gas fee.)
- Use of other funds to transfer in revenues.
- Any others you may have or we may come up with.

- It is important to understand that our reserves have increased due to cost savings, but there are still areas of volatility that could substantially influence the final 2014 outcome. Those items that are our highest concerns include:

  - State aids; LGA in particular. A bigger picture discussion and plan may be needed in this area. That discussion could focus on alternative sources of revenue and what should or could be done to limit our dependence on LGA.
  - Budget modification from 2010 still influences us today. There is a long list of items that the Council has reviewed and Staff has moved forward with. These changes have led to modifications in the way we provide services including eliminating positions and reducing expenditures in many ways. We continue to be on target to maintain those savings, but if we don't meet the targets, the reserve outlook for ending 2013 would be reduced. Again, we are on track in this area, but it is important to be vigilant.
  - Natural or manmade events. A great example might be a relatively small natural disaster or a major crime against persons. These have the potential to tip the budget off plan with overtime and other costs. Our plan continues to contemplate that reserve funds will have to meet those needs should a disaster occur. We will continue to worry about people first and money second.
  - Supply costs and, in particular, fuel. This is just a very difficult area to project as are all energy costs. Energy and fuel affects all aspects of our operations.

Attached are some summary sheets for budgets supported by the property tax levy. These funds have been reviewed and discussed by the City Council during the course of our budget process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Market value numbers and tax capacities for the payable 2014 year are have been updated by the county and implemented into the attached spreadsheets.

We have proposed operation budgets for the general fund of $6,316,289, special revenue funds of $2,318,357, debt service funds of $1,139,652, capital funds of $1,800,735 and Agency Funds of $46,300. The City staff and Council have reviewed the budgets and understand that all purchases and projects must again be approved by the City Council if it exceeds the amounts in the purchase policy. By approving the budget the City Council provides a tool for staff to work with.

Another important consideration is reserves. Our General Fund reserves have increased from 37.4% to 47.7% since the end of 2008 to the projected 2013 year, or in real dollars by about $961,330. This has been planned so that we can meet some of the financial challenges that we

face each year. This was done through cost savings and the budget modifications that you have reviewed and implemented. In addition, approximately $210,000 in Enterprise Fund savings were realized and was planned to be transferred to the General Fund in 2011. We have not made that transfer, nor are we planning to make those transfers in the future. This is not an attractive option for the 2014 year as Utility Reserves have declined and Utility rates have climbed enough for those reserves to be necessary in those enterprise funds.

Generally speaking, an increase in your levy of $10,000 means an increase in your tax rate of .23. A decrease in your levy of $10,000 means a decrease in your tax rate of .23.

Alternatives and Variations

There are so many variations that we could review and frankly, we would not know where to start. Here are a few that may help you think in different ways.

- Lower the gross levy to meet any Tax Rate or other goals you may wish to put in place. This provides opportunity to say we are reducing the levy. There may be value to that symbolism, but that value is a Council decision.

- Additional cuts. This would mean changes in service levels compared to the 2013 year. That is something we can review, but again our mission here has been to tell you the cost to provide services as directed after the 2010 and 2011 budget modifications were put in place.

- Spend down the increase in reserves which lowers the gross levy but then it may make future years more difficult. We like the 2014 plan we have illustrated knowing that the high likelihood of things changing, especially as it relates to State funding beyond 2014. Again, this is part of that Fund Balance and policy discussion.

- Put more capital purchases on the equipment certificate, which would lower this year's levy but increase future year levies. There is $125,280 of capital equipment remaining in the general fund budget. The converse of that is to spend reserve rather than issuance of Equipment Certificate. There are some interesting things we could do here but all certainly fall within the realm of Council sense of what is best.

- Add new or reinstate previously cut services into the budget with additional levy or with the use of reserves. Again, this is a call for the Council to make. One caution here...if we believe that changes to LGA and other funding sources is not just a one or two or three year blip, then changes to service levels or changes in taxes seem inevitable. If that is true, we are unsure of the value of providing services on a year-by-year basis. By that, we mean it seems strange to provide a service in 2014 then in 2015 we discontinue it and then in 2016 we provide that service again. It is confusing to our citizens. Again, we are not sure that helps the quality of life for the members of our community. It is also costly in both money (start and stop costs) and morale to be on again/off again. Those too are real costs.

- Restrict or assign reserves within the fund balance policy to a building fund or further lower existing debt with higher interest rates.

There are many, many more.

We will have the usual graphs, charts and other visuals that you have seen in previous years.

ALTERNATIVES AND VARIATIONS:

Vote in favor: Staff will use the budget as a guide to operate in 2014.
Negative vote: Staff will wait for further direction from the City Council.
Modification of the resolution: This is always an option of the Council.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions or concerns.

General Fund
Revenue Summary

	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2013 Projected	2014 Proposed Budget
Property Taxes	1,065,312	1,021,425	1,324,535	1,275,614	1,275,614	1,305,614
Other Taxes	74,590	76,865	79,274	71,500	71,500	76,600
Licenses & Permits	308,545	149,557	163,689	132,920	133,390	130,720
State Grants and Aids	2,739,305	2,776,464	3,042,061	2,737,826	3,005,783	3,030,208
Administative Fees	124,808	37,270	40,584	25,150	27,996	25,650
Police & Fire	118,366	121,704	129,908	106,500	111,650	111,500
Streets /Refuse Sales	17,291	16,684	18,534	14,700	14,800	14,800
Recreation	134,835	158,885	176,778	145,000	163,650	154,000
Fines & Penalties	80,067	81,530	91,342	83,000	79,000	79,000
Interest & Misc Income	149,947	135,782	168,316	51,952	51,156	41,752
Transfer from other Funds	0	13,550	0	0	0	0
Utility Fund Transfers	1,174,151	1,271,264	1,284,974	1,312,517	1,220,000	1,280,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	5,987,217	5,860,980	6,519,995	5,956,679	6,154,539	6,249,844
% increase (decrease) over prior year:	3.93%	1.74%	17.44%	-8.64%	3.32%	1.55%
% increase (decrease) over prior year budget:				1.63%	-5.61%	4.92%

General Fund
Expenditure Summary

	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2013 Projected	2014 Proposed Budget
Mayor and Council	35,957	36,500	41,541	44,570	41,120	41,435
City Administrator	155,800	155,714	162,336	167,831	169,131	171,826
City Clerk	61,649	61,739	60,582	65,117	65,724	66,617
Elections	12,661	10,815	17,819	10,916	10,916	21,642
Finance Department	226,043	225,500	213,277	241,358	241,358	246,820
Legal Services	125,418	135,489	155,631	136,500	136,500	141,000
Municipal Building	81,279	93,216	90,665	95,571	84,571	90,619
Police Department	1,790,778	1,876,778	1,956,079	1,961,928	1,964,544	2,078,493
Fire Department	235,090	233,857	565,048	296,487	583,168	342,404
Building Inspections	185,228	173,902	171,248	180,118	180,378	187,697
Emergency Management	7,836	1,092	1,086	7,808	7,808	7,769
Community Service	81,102	77,914	79,714	79,389	83,389	86,168
Public Works Administration	114,868	93,471	80,956	84,707	84,879	88,018
Streets	902,496	1,097,409	1,028,945	1,037,668	1,105,818	1,118,012
Street Lighting	91,968	98,653	104,103	130,000	130,000	130,000
Senior Coordinator	26,057	29,017	29,921	32,400	31,350	33,081
Recreation and Leisure Services	319,560	332,210	329,414	336,671	339,833	347,442
Swimming Pool	144,457	144,672	169,272	217,716	217,206	167,547
Skating Rinks	12,642	11,326	9,121	12,062	11,362	11,926
Parks	578,459	619,793	598,018	640,971	668,530	695,153
Community Development	97,341	118,042	139,788	128,291	169,446	156,773
Unallocated - Insurance	20,788	19,614	18,636	20,000	20,000	4,747
Unallocated - Memberships	26,863	24,433	24,801	28,600	28,600	28,600
Unallocated - Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	52,500
Total Expenditures	5,334,340	5,671,156	6,048,001	5,956,679	6,375,631	6,316,289
Other Transfers Out (In)	59,697	46,756	50,863	250,000	250,000	0
NET OPERATIONS:	593,180	143,068	421,131	(250,000)	(471,092)	(66,445)
% increase (decrease) over prior year:	-2.76%	6.31%	6.64%	-1.51%	5.42%	-0.93%
% increase (decrease) over prior year budget:						6.04%
Beginning Fund Balance	2,325,695	2,918,875	3,061,943	3,483,074	3,483,074	3,011,982
Ending Fund Balance	2,918,875	3,061,943	3,483,074	3,233,074	3,011,982	2,945,537
Percent of next year budget	51.5%	50.6%	58.5%	51.2%	47.7%	
Percent of same year budget						46.6%

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

DNR LANDOWNER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TO BE COMPLETED WITH THE LANDOWNER

(Form approved, Lands & Minerals, 3/20/2008)

Project Name	Project No:	County:
Ottawa WMA	160036	Le Sueur
Owner's Full Name City Of St. Peter	Telephone Number 507-934-0663	
Property Address *(No.& Street, RFD, Box #, City, State, Zip Code)* 227 S. Front St., St. Peter, MN 56082-2538		

Attach additional pages if additional space is required.

1. When did you acquire the property? 1960
2. Is the subject property listed for sale? ☐Yes ☒No If yes, please list the realtor:_____ Telephone number: _____
   Has the subject property been listed in the past 12 months? ☐Yes ☐No
3. Has the land been surveyed? ☒Yes ☐No By Whom: Bolton & Menk, Inc. – Jeff Domras Is a copy available? ☒Yes ☐No
4. Are you aware of any property markers on the property? ☒Yes ☐No
5. To your knowledge are there any neighborhood boundaries or trespass concerns? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
6. To your knowledge are there any easements? (if yes, please provide information below) gas easement ☒Yes ☐No
7. Have you given permission to anyone to use your land (i.e. hunting)? (if yes, please provide information below)) ☐Yes ☒No
8. Are there any shared driveways? (if yes, please provide information below) Our driveway access is an easement ☐Yes ☒No
9. To your knowledge, does the property conform to current zoning? (if no, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
10. Are you aware of any proposed zoning changes? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
11. Are there any structures or improvements included in the acquisition? (if yes, please provide information below). Diversion Structure/Pipe ☒Yes ☐No
12. Are there any problems or defects with any of these items? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
13. Were there any previous structures on the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☒Yes ☐No
14. Are you aware of any gravel reserves on the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
15. Are there any buried storage tanks, debris or waste on the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
16. Are there any environmental concerns, hazardous or toxic substances or wastes in, on or affecting this property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
17. Are you aware of any invasive species located on the property? (i.e. thistle, buckthorn)? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
18. Are you aware of any human remains, burials or cemeteries located on the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
19. Are you aware of any methamphetamine production that has occurred on the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No
20. Are you aware of anything else that may materially and adversely affect the property? (if yes, please provide information below) ☐Yes ☒No

Is there a private well? ☐Yes #____ ☒No In use? ☐Yes ☐No Abandoned? ☐Yes ☐No Sealed? ☐Yes ☐No (attach certificate)

Is there a septic system? ☐Yes ☒No In use? ☐Yes ☐No Abandoned? ☐Yes ☐No

Comments

Access easement from TH 99 to south side property (easement not on property) Force main easement from the City of Saint Peter, North Lift Station, across Minnesota River and access railroad tracks along west side of property (easement not on property). There are multiple control and diversion structures to maintain water levels. There is an existing roadway on the top of the dike structures.

There is currently a gun range onsite with a dirt berm structure. Currently there is no authorized hunting, but trapping has been allowed to control animals burrowing into the dikes.

Name, Title, and Signature of Staff Completing Form

Date: 05/29/14

28 AC.+/- (INCLUDED IN DEED)
267.4 AC.+/- (TOTAL DEED 295.4 AC.+/-)

ACQ0160036 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA 534 OTTAWA

Prepared by W.A. Lukachek, DNR, Division of Lands & Minerals, 03/26/2014

Recorded at Le Sueur County
Map showing location under railroad tracks

Acquisition No. _____

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
"Landowners' Bill of Rights"

State Lands administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provide recreational opportunities for the public, and provide for protection of the State's natural resources. These lands have been acquired by grant, exchange, purchase, or donation. The purchase of interests in land is authorized by Chapter 84.0274 of the Minnesota Statutes, which is also called the "Landowners' Bill of Rights," which governs the way the DNR must purchase land from private landowners. The DNR generally does not condemn land unless it is requested by the landowner.

This law was passed to assure the protection of private landowners' rights and to assure that public money is well spent to serve the public interest. You are free to seek counsel at any point during the acquisition process. The following summarizes the landowners' rights in the DNR land acquisition procedure. Please keep it for future reference.

Land Identification

DNR personnel look for available tracts of land which are appropriate for the management programs. Once your land has been identified for possible purchase, you will be informed of the specific intended use of the property, and the land acquisition process will be explained. If you are willing to consider an offer, the DNR will have your land appraised to establish a fair price for the property.

Appraisal Process

The DNR will hire a qualified appraiser to determine the fair market value of your property. You will be invited to accompany the state's appraiser during his or her inspection of the property, if you so desire.

You may elect to hire an appraiser to provide an independent opinion of value for your property. If you choose to hire your own appraiser, this should be done at the same time as the DNR appraisal so your appraisal can be considered along with the state's appraisal when the DNR is determining the appraised value of the land. If your land is purchased by the DNR, you may be reimbursed up to $1,500 toward the cost of your appraisal if your appraisal is submitted prior to the DNR determining the market value of the property through a certification of appraisal.

After the appraisals are reviewed by the DNR, you will be given a resume of the DNR's certified appraisal (RCA). This resume will include the appraiser's conclusion of value. The appraisal will become public at the time the RCA is signed, unless you request that the appraisal data remain as confidential data that is not available to the public until an agreement is reached to purchase the property. When the appraisal is public data, a copy of the DNR appraisal will be made available to you upon request.

After you receive the resume, the DNR will contact you to make an offer for the property. You may accept or reject the DNR's offer for your property.

Purchase Procedure

The DNR is not allowed to discuss price with the landowner before an appraisal has been completed. The person who appraised your property will not act as negotiator for its purchase.

The Department of Natural Resources will acquire your property by means of an option, which is an offer from the landowner to sell. Unless you request, in writing, a longer period of time, the option period shall be no more than two months if no survey is required. If a survey is required, the option period shall be no more than nine months. These time limits do not apply to wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas and acquisitions involving RIM funding that require county board approval. The option period begins on the date that the option is received by the State.

Before the end of the option period, the DNR shall decide if it will purchase the land and shall notify the landowner of its decision by either a Notice of Election to Purchase or a letter explaining the reasons for not purchasing the property. If the DNR does not elect to purchase property on which it has an accepted option, it will pay the landowner $500 after the option period expires.

The DNR pays the abstracting and recording fees related to the sale. If your property is held as security for a loan or advance of credit that requires or permits the imposition of a pre-payment penalty, this penalty shall also be reimbursed by the DNR. The costs of clearing title defects, payment of taxes and related attorney's fees are not reimbursable.

Method of Payment

Payment for the land is mailed to the landowner after the signed deed or other conveyance document has been recorded and the abstract brought up to date. Assuming your title is marketable and you act expeditiously to complete the transaction, payment must be made no later than 90 days after the Notice of Election to Purchase. You may choose to be paid in either a lump sum or up to four separate annual payments. The DNR does not pay interest on monies held during an installment agreement.

Vacating Your Property

You may continue to occupy your property until you receive full payment for the property; provided that if you elect to receive annual installments payments instead of payment in full, you may retain occupancy until the first payment is made. With prior written approval and agreement by the DNR, you may stay on the property for the agreed upon period of time after payment is made by paying fair market rent to the DNR.

Relocation Benefits

The DNR is obligated under federal and state law to pay relocation expenses any time it displaces owners or tenants from their residences or displaces a business, farm or nonprofit organization. Moving expenses are the most common relocation benefit.

If you are eligible for relocation benefits, you will receive written notice at least 90 days in advance of the earliest date by which you would be required to move. The 90 day notice will list a specific date or another notice will be provided at least 30 days in advance of the specific date by which you would be required to move.

If you accept the DNR's offer, you may receive or waive any relocation assistance, services, payments or benefits. You also have the right to accept the DNR's offer for the property and to appeal the relocation benefits.

Donation Benefits

When land is donated to the DNR, the donor is responsible for any determination of value that is needed for tax reporting purposes. DNR may reimburse the donor for costs incurred to obtain an

Acquisition No. _____

appraisal needed for tax reporting purposes. If the DNR pays the donor for a portion of the value of the land, the appraisal cost reimbursement is limited to $1,500. If the donor receives no payment for the lands donated, appraisal cost reimbursement may not exceed $5,000

We appreciate your interest in considering a sale to the Department of Natural Resources

For further information contact:

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Lands and Minerals
500 Lafayette Road, Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045
(651) 259-5959

I have received a copy of this "Landowners' Bill of Rights" and it has been explained to me.

_____ Date 5/29/14

Todd Pratte
Please sign and print name

___ yes ___ no I am representing other owners of this property in considering a possible sale to the Department of Natural Resources.

___ yes ___ no I am requesting that the DNR appraisal value data remain as confidential data until an agreement is reached to purchase the property.

Form approved by Lands & Minerals 4/25/14

BROWN ST.
OLD MINNESOTA AVE.
HIGHWAY 18
THIRD ST.
MINNESOTA AVENUE
16
21
MINNESOTA
BLACK WATERS
CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD
15
22

LAMBERT LAND

36

Design Team

39 years of professional experience
Registered in Minnesota
LEED Accredited Professional

Academic Background:
Bachelor of Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Ted Rozenboom, AIA, LEED AP

Educational Planner

Ted Rozeboom has 37 years of experience planning and designing educational and civic buildings. His portfolio is highlighted by many award winning, innovative educational projects for public school districts in seven states. Ted's project responsibilities include: leading the process of district wide educational visioning and master planning, facilities planning and programming, architectural design and project management. Ted is committed to involving all stakeholders in the design process, producing a product that is reflective of the owner's vision, adherence to project budgets and schedules, high quality service and architectural solutions that are sensitive to the communities they serve. Ted's many public clients represent districts that are large and small, urban and rural, and traditional and progressive. This broad spectrum is Ted's practical research, invaluable in bringing well grounded innovation and creativity to each project.

Ted is dedicated to going beyond simply designing buildings for our clients and has developed a mind-set that serves to bridge the gap between academic and architectural worlds. Ted's long standing working relationship with ISG has resulted in a number of excellent education facilities, including many of the projects listed below. The learning curve for our group is relatively short, leaving us time to plan, design and service each client at a very high level

Minnesota Projects:
- New Lake Crystal Middle and High School
- Edina High School
- Shattuck St. Mary's Middle and High School
- New Wadena High School
- New Chanhassen High School
- New Pipestone Middle and High School

Colorado Projects:
- New Westminster High School

North Dakota Projects:
- Grand Forks Central High School
- New Watford City High School
- New Williston High School

Illinois Projects:
- New Hall High School
- Glenbard High Schools (4)
- Downers Grove High Schools (2)
- Naperville Central High School

23 years of professional experience
Minnesota Registration #26292

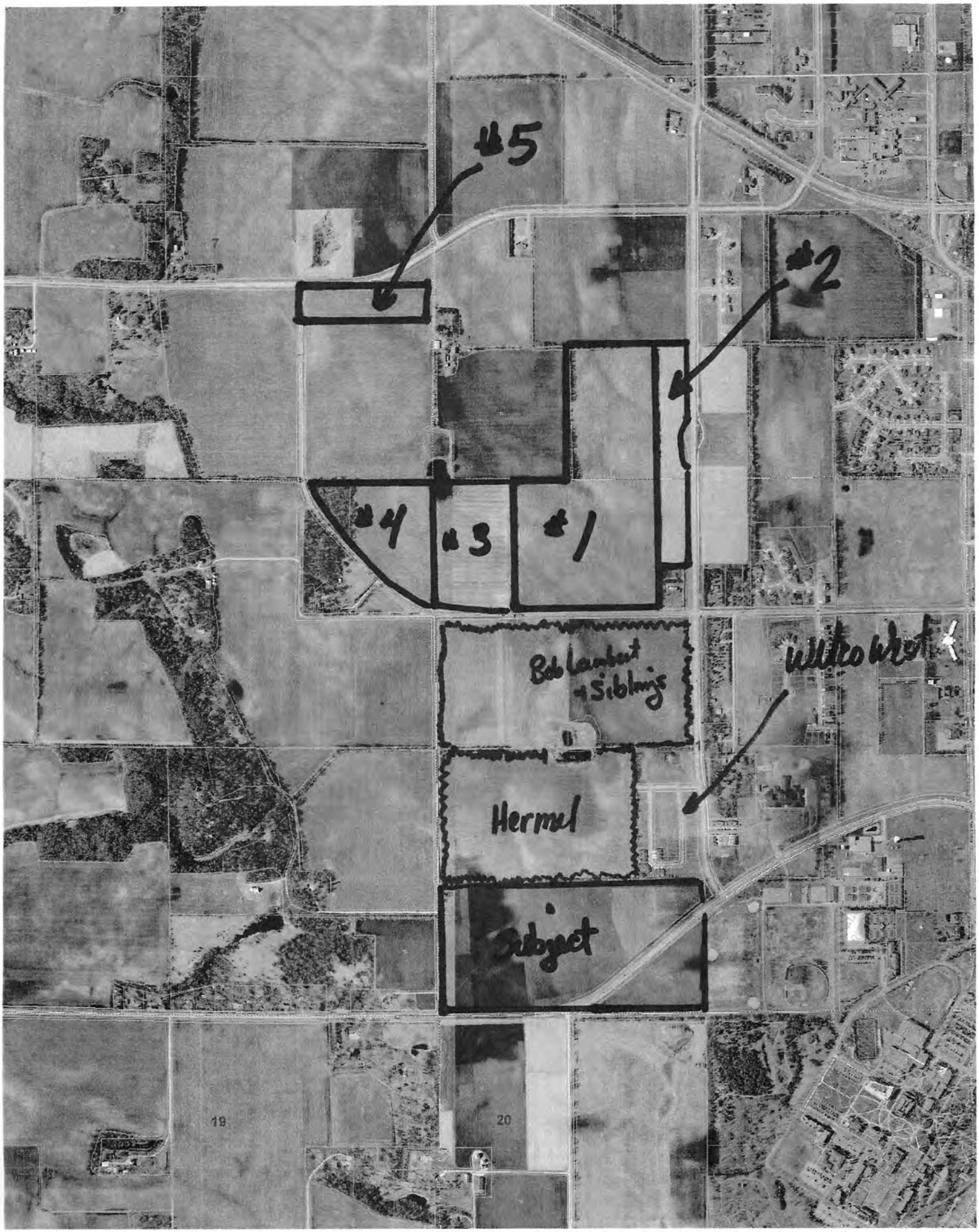
Academic Background: BED in Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota

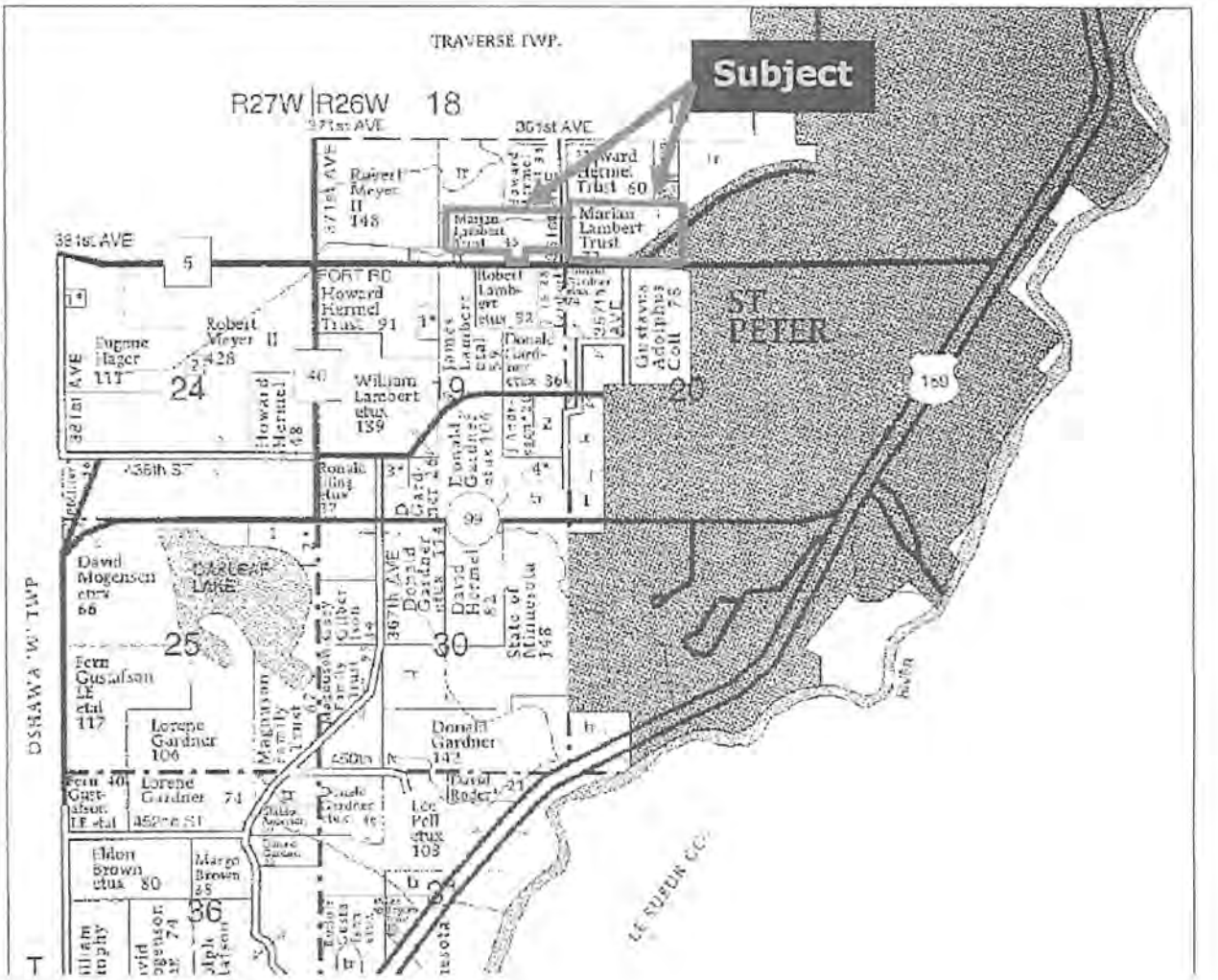
Tom Whitlock, ASLA, PLA

Planning Consultant, President of Damon Farber Associates

Thomas has been with Damon Farber Associates since 1993 and became President in the spring of 2011. Tom is committed to leading Damon Farber Associates by honoring the client centered service that has made it a leading landscape architecture and site planning firm in the Midwest. Tom is a past President of ASLA-Minnesota and has spoken at the Society of American Military Engineers, Urban Land Institute Young Leaders Group, AIA Minnesota Convention, Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Minnesota Hospital Facility Managers Association. His work has been published in *Landscape Architecture Magazine, Architecture Minnesota, Architecture Week* and *Fabric Architecture.*

Recent Project Experience:
- Rosa Park Elementary School, Mankato Area Public Schools – Mankato, MN MN
- Front Street Connectivity Study – Mankato, MN
- Riverfront Park: Master Planning and Landscape Architecture – Mankato, MN
- Blue Earth County Justice Center: Master Planning and Landscape Architecture – Mankato, MN
- Minnesota State University, Mankato: Master Plan for Campus – Mankato, MN
- Bethany Lutheran College: Master Plan for Campus – Mankato, MN
- Beck Academic Hall – Gustavus Adolphus – St. Peter, MN
- St. Peter Security Hospital Expansion – St. Peter, MN
- Pacelli Catholic School – Austin, MN
- Central Park – Maple Grove, MN
- Gateway Park Master Plan – Minneapolis, MN
- Cherry Plaza – Mankato, MN


#5
#2
#4
#3
#1
Bob Lambert + Siblings
Willowbrook
Hormel
Subject
19
20

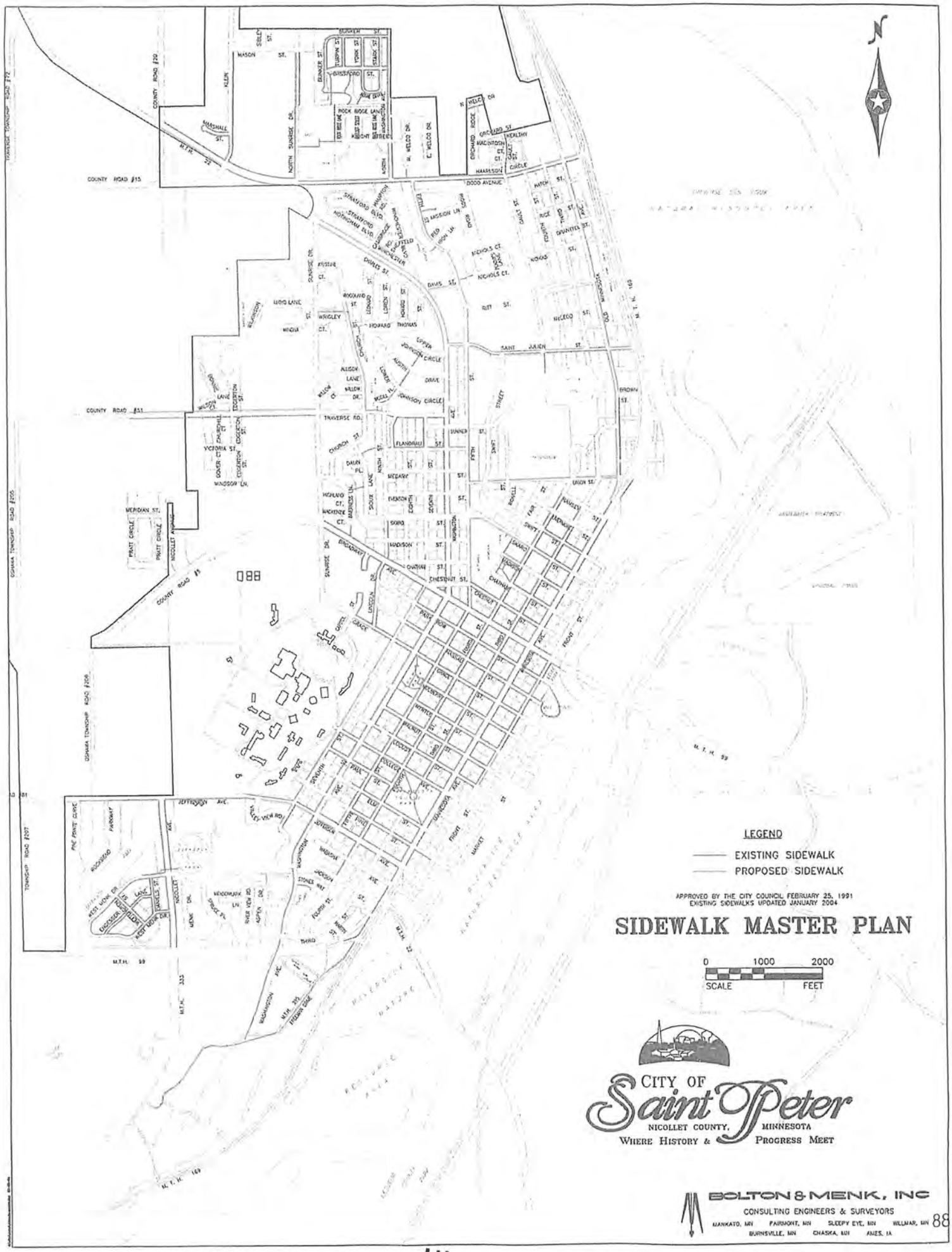

Subject
TRAVERSE TWP.
R27W R26W 18
361st AVE
381st AVE
Marian Lambert Trust
ST PETER
Robert Meyer II 148
Eugene Hager 111
24
William Lambert etux 139
Howard Hermel
436th ST
David Mogensen etux 66
DARLEAF LAKE
25
30
Fern Gustafson LE etal 117
Lorene Gardner 106
Donald Gardner 142
Lorene Gardner 74
Elden Brown etux 80
Margo Brown 85
36
Lee Pell etux 103
State of Minnesota 148
160
LE SUEUR CO.

EXCERPT FROM CITY OF SAINT PETER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Sidewalks:

Pedestrian circulation is enhanced through the installation of sidewalks within and between developments. To alleviate potential conflicts, sidewalks are intended solely for pedestrian use. All sidewalks are to be constructed to meet handicapped accessibility standards to allow for the safe movement of persons with mobility impairments.

Current city policy requires the installation of sidewalks on both sides of collector streets (see page 88). Sidewalks are also desirable to interconnect major public facilities such as schools, parks and/or medical facilities.


LEGEND
EXISTING SIDEWALK
PROPOSED SIDEWALK
APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 25, 1991
EXISTING SIDEWALKS UPDATED JANUARY 2004
SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN
0 1000 2000
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Model Statement of Values

Preamble

The proper operation of democratic government requires that decision-makers be independent, impartial, and accountable to the people they serve. The City of _____ has adopted this Statement of Values to promote and maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct in the City's government. All (*select:* elected and appointed officials, City employees, and volunteers) are required to subscribe to this statement, understand how it applies to their specific responsibilities, and practice its (*number*) core values in their work. Because we seek public confidence in the City's services and public trust of its decision-makers, our decisions and our work must meet the most demanding ethical standards and demonstrate the highest levels of achievement in following this statement.

The Values

As a Representative of the City of _____,

1. I serve the public interest.
2. I fulfill the duties and responsibilities of holding public office.
3. I am ethical.
4. I am professional.
5. I am fiscally responsible.
6. I am conscientious.
7. I communicate effectively.
8. I am collaborative.
9. I am forward thinking.
10. I am _____.

Value examples/expressions

1. **I serve the public interest. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I provide courteous, equitable, and prompt service to everyone.
   b. I am attuned to, and care about, the needs and issues of citizens, public officials, and city workers.
   c. I am interested, engaged, and responsive in my interactions with constituents.
   d. I recognize and support the public's right to know the public's business.

2. **I fulfill the duties and responsibilities of holding public office. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I observe the highest standards of integrity in my official acts and undertake my responsibilities for the benefit of the greater public good.
   b. I faithfully discharge the duties of my office regardless of my personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest is my primary concern.
   c. I uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state, and municipality and thus foster respect for all government.

d. I comply with both the letter and the spirit of the laws and policies affecting operations of the City.
e. I recognize my obligation to implement the adopted goals and objectives of the City in good faith, regardless of my personal views.
f. I conduct myself in both my official and personal actions in a manner that is above reproach.
g. I do not use my position to secure for myself or others special privileges or exemptions that are different from those available to the general public.
h. I understand and abide by the respective roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed officials and city staff and will not undermine them in their work.
i. I am independent, impartial, and fair in my judgment and actions.

3. **I am ethical. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I am trustworthy, acting with the utmost integrity and moral courage.
   b. I am truthful, do what I say I will do, and am reliable.
   c. I am accountable for my actions and behavior and accept responsibility for my decisions.
   d. I make impartial decisions, free of influence from unlawful gifts, narrow political interests, and financial and other personal interests that impair my independence of judgment or action.
   e. I am fair, distributing benefits and burdens according to consistent and equitable criteria.
   f. I oppose all forms of harassment and unlawful discrimination.
   g. I extend equal opportunities and due process to all parties in matters under consideration.
   h. I show respect for confidences and confidential information.
   i. I avoid giving the appearance of impropriety and of using my position for personal gain.

4. **I am professional. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I apply my knowledge and expertise to my assigned activities and to the interpersonal relationships that are part of my job in a consistent, confident, competent, and productive manner.
   b. I approach my job and work-related relationships with a positive attitude, contributing to a supportive, respectful, and non-threatening work environment.
   c. I keep my professional knowledge and skills current and growing.
   d. I am respectful of all city staff, officials, volunteers, and others who participate in the City's government.

5. **I am fiscally responsible. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I make decisions after prudent consideration of their financial impact, taking into account the long-term financial needs of the City, especially its financial stability.
   b. I demonstrate concern for the proper use of City assets (e.g., personnel, time, property, equipment, funds), follow established procedures, and do not use public resources for personal gain.
   c. I make decisions that seek to preserve the financial capacity of the City to provide programs and services for City residents.
   d. I provide full disclosure of any potential financial or other private conflict of interest. I abstain from participating in the discussion and vote on these matters.

e. I prevent misuse of public funds by establishing, maintaining, and following strong fiscal and management controls.
f. I report any misuse of public funds of which I am aware.

6. **I am conscientious. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I act in an efficient manner, making decisions and recommendations based upon research and facts, taking into consideration short and long term goals.
   b. I follow through in a responsible way, keeping others informed, and responding in a timely fashion.
   c. I am respectful of established City processes and guidelines.
   d. I prioritize my duties so that the work of the City may move forward.
   e. I prepare for all meetings by reviewing any materials provided ahead of time. When I have materials to contribute, I make sure all others involved have ample time to review these materials prior to the meeting.

7. **I communicative effectively. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I convey the City's care for and commitment to its citizens.
   b. I communicate in various ways that I am approachable, open-minded, and willing to participate in dialog.
   c. I engage in effective two-way communication by listening carefully, asking questions, and responding appropriately which adds value to conversations.
   d. I do not interfere with the orderly conduct of meetings by interrupting others or making personal comments not germane to the business at hand.
   e. I follow up on inquiries in a timely manner.
   f. I encourage and facilitate citizen involvement in policy decision-making.
   g. I am respectful in disagreements and contribute constructively to discussions on the issue.

8. **I am collaborative. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I act in a cooperative manner with groups and other individuals, working together in a spirit of tolerance and understanding to accomplish common goals.
   b. I share information with others in a timely manner so that, together, we can make informed decisions.
   c. I work towards consensus building and gain value from diverse opinions.
   d. I accomplish the goals and responsibilities of my individual position, while respecting my role as a member of a team.

9. **I am forward thinking. In practice this value means that:**
   a. I promote intelligent, proactive, and thoughtful innovation in order to advance the City's policy agenda and provide City services while considering the broader regional, state-wide, national, and international implications of the City's decisions and issues.
   b. I maintain consistent standards, but am also sensitive to the need for compromise, creative problem solving, and making improvements when appropriate.
   c. I am open to new ideas and processes, adopting them as they conserve resources and provide efficient and effective service.
   d. I consider the potential long-term consequences and implications of my actions and inactions.

Template Code of Conduct

___.01. Purpose.

The city council of the City of _____determines that a code of conduct for its members, as well as the members of the various boards and commissions of the City of _____, is essential for the public affairs of the city. By eliminating conflicts of interest and providing standards for conduct in city matters, the city council hopes to promote the faith and confidence of the citizens of _____in their government and to encourage its citizens to serve on its council and commissions.

___.02. Standards of Conduct.

Subd. 1. No member of the city council or a city board or commission may knowingly:

a. Violate the open meeting law.
b. Participate in a matter that affects the person's financial interests or those of a business with which the person is associated, unless the effect on the person or business is no greater than on other members of the same business classification, profession, or occupation.
c. Use the person's public position to secure special privileges or exemptions for the person or for others.
d. Use the person's public position to solicit personal gifts or favors.
e. Use the person's public position for personal gain.
f. Except as specifically permitted pursuant to Minn. Stat. 471.895, accept or receive any gift of substance, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could be reasonably expected to influence the person, the person's performance of official action, or be intended as a reward for the person's official action.
g. Disclose to the public, or use for the person's or another person's personal gain, information that was gained by reason of the person's public position if the information was not public data or was discussed at a closed session of the city council.
h. Disclose information that was received, discussed, or decided in conference with the city's legal counsel that is protected by the attorney-client privilege unless a majority of the city council has authorized the disclosure.
i. Represent private interests before the city council or any city committee, board, commission or agency. ***(optional)***

Subd. 2. Except as prohibited by the provisions of Minn. Stat Sec. 471.87, there is no violation of subdivision 1 b. of this section for a matter that comes before the council, board, or commission if the member of the council, board, or commission publicly discloses the circumstances that would violate these standards and refrains from participating in the discussion and vote on the matter. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a contract with a member of the city council under the circumstances described under Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.88, if proper statutory procedures are followed.

___.03. Complaint, Hearing.

Any person may file a written complaint with the city clerk alleging a violation of the standards of conduct in section ___.02. The complaint must contain supporting facts for the allegation. The city council may hold a hearing after receiving the written complaint or upon the council's own volition. A hearing must be held only if the city council determines (1) upon advice of the city attorney, designee, or other attorney appointed by the council, that the factual allegations state a sufficient claim of a violation of these standards or rise to the level of a legally-recognized conflict of interest, and (2) that the complaint has been lodged in good faith and not for impermissible purposes such as delay. The city council's determination must be made within 30 days of the filing of the allegation with the city clerk. If the council determines that there is an adequate justification for holding a hearing, the hearing must be held within 30 days of the city council's determination. At the hearing, the person accused must have the opportunity to be heard. If after the hearing, the council finds that a violation of a standard has occurred or does exist, the council may censure the person, refer the matter for criminal prosecution, request an official not to participate in a decision, or remove an appointed member of an advisory board or commission from office.

Todd Prafke

From: John <kvamme11@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Todd Prafke; Russ Wille
Subject: Maintenance of historic structures in CO, MI and FL

Boulder Revised Code

www.colocode.com/boulder2/index.htm

Disclaimer: The City of Boulder Revised B.R.C. 1981, ("B.R.C.") is provided on this website as a public service of Boulder, Colorado. This internet version of the B.R.C. is different in layout, format, and structure from the published B.R.C. and is not the official version. The official B.R.C. is the original B.R.C. as supplemented and published in written form quarterly. Always refer to the official B.R.C. and prepared text when preparing any documents or making reference to the provisions of the City of Boulder Revised Code 1981.

Chapter 9-11: Historic Preservation[1]

9-11-20 Property Maintenance Required. (a) The city council intends to preserve from deliberate or inadvertent neglect the exterior portions of any landmarked building or designated feature and all interior portions thereof whose maintenance is necessary to prevent deterioration of any exterior portion. No owner, lessee, or occupant of any landmarked building or designated feature shall fail to undertake such repairs or maintenance as are necessary to prevent significant deterioration of the exterior of the structure or designated feature beyond the condition of the structure on the effective date of the designating ordinance.
(b) No owner, lessee, or occupant of any landmarked building or designated feature shall fail to comply with all applicable provisions of this code and other ordinances of the city regulating property maintenance, including, without limitation, weed control,[2] garbage,[3] and housing.[4]
(c) Before the city attorney files a complaint in municipal court for failure to maintain the property on the landmark site or within a historic district, the landmarks board or city manager shall notify the property owner, lessee, or occupant of the need to repair, maintain, or restore the property, and shall give the owner a minimum of thirty days to perform such work.

Detroit *Historic District* Ordinance - City of Detroit

ARTICLE II. HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND DISTRICTS

Sec. 25-2-2. DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

Demolition shall include "demolition by neglect," which shall mean neglect in the maintenance, repair or security of a site, building or structure, resulting in any of the following conditions:

1. The deterioration of exterior walls or other vertical supports;
2. The deterioration of roofs or other horizontal members;
3. The deterioration of exterior chimneys;
4. The deterioration of exterior plaster or mortar;
5. The ineffective weatherproofing of exterior walls, roofs and foundations, including broken windows and doors; or
6. The serious deterioration of any documented exterior architectural feature or significant landscape feature which in the judgment of the commission produces a detrimental effect upon the character of the district.

Sec. 25-2-10. ENFORCEMENT

(a) If it is determined by the historic district commission that a structure in an historic district is being demolished by neglect, the commission, on its own initiative, and to insure that the structure shall be preserved and protected in consonance with the purposes of this article may:

1. File a petition with the department requesting that the department require the correction of defects or necessary repairs of the structures; or
2. File a petition with the community and economic development department requesting that the community and economic development department, after notice to the property owner and an opportunity for a hearing before a disinterested hearing officer, cause the necessary corrections or repairs to be made and the cost, if not paid promptly by the property owner, to be reported to the board of assessors for levy as a special assessment against the property.

(b) In addition to other enforcement rights created by this article, the requirements of an historic district may be enforced upon the complaint of any property owner or association of property owners within the district.

(c) Any person or organization performing work within a designated historic district prior to the issuance of the required building permit or contrary to conditions specified in any permit issued for work within a district shall, upon conviction, be subject to a five hundred dollar ($500.00) fine. The

historic district commission may require that conditions created by violations of this article be remedied in conformance with the requirements for the district.

(d) In cases where there is imminent danger of the loss of a designated historic structure, site, etc., the historic district commission may request the law department to seek such injunctive relief as it deems necessary and appropriate to preserve the structure, site, etc. (Code 1964, § 28A-1-9)

City of Punta Gorda www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/userdata/growthmgmt/HistoricGuide1.pdf

City of Punta Gorda Historic District Design Guidelines

VI. Ordinary Maintenance

The purpose of this section is to recommend standards for the maintenance of historic landmarks and properties within established historic districts.

A. Required Maintenance

The owner of a structure within a historic district or of a designated landmark should not permit such structure or landmark to fall into a state of disrepair which may result in the deterioration of any exterior appurtenance or architectural feature so as to produce or to tend to produce, in the judgment of the HPAB, a detrimental effect upon the character of the district as a whole or the life and character of the landmark or structure in question, including but not limited to:

- The deterioration of exterior walls or other vertical supports;
- The deterioration of roofs or other horizontal members;
- The deterioration of exterior chimneys;
- The deterioration or crumbling of exterior plaster or mortar;
- The ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, roofs, and foundations, including broken windows or doors;

•

The deterioration of any feature so as to create or permit the creation of any hazardous or unsafe condition(s).

•

The deterioration of any architectural feature which contributes to the architectural or historic significance and/or integrity of the structure.

Nothing in this document should be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior feature in a historic district or of any landmark which does not involve a change in design, material, color, or other appearance thereof.

D. City Action to Prevent Deterioration

Whenever the Code Enforcement staff determines that there has been a violation of any provisions of the City regulations, he/she should:

1.

Provide the occupant of the property with a notice, delivered in person, advising of future City actions if there is not an attempt to correct the violation within 10 days. A copy of the warning should also be mailed to the property owner.

2.

If, after the 10 days noted above, there has been no attempt to correct the violation, Code Enforcement staff should give written notice of violation to the person(s) responsible for the correction. Such notice should include a schedule for completion of the required improvements necessary to bring the building into compliance with the Code. The time given should not exceed 45 days for both major and minor violations.

3.

Any violation not corrected in the time and manner specified in the notice may be referred to the Code Enforcement Board, pursuant to the City Code.

Minimum Wage Bill Signed by Governor

The new law phases in a minimum wage increase over three years, beginning Aug. 1, 2014, with subsequent annual inflation adjustments.
(Published Apr 21, 2014)

Gov. Dayton on April 14 signed into law **Chapter 166** *(Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=166&doctype=Chapter&year=2014&type=0)* (HF 2091), which will phase in an increase to the Minnesota minimum wage, effective Aug. 1, 2014. The bill was approved by the House on a 71-60 vote and the Senate on a 35-31 vote.

Under the new law, the state minimum wage increases for the next few years, and the definition of "large employer" is modified. This modification to the large employer definition effectively leads to more cities classified as a "large employer," based on their city's total budget, which will in turn lead to the higher state minimum wage rate for their employees.

The definition of large employer now includes those with a total budget of at least $500,000. Previously, a large employer was defined as one with a total budget of at least $650,000.

As before, the minimum wage a city must pay depends on whether it is a large or small employer and if the employee is covered by the law. While the statute is not entirely clear, the League generally advises using the city's total budget amount to determine whether a city is classified as a large or small employer for pay purposes. For cities, annual gross volume of sales would likely be interpreted to mean the city's total budget.

As of Aug. 1, 2014, large employers must pay most employees covered by minimum wage law at a rate of at least $8 per hour, and small employers must pay all applicable employees at a rate of at least $6.50 per hour. The League generally advises cities with a total budget of $500,000 or more to comply with the higher Minnesota minimum wage rate (i.e., in August 2014 paying the $8 per hour rate). On Aug. 1 of 2015 and 2016, the Minnesota minimum wage is scheduled to increase for both large and small employers.

Beginning on Aug. 1, 2015, the Minnesota minimum pay rate will increase to $9 per hour for large employers, and to at least $7.25 per hour for small employers. Then, on Aug. 1, 2016, the Minnesota minimum pay rate will increase to $9.50 per hour for large employers, and to at least $7.75 per hour for small employers.

There are two exceptions to these wage amounts for younger employees. First, large employers must pay employees under age 18 a rate of at least $6.50 per hour. Second, all employers may elect to pay employees under age 20 at a rate not less than $6.50 per hour, but only for their first 90 consecutive days

of employment. After the 90 days, the minimum hourly rate becomes $8. Both of these rates are effective Aug. 1, 2014, and both amounts are scheduled to increase each year.

As before, these minimum wage requirements do not pertain to elected officials; individuals who serve on any governmental board, commission, committee, or other similar body; city volunteers; or any individual employed, directly or indirectly, by the city to provide police or fire protection services. Also continuing is the cities responsibility to pay time-and-one-half overtime to non-exempt employees for those hours worked over 48 in one workweek.

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin *(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)*

* By posting you are agreeing to the **LMC Comment Policy** *(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/comment-policy.jsp)*.

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Start the discussion

Be the first to comment.

Contact Ann Lindstrom
IGR Representative
(651) 281-1261 or (800) 925-1122
alindstrom@lmc.org *(Link to: mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org)*
Contact Joyce Hottinger
Assistant Human Resources Director
(651) 281-1216 or (800) 925-1122
jhottinger@lmc.org *(Link to: mailto:jhottinger@lmc.org)*

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CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET

All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!
City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711
The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.

The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter

06/11/2014

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the meeting of June 9th included adoption of resolutions of support for housing projects involving Maplewood Apartments and the Solace project; approval of a revolving loan request for Kaduce/St. Peter Laundry; approval of equipment purchase requests for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; approval of a change order for Phase 2 of the Washington Avenue Link Project; award of the bid for the 2014 crack sealing project; award of the bid for the 2014 seal coating project; authorization to retain Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide assistance for the City's MSA4 Project; and approval of a request for City assistance for the Livestock community event.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – *Retirement*.....One of my friends is retiring in the next couple of weeks. He has been a community leader for a long time, is respected, has won awards and he will be missed.

I asked him about retirement and what he thinks he will do and what he will miss. He said, and I am paraphrasing, that he will miss the people and energy from where he works. He will miss being involved and having an impact in developing a future for kids.

Isn't that a great answer? An answer that shows his commitment to our community and to us. How cool is that?! Best wishes in your retirement!

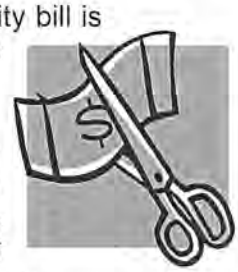
Are there many more people who share that commitment to our community? There sure are and I don't ever wonder about that!

FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITION – Three retiring Firefighters were recognized by the City Council as part of the June 9th Council meeting. Firefighters Bruce Wenner and Michael McCarthy (absent from the event), were recognized for 22 years of service and Firefighter Jerry Yushta was recognized for 30 years of service to the community. Mayor Strand presented each of the Firefighters with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their service to Saint Peter and wished them well in their retirement.

Fire Chief Quade and Assistant Chief Neary presented "Retired Firefighter" plaques to Wenner and Yushta and recognized their families for the support they provided the Firefighters during their careers.

Chief Quade also introduced three of the six new Firefighters (Curtis Thompson, Brianna Thomas, Charles Rustman) to the Council.

HIGH UTILITY BILLS? – If your utility bill is creeping up as the summer warms and your grass needs a little sprinkling, here's a way that might help you cut your bill. One of the biggest expenses on City utility bills is the wastewater fee which is directly tied to the number of gallons of water used by the customer.



This expense is even greater for customers who have not had an irrigation meter installed on their homes. Irrigation meters are separate utility meters that monitor the usage of water that does **not** go down the City's wastewater system.....outside uses like watering the lawn, washing the car, watering the garden. With an irrigation meter, the only charges the homeowner pays for this outside water use is the water cost. That can result in significant savings to the homeowner if you use a lot of outside water. Another plus is that during the winter months when outside water isn't used, customers don't pay a base charge for the irrigation meter!

So, how do you get an irrigation meter? The first step is to apply for one at the Building Department at City Hall. The cost is $25. Then you'll need a plumber to install the meter. The cost for that depends on your plumber and what work is needed in your home to install the meter. (The homeowner is responsible for the plumbing costs.) From that point on, any water used from outside faucets will not be charged wastewater fees. If you would like more information on how irrigation meters work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

CITY WEBSITE - Have you checked out the City of Saint Peter website at www.saintpetermn.gov? City staff continually work on revising the website and adding more information for the public. One of the newest additions to the site is expanded information on the different sections of the Public Works Department. There is also information on elections (where to vote, how to register, updated changes to election laws, etc...); reserving parks, and the entire zoning code and zoning map. If you get a chance, why not check it out? And if you have any ideas for other information the City should include, please send us an e-mail at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

BICYCLE SAFETY - Summer's here and that means an increased number of bicycles on the roads and sidewalks. This year, the price of gas has also pushed more people towards their bikes and for many of us who haven't been on a bike in a while, a few safety tips might be helpful. These tips are provided by McGruff.org.....

Riding a bike can be fun, if you know how to stay safe. But if you don't follow the rules, it can be dangerous. To be safe on your bike, follow these tips:

- Always wear a helmet and fasten it. Helmets protect your head, and in many states it's illegal not to wear one!
- Wear bright clothing so drivers and other bikers can see you.
- If you want to ride after dark, ask an adult and remember to put reflectors on your clothes, helmet, and bike. Adults should wear the reflectors also!
- Obey the rules of the road. Bikers must stop at all stop signs and traffic lights and use turning signals, just like cars.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Look both ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways so be on the lookout for people who may not see you.
- Ride on bike trails, roads with little traffic or in parks. If you do come to a busy road, walk your bike across intersections at a crosswalk.
- Keep your bike tuned up. You don't want to get a flat tire far away from your house!
- Protect your bike. Lock it up or keep it in a safe place when you're not using it. Don't leave your bike out in your yard because someone just might come along and ride away with it. Also, don't leave your bike in an unlocked garage.
- Ride with friends. It's more fun and you have someone to help you if you need it.

And don't forget to register your bike at the Police Department. The cost is only $1.00 and it may help get your bike back if lost or stolen. The information from the bike is entered into a nation-wide database and if your bike is stolen and recovered somewhere else, the Saint Peter Police Department will be contacted for information on the owner. What a deal for only $1!

RECREATION FIELD USE: If you are a coach or organizer of an event and you plan to use the City owned recreational fields, please remember that you must schedule such use with the Recreation and Leisure Services Department PRIOR to the event. This includes practices AND games. Should you have any questions, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

MOSQUITO CONTROL: The City will soon be initiating two phases of the mosquito control program which has been used in the City since 2003. Pellets of mosquito control materials will soon be placed in catch basins and the same is being done in the stormwater detention basins which are scattered throughout Saint Peter. This material is effective in preventing hatching of the mosquito larvae. Spraying may also be done in area parks prior to community events throughout the mosquito season if requested by the event organizers.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – St. Peter Boy Scout Troop #58 member Jordan Kienholz has completed a project in upper McGill Park as part of his Eagle Scout badge. Working with fellow Scouts and adult volunteers, Jordan spent Memorial Day weekend building steps into the hillside in McGill Park to provide for easier access to the top of the hill. The steps will also help children access the slide which has been in the park for years. On behalf of the City Council, thanks go out to Jordan for his work on this park improvement project.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR - This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or visit the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Monday	June 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
~~Monday~~ CANCELLED!	~~June 21~~	~~7:00 p.m.~~	~~Parks Board~~
Monday	June 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Friday	July 4		LEGAL HOLIDAY – FOURTH OF JULY City offices closed
Monday	July 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	July 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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5/28/2014

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – ACTION taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of May 27, 2014 included authorization for execution of a "memorandum of understanding" with School District #508 for provision of certain youth programs; initiation of a "hazardous building" action for the property at 214 South Minnesota Avenue; and a closed session to discuss land purchase negotiations for 213 West Nassau Street. Action on adoption of a resolution of support for Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership's project to purchase and make repairs to the Maplewood Apartments was tabled.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM – "Let's Read Under the Big Top" Summer Reading Program begins Tuesday, June 3 with *Clowning Around with the Rec Staff* from 6-7 p.m. Come to the Library and pick up a program of activities occurring throughout the Library, Community Center, and outdoor patio area. While you are UNDER THE BIG TOP, expect the unexpected; you'll never know what surprises there might be in store for you! (Children need to be accompanied by an adult.)

SAINT PETER FAMILY READ AT THE LIBRARY – Step right up to this year's family read, "The Show Must Go On" by Kate Klise. Registration is required for this program. Please register at the Library check out desk. Be one of the first twenty (20) families to register and receive a free copy of the book along with a family activity guide filled with activities you can do at home. Join us!

OUTDOOR POOL OPENING – The Roy T. Lindenberg Memorial Outdoor Swimming Pool will open at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th. There will be free admission all day. Opening day schedule includes Open Swim from 1–6 p.m. and Family Swim from 6:15–8:15 p.m. The wading pool is free of charge all summer long. Passes can be purchased in advance at the Recreation Department in the Community Center or at the pool beginning opening day.

Register for Red Cross Swim lessons at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department or at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation.

For pool information, swim lesson cancellations and pool closings information, please call the pool at 934-3951 or the Recreation Hotline at 934-0070. Information on pool rates, hours, and policies is available from the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, on the City of Saint Peter website, and at the pool. Questions? Please call (934-0667) or email jenh@saintpetermn.gov.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT – As part of the Consumer Confidence rules of the United States

Consumer Confidence Report
2013

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the City is required to send out information about our water quality to the public. This is done by issuance of a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which summarizes information regarding the sources for City water (i.e. rivers and aquifers) and any detected contaminates, as well as providing compliance and educational materials.

The City's 2013 report is now available in the lobby at City Hall (227 South Front Street) or the Public Works Department (405 West St. Julien Street), or electronically from the City's website at http://www.saintpetermn.gov/Water_Consumer_Confidence_Report.pdf.

For more information on the 2013 report, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

PARKS BOARD CANCELLATION – The July Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Monday, July 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works building conference room. (405 West St. Julien Street).

ROUTE BUS FARES – The Saint Peter City Council recently approved a discounted fare on the *ROUTE* bus for students ages 5 to 17. Beginning on June 9th and ending August 29th, students in that age group may ride the *ROUTE* bus for a $1.00 cash fare. The *ROUTE* bus deviates up to two blocks from the path between scheduled stops to pick up or drop off passengers. This means that passengers may be picked up and dropped off at stops that are not on the schedule such as Jefferson Fields, the swimming pool or Gault Park.

A passenger wishing to be picked up at a location other than a scheduled stop simply needs to call 934-6070 and request the ***ROUTE*** bus pick up at their location. Once on the bus the passenger should tell the Driver where he or she wishes to go, if it is not already a scheduled stop.

The City hopes the discounted fare will assist parents with their transportation needs over the summer and also encourage those who do not already use public transit to give it a try.

Please call Transit Coordinator Wayne Albers at 934-0668 with any questions concerning how the transit system can best serve your needs.

ELECTRIC RATE INCREASES – The City Council has passed a rate increase of $.0024 per kilowatt hour for Large Commercial and industrial classification electric customers. The increase is effective with bills due on August 15th. (Residential and small commercial customers aren't affected by this rate change.)

To identify which classification of rate payer your business is, please refer to your utility bill or contact the City's Finance Department at 934-0664.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS – Summer vacations are right around the corner. Here are some safety tips to keep the whole family safe this summer:

- Swimming – Limit swimming activities to the City's outdoor pool where Lifeguards are on duty to keep everyone safe. Never swim alone and never leave children unattended while swimming. If children can't swim, make sure they are wearing a lifejacket when participating in all water-related sports or activities. Avoid "floaties" (inflatable floating aids), which offer a false sense of security; they do not substitute for lifejackets. If you child doesn't know how to swim, enroll him or her in American Red Cross sanctioned swimming lessons.

- Recognize the signs if someone is drowning. The wild flailing and screaming that you see in the movies? Unfortunately, you won't often get those cues. People are too busy to scream; they're trying to breathe. Their mouths begin sinking underwater, so they can't call out. They won't wave for help; their arms instinctively push downwards to help propel their bodies higher above the surface. Watch for glassy or unfocused eyes, hyperventilation or gasping, hair over the face, or head too low in the water. Instinctively, drowning people remain upright and forget to kick in order to stay afloat—remind them to kick, or (if possible) to relax and float on their back. They often have only 20-60 seconds before submersion, unless rescued.
- Keep your doors and windows locked – Many residential and vehicle thefts occur in homes or cars that were left unlocked. Keeping your property securely locked helps deter would be thieves who are looking for easy pickings. Keep your garage door down when not in the garage and if you have to leave something of value in your vehicle, make sure it is kept out of sight. Remove keys from the ignition (even when the vehicle is in the garage) and lock the door between the garage and the main part of your

home. And keep those doors locked while you are home too. We spend a lot of time in the back yard during the summer months and it's easy for a thief to walk in the home from an unlocked front door when the family is out back.

- Never leave a child alone in the car. Aside from abduction dangers, in the summertime, car temperatures can soar very quickly -- even if it the temperature isn't ridiculously hot. Even with the windows down, a car can get very warm, very fast. Best bet; take your child with you, even if you are going into a store for just a minute. (And remember the same rules for pets. Leave them at home rather than risk leaving them alone in a scalding hot vehicle.)
- If you are headed to a place where you know there will be lots of crowds, review some ground rules before you get there. Make sure your child knows what to do in case you get separated or lost from one another. Teach him to look for a person who can help them like a uniformed police officer, park worker or even a mother with children. Pick a spot upon your arrival and designate it as your meeting place in case someone gets lost.
- Children who are home from school may be left alone more hours than they are during the school year. Make sure their internet use is monitored and they know the dos and don'ts about providing personal information over the internet.
- Make sure your children know not to open the hopefully locked door of your home to strangers.
- Bike safety is an important part of summer. Always wear your helmet and obey bike traffic laws....stopping at stop signs, signaling turns, riding with traffic, etc.... Make sure your bike is the proper fit; oversized bikes are particularly hazardous for children. Use reflectors and lights when riding at night.

- Teach children not to cross roadways in the middle of the road or from between two parked vehicles. They are small enough that drivers might not see them crossing in these unexpected areas.
- When vacation time rolls around, don't post your plans on Facebook and make sure your children refrain from doing so also. You never know which of your "friends" has a "friend" who might see it and turn out to be a thief while you are gone. Save your social media posts for when you come back.
    - Set indoor lights on timers.
    - Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your newspaper or mail (or stop delivery of these items while you are gone).
    - Arrange for someone to mow your lawn while you are away.
- Wear sunscreen if you are going to be outside, even on cloudy days. Burns can happen in just a few minutes and have lifetime consequences.

- Picnics and barbeques can be fun for the whole family, but keep your food safe. Cook meat thoroughly and avoid cross-contamination by using separate plates for raw meats and the final product. Use a meat thermometer to check doneness. Ground beef should reach an internal temp of 160^0. Keep food stored in a cool and dry place and remember a full cooler is colder than a half-empty one. Summertime is also a time for lots of mayo based salads. Make sure that these products stay cold and promptly refrigerate leftovers or throw them away.
- **Pet Safety...**It's equally important to keep our pets safe during the hot summer months.
    - Provide a shady spot for your pet to rest when outdoors; doghouses can trap heat and get really uncomfortable. Don't overexpose them to hot sand or asphalt which can burn their paws.
    - If you own a dog with a short- or flat-face, which can't pant as effectively as long-jawed dogs, make sure to provide it with a cool indoor space.
    - Ensure the pet's vaccinations are up-to-date since your pet will probably spend more time outdoors and in contact with other animals.
    - Keep pets away from chemically-treated lawns, as well as toxic plants and flowers.
    - Use a vet-recommended preventive to keep parasites like fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes at bay.
    - Provide water and a regular shower (or dousing with a hose). Or buy a shallow children's pool and let your dog use it to cool off.
        - If your dog is outdoors most summer days, try putting a large chunk of ice in the pet's water dish to help keep the water cool.

- Don't force your pet to swim and never leave it unattended in the water. Some dogs are not natural swimmers.
- Be on the lookout for heatstroke: heavy panting, quick or labored breathing, bright red tongue and gums that may be dry to the touch, woozy movements. If your pet is experiencing these systems, call your Vet immediately for assistance and directions on how to safely lower the pet's temperature. Heat stroke can be just as deadly for pets as it is for people and these symptoms require immediate attention.

- Don't ignore your daily walks, but if need be, change the time so that you are walking in the cooler early morning or late evening hours. (Great idea for people too!) And remember to always leash your pet when leaving your property. This protects not only the public, but also protects your pet.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR - This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or visit the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Wednesday	May 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 29	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	June 2	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	June 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 9	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission (may be cancelled)
Monday	June 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	**June 10**	**6:00 p.m.**	**Library Board** (rescheduled for July 22 at 5:30 p.m.)
Monday	June 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
~~Monday~~	~~June 21~~	~~7:00 p.m.~~	~~Parks and Recreation Advisory Board~~ CANCELLED!
Monday	June 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop

http://www.saintpetermn.gov/# | City of Saint Peter, Minneso...

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City of Saint Peter — Where History & Progress Meet

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Flags along Minnesota Square Park on Highway 169

Travel along Highway 169 & see the 50 flags lining Minnesota Square Park. This picturesque park hosts many events: Rock Bend Folk Festival, Ambassador's BluesFest, 4th of July celebration & more.

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6

Latest News

June 24, 2014
Summer Reading Program "Let's Read Under the Big Top" is going on at the Library

June 20, 2014
Dog Park Closed Due to Flooding

June 20, 2014
The Riverside Park (Millpond) [illegible] behind City Hall

http://www.nixle.com/

City of Saint Peter, Minnesota

View | Edit | Revisions

Saint Peter is a warm and welcoming community located in the scenic Minnesota River Valley.

The City of Saint Peter was incorporated in 1873 and is located approximately 60 miles south of Minneapolis/Saint Paul in the beautiful Minnesota River Valley (10 miles north of Mankato). Our city has a population of over 11,400 and was originally intended to be the capital of the State of Minnesota. As the legislators were preparing to vote on the location of the capital, a sneaky guy named Joe Rolette stole the bill that would have named Saint Peter as capital and he hid with it until after the

Upcoming Events

June 24, 2014
Heritage Preservation Commission 5:30

June 26, 2014
Economic Development Authority Noon

June 30, 2014
City Council Workshop

July 01, 2014
Planning & Zoning Meeting -

1:39 PM
6/24/2014

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THIS WEEK

8
Page Likes

749
Post Reach

UNREAD

2
Notifications

Recent
2014
2013
2012
2011

PEOPLE

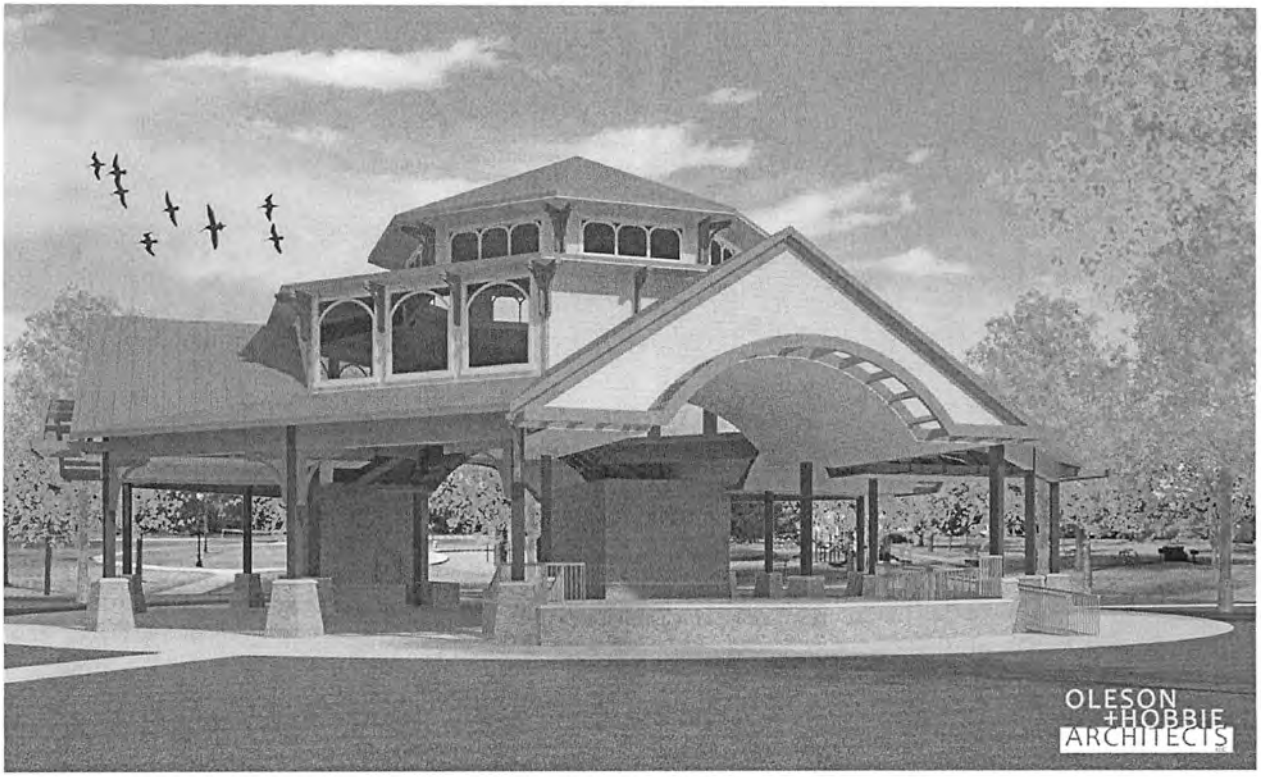
6

★★★★★

909 likes **334** visits

Status Photo / Video Offer, Event +

What have you been up to?


OLESON
+HOBBIE
ARCHITECTS

CITY OF Saint Peter
WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor Strand
Members of the City Council

DATE: 11/9/12

FROM: Todd Prafke
City Administrator

RE: Pavilion Task Force Update

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

Receive and accept the report from the Mayor's Task Force and direct staff in additional action(s).

BACKGROUND

Pete Connor (Task Force Facilitator) and Eric Oleson of Oleson and Hobbie Architects (Task Force Architects) will be at your meeting to present the Task Force report and review the last and recommended version of the Pavilion concept rendering with the Council.

Members may remember the mission the Council established for the Task Force. That mission was:

- Bring additional community input into the development of a vision for the future of the pavilion. (What purpose(s) do we want a pavilion to serve? How do we want it to look?)
- Work with an architectural firm to develop rehabilitation, construction and/or enhancements based on the vision and see that vision transformed into a concept rendering.

The draft resolution in your packet represents discussion held by the Council and direction that I believe clarifies what you want staff to do as you continue to move forward through this process. Those additional directions are:

- Go forth and use this plan as staff looks for resources (money) to help put this plan into place.
- Have another look at the current facility from a structural standpoint so that we might be able to develop a better timeline for the resource raising efforts and while there, do a bit of work to see what level of rescue might be available,
- Apply for Legacy Grant dollars and other funds through foundations and government entities.
- Initiate discussion on a Council policy about naming rights or other promotional opportunities.

I think it is also important to articulate that our ability to provide for major repairs or replace this facility is, at least in part, driven by the resources we can gather to facilitate any change.

Last but not least, the Council had expressed its' wish to take a few moments to thank the folks who participated in the Task Force and its' many meetings. Those members volunteered their time and energy and represented not only our community, but a number of groups and organizations from throughout our town in the development of this concept rendering that focused on the function of the facility first and the aesthetics a close second.

Members of the Task Forced have been provided similar information and will receive a thank you letter from the Mayor after the acceptance of the report at your meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to taking action to accept the report.

ALTERNATIVES AND VARIATIONS
Do not act. Staff will wait for additional direction from the Council.
Negative vote. Staff will look to the Council for direction.
Modification of the Resolution. This is always an option of the Council.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns on this agenda item.

TP/bal

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 2012 –

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF NICOLLET)
CITY OF SAINT PETER)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE MINNESOTA SQUARE PARK PAVILION FINAL REPORT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Saint Peter took action to establish a Mayor's Task Force on the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Task Force was to "*Bring additional community input into the development of a vision for the future of the pavilion. (What purpose(s) do we want a pavilion to serve? How do we want it to look?) and Work with an architectural firm to develop rehabilitation, construction and/or enhancements based on the vision and see that vision transformed into a concept rendering.*"; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force consisted of thirty-three (33) members; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force met six (6) times; and

WHEREAS, the City Council engaged an architectural firm to assist the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received a report of the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are very thankful for the wonderful service provided by the members of the Task Force and for their service to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PETER, NICOLLET COUNTY, MINNESOTA, THAT:

1. The report of the Mayor's Task Force on the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion is accepted.

2. Staff is directed to:
   - Use this report and plan to look for resources (money) to help put this plan into place.
   - Review the current facility from a structural standpoint so that the City Council might be able to develop a better timeline for the resource raising efforts and while there:
     - Complete a cursory review of what level of rescue might be available for the current structure.
     - Complete a cursory review of potential rehabilitation costs.
   - Apply for funds through foundations and Government entities.
   - Provide opportunities for Council discussion on policy about naming rights or other promotional opportunities.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Saint Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota, this 13th day of November, 2012.

Timothy Strand
Mayor

ATTEST:

Todd Prafke
City Administrator

CHILD CARE STUDY COMMITTEE
INTERIM REPORT TO SAINT PETER CITY COUNCIL

This intent of this report is to provide an update about the discussions of the group and the Committee's position on various issues thus far.

Original members of the group include:

Shannon Prososki	Kid's Corner
Brad DeVos	St Peter Community Child Care
Rhonda Prince	St Peter Community Child Care
Calie Afdahl-Doble	Child Care Aware of Minnesota
Ed Lee	Chamber of Commerce
Jane Timmerman	Recreation and Leisure Services
Jeff Brand	City Council
Jeff Olson	School District #508
Ytive Prafke	School District #508
John Kvamme	City Council
Kristina Guth	Nicollet County
Larry Taylor	Taylor Corporation

Please note that from time to time others have participated in the group discussions.

Work of the Committee:

Attendance has been good through the three meetings that have been held thus far. Meetings are casual with City Administrator Prafke acting as the convener and group facilitator. Agendas have been provided and followed. Each meeting has lasted about an hour.

The Committee has reviewed data from a number of sources including data developed by local providers, Nicollet County, Child Care Resource and Referral, Saint Peter Schools as well as demographic data from a number of sources including Census, State Demographer's Office and the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA). Survey material was collected using the Chamber of Commerce and its web and Facebook pages.

Committee's Opinion on number of slots needed:

The Committee's strong opinion is that there continues to be a substantial need for child care slots in the Saint Peter community. There is clearly more need for infant slots and toddler slots with infants being the highest and more pressing priority. While exact numbers are hard to ascertain, the development of a minimum of 12 infant slots should be a priority. Toddler slots of similar number are also needed.

Opportunities to develop childcare slots:

The Committee reviewed a number of different ideas and opportunities to create the slots they believe are needed within the community. Those ideas and opportunities fall into two primary categories which are Long Term and Short Term.

Long Term Opportunities

- More additional square footage for one of the current centers at the Community Center
- Development of a new center facility
- Continue to explore opportunities with the School District related to their facilities planning
- Review opportunities for reuse of Grandview
- Work with Gustavus on new or modified facilities
- Additional work with local businesses or real estate professional who may own space that could be modified

Short Term Opportunities

- Promotion of in-home opportunities through the reduction or elimination of the fees associated with licensing, which includes both City and County fees, tied to incentives in the target age groups
- Provide additional discounted rents at the Community Center for development of more slots in the targeted age groups
- Host a child care fair to get both potential providers in touch with potential users.
- Provide business and child care learning workshops through the City or School District that would make it easier for in-home service providers to understand the business and standards that can make them successful.

Challenges to additional slot development:

- The Committee identified a number of challenges to development of additional slots.
    - Lack of facilities or buildings that are suitable for this use.
    - Cost of facilities
- Improving economy meaning that past providers or potential future providers have many employment opportunities and development of private in-home business is not easy.
- Seeking out community partners to provide assistance including the business and public sectors. Often businesses do not understand the correlation between workforce development and daycare opportunities.
- Infant slots do not provide a sustainable business model. The cost to care for infants, primarily due the ratio of provider to child, means the providers do not make money. While this is believed to be the community's most pressing need, the cost is higher and the revenue is unable to support the costs.

Next Steps:

The Committee will meet in July to further explore a couple of the ideas, both long and short term, listed above. Should the Council wish to provide any additional direction or commentary the Committee will continue to work to find ways to grow slots within the community.

Should Councilmembers wish to have access to the data reviewed by the Committee, please let me know and I will be happy to provide the specific data.

WWW.SAINTPETERMN.GOV

Website Statistics for 2013 from Google Analytics

New website went live 1/31/2013

OLD WEBSITE ADDRESS	NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS	2011	2012	2013
Total: different pages-url		Pages Viewed	Pages Viewed	Pages Viewed
/		101235	101487	62618
/recreation/	/recreation	21585	23219	13464
/library/	/library	11844	12592	10185
/city/employmentad.php3	/employment	5986	6279	7205
/recreation/communitycenter.pdf	/community-center	3508	1673	6064
/recreation/adult.php3 - Recreation	/adult-leagues	4947	4977	5971
/recreation/details.php3 - Parks	/parks	4947	16435	4150
	/directory-city-offices			3710
/police/police.php3	/police	3662	4230	3660
/city/hotsheet.pdf	/weekly-hot-sheet	11372	8118	3198
	/outdoor-swimming-pool			3195 *
	/youth-activities			3183
/city/minutes.php3	/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets	1526	1485	2722
/searchresults.php	/services-z	5639	5834	2627
	/utility-billing			2176
	/events			1837
/contact.php - Contact Us	/contact-us	4704	3987	2018
/transit/	/transit		3353	1955
	/camping			1826
	/pay-utility-bills			1690
/city/	/administration	7393	7826	1546
/publicworks/	/public-works	4453	4012	1547
	/facility-availability			1501
/recreation/softball-Schedules.php3	/softball-league-schedules	3418	3944	1160
	/electric			1175
/economic/	/community-development	3695	5011	1081
	/node/926 (2nd page of Home Page)			1046
	/water			1020
/building/	/building		2493	997
	/government			996
	/city-code		882	882
	/maps		876	876
	/volunteer-fire-department		844	844
	/about-st-peter-police-department		820	820
	/residential-utility-rates		808	808
	/news		784	784
	/permit-applications		721	721
	/paws		718	718
	/senior-center		710	710
	/public-notices		688	688
	/refuse-recycling		679	679
/finance/	/finance-utility-billing		3474	667
/building/Rental.php3		417	404	528
/recreation/vetpark.php3	/parks/veterans-memorial-park		2919	394 *
	*Now outdoor-swimming-pool has separate page			
/recreation/catalog.pdf	**pdf name changes each upload	3001	3936	**
/sppa/	/public-access-sppa		3072	460
	/ch-7-program-schedule			483
/recreation/currentevents.pdf	**pdf name changes each upload	3300	2681	**
/publicworks/parksboardminutes.php3		1694	1815	

WWW.SAINTPETERMN.GOV
JANUARY 1, 2014 - MARCH 21, 2014

WEBSITE URL	PAGES VIEWED
/	22,546
/recreation	2,700
/community-center	2,362
/library	1,975
/employment	1,893
/adult-leagues	1,538
/parks	1,113
/directory-city-offices	869
/police	823
/utility-billing	766
/weekly-hot-sheet	753
/services-z	663
/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets	640
/facility-availability	625
/youth-activities	618
/pay-utility-bills	511
/public-works	508
/transit	496
/contact-us	462
/library/	439
/recreation/	382
/news/refuse-collection-changes	367
/city-snow-emergency-rules	364
/city-council	363
/events	326
/water	321
/administration	301
/refuse-recycling	298
/news/summer-employment-application	269
/city-saint-peter-minnesota (home page)	266
/electric	262
/refuse-service	233
/volunteer-fire-department	231
/maps	227
/camping	224
/residential-utility-rates	214
/node/926 (home page history cont.)	212
/about-st-peter-police-department	210
/news	201
/service-collection-days	200
/building	193
/government	184
/registration-information	180
/single-sort-residential-recycling	180
/public-notices	179
/community-development	177
/senior-center	177
/what-expect-when-stopped-police	177
/city-code	159

Pass the Roles, Please

By Duane Hebert, Winona County Administrator

County Commissioners should be sitting at the head of the table. That means Commissioners are responsible for dividing up and passing out the roles. Part of this responsibility is ensuring everyone at the table (on your team) has a role and knows what each role is supposed to accomplish. Commissioners need to ensure nobody shirks their responsibility or refuses the role(s) you provide them, or takes more roles than they can handle. In whichever manner the Board assigns roles or responsibility for meeting the County Board's vision, mission, goals and objectives it is the responsibility of the Board to provide the leadership for the organization and community to ensure everyone knows their role and what is expected. After all, if you're not passing out the roles, who is?

A scene in the movie "Parenthood" shows actor, Steve Martin as a father coaching his less-than-athletic or confident son playing right field. It is clear in the scene the right fielder is worried a ball might be hit his way. The first baseman is much more confident and athletic and his assertive, if not aggressive father tells him to chase the ball down wherever it gets hit since the team only needs one out to win the game. Sure enough, the ball is hit directly at the right fielder. With fear and dread in his eyes the right fielder stumbles only a few feet to get under the ball and with eyes almost closed raises his glove, where he is knocked down by the first baseman chasing a fly-ball to the outfield from his infield position.

Whether it's a baseball team, symphony orchestra, emergency response team, or any organization everyone must know, understand and perform their role. Good sports teams know what roles everyone plays and who makes what decisions. Those conversations occur regularly at practice as well as during and after games. The team owners ensure the various members of the team have their assigned roles whether it is general manager, first baseman, head coach, right field, etc. You won't find a major league team where the players are also managers or the owner is also a coach. Different people may ultimately assign certain roles, but the owners are ultimately responsible for ensuring everyone has their roles. When members of the team are not aware of their roles, or someone on the team isn't comfortable in their role, or tries to take on too many roles like the first baseman in the movie, problems arise.

Here's a simple challenge; have someone in your organization review two or three years of County Board agendas and place each agenda item into four categories.

Category One: Roles and responsibilities including mission, vision, values, goals or objectives, and organizational structure.

Category Two: Policy decisions such as Ordinances and organizational policies.

Category Three: Operational decisions such a bills, approving hiring, authorizing permits, appointments, etc.

Category Four: Other actions such as proclamations, approving minutes, setting meeting dates, etc.

Now take a look and see how many agenda items are found in Category One, the most important discussions and decisions the County Board makes and those related to roles. If there are not many Category One agenda discussions the question needs to be asked: if the Board isn't making these decisions, then who is?

Many years ago when I was a City Administrator, I attended a meeting with the Mayor and several citizens. During the conversation the Mayor stated he "ran" the city. One of the citizens immediately responded, "But we elected you to "lead" the city." The Mayor didn't fully understand his role as a community leader. Category One is about community and organizational leadership. If the Board does not make those decisions then how does anyone know who is serving what role and what needs to be achieved?

It was clear Steve Martin's team had not had the "role" discussion or Category One decision-making. That was just a scene in a movie. It becomes more serious when government fails to have those conversations. As a citizen do you know what the overall vision, mission, goals and objectives are for the State of Minnesota? Are those conversations even taking place and who's leading them? As the great philosopher and management guru Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you are going, you will end up somewhere else."

Roles and responsibilities can and do change. A newly elected Board may want to be more hands-on (or micro-manage depending upon your point of view). Other Boards are more intent upon ensuring the goals and objectives they set are being met and measure attainment accordingly. Regardless of how it is implemented, the head of the table must ensure clear conversations about the roles in the organization take place and the goals and objectives that need to be achieved are identified.

Commissioners are elected to provide the leadership for the organization and community. County Administrators/Coordinators and experienced staff can help facilitate and implement the Category One discussions and identification of who performs what roles and how goal attainment is to be measured. Several years ago the Winona County Board's "strategic planning" did not quite rise to the level of Category One decision-making (as identified by County Commissioners). In the last few years the conversations have moved to the Category One leadership level with assignment of roles and very clear goals and objectives established for the organization. That's not to say there aren't disagreements at times about roles and even how to attain some goals, but those conversations take place. Not having the conversation at all, or not clearly delineating as much as possible roles and responsibilities ensures less than ideal organizational leadership which usually leads to more inefficient and ineffective operations. Show me an employee or team unclear of their role or what goals they are working towards and I will show you an employee or team not working to their full potential.

MACA

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS

Since the Winona County Board started having more Category One conversations some amazing things have taken place. 2013 should be a fourth year in a row of no property tax increase or a tax decrease with minimal use of reserves, a structural deficit reduced from over $2 million per year to under $500,000 even factoring in additional CPA cuts, and no lay-offs, forced furloughs or other drastic employee impact measures. At the same time the County Board invested in technology improvements and adopted LEAN process improvement efforts. The County Board establishes organizational goals that staff implements and reports attainment back to the Board. For example, the County Board adopted goal of "Reducing and Eliminating the Structural Deficit" was responded to with enhanced cross-training, an early retirement program with a twist, a five-year financial projection program to assist longer-range planning, and in-depth conversations about appropriate services the County should provide. The Winona County Board still has conversations and sometimes disagreement about how to achieve goals, but they agree on the goals that need to be achieved and the entire organization works towards achieving those goals. The County Board sets the goals and assigns the roles.

In the climactic fly-ball scene in the movie the right fielder gets knocked down, but through sheer determination (and fear) he lunges at the last second over the first baseman as they both lay on the ground to make the catch and win the game. He becomes the hero and Steve Martin does one of his crazy dances across the field. Organizations shouldn't be forced into a position to be saved by heroics which may never come. Clear goals, objectives and assignment of roles will help prevent those instances from even occurring in the first place. What we have found in Winona County is not only has the County Board passed the roles, they have even found we have some gravy to ladle on top of them. ■

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Long-time mayor Fischer resigns midterm

Cheryl Fischer said she could no longer work with the current council

By Casey Merkwan
Assistant Editor

Minnetrista Mayor Cheryl Fischer resigned at midterm, after serving as the mayor for 16 years, stating she couldn't work with the current City Council any longer.

"I loved what I did, I loved the staff and all the things that we've done," Fischer said. "My reason for resigning is I finally realized that the council is very difficult to work with because they don't include me in anything, I'm sort of off by myself."

Fischer, who has a background in mediation, said she tried to work with the council for about four years but recently decided she couldn't do it anymore.

"I just decided I can't affect any change. They just do whatever they want to. I'm not complaining, that's their right, they're majority, but I didn't want to be a part of that anymore," she said.

Prior to holding her position as mayor for 16 years, Fischer was a city council member and a planning commissioner. She served the city for a total of about 20 years.

In her resignation letter, which was published in the Mound Laker on April 10, Fischer also issued an alert for residents: "Regretfully, I also feel the need to alert the residents of Minnetrista that, in my opinion, the present members of the council are poised to undo many of the accomplishments of the past 15 years. The very idea that some of them admit to not even reading their meeting packets, should be an insult, since they are making decisions on your behalf."

Acting Mayor Anne Hunt said Fischer's resignation letter was published on the Laker's website prior to being given to the City Council.

"It's unprofessional and disrespectful. It's her exit, I guess. It is what it is. It's what she chose to do," Hunt said.

Hunt said the way the resignation letter was written, with the alert to residents regarding the City Council, saddened her.

"I thought it was unfortunate that she wanted to leave on a sour note. After 16 years, that was her final letter. It didn't demonstrate any concern for the residents," Hunt said.

Fischer said she wanted to print the letter in The Laker so that residents would know that she was leaving, and see her letter in full context.

"I wanted to thank them. For the most part the residents have been fabulous," Fischer said.

She said most residents have been saddened about her resignation, but said they understood.

Fischer said she thought the council had an issue with transparency, saying that it seemed like council members had discussions about agenda items prior to meetings and had already made up their minds.

"I've worked with lots of councils, and we've always had work sessions where we actually hashed out stuff. We didn't always agree, but we always hashed things out. We don't do that with this council, they just kind of make up their minds, I don't know where they do it, but they seem to have their minds made up when they get there," Fischer said.

Hunt said she disagreed with Fischer's statement in her resignation letter that City Council members were unprepared for meetings.

The City Council was expected to accept Fischer's resignation at its April 21 meeting and officially declare a vacancy. The meeting was held after this edition went to press. The council was expected to go over its options for filling the vacancy. The term goes through 2016.

Hunt was also expected to request a state audit of city expenditures at Monday's meeting. [Update: Hunt pulled the item from the agenda after learning that the city would be charged an hourly rate]

"This audit is not related to our finance department. I have the utmost confidence in our city financial staff and their accounting practices. This audit was prompted by several instances of questionable billing on city projects and a concern from a citizen regarding hiring practices," Hunt said in a letter to council and staff.

Hunt proposed the state auditor investigate the following items: Hiring practices, whether vendors have colluded with other vendors to inflate prices for products and services and whether vendors have inflated costs for projects. Hunt said it is not limited to one project.

One project the city has been working on is improving its drinking water quality. Water treatment has been a subject of discussion at many City Council meetings, and the council has directed staff to solicit request for proposals from engineering firms regarding four different treatment options and their costs, according to a recent newsletter sent out by the city.

Fischer's husband has made multiple data practices requests with the city. One of the requests includes all electronic communications between city staff and council regarding water treatment.

Fischer doesn't expect this to be ongoing, but she said her husband is curious about the communication among the City Council. Fischer said her husband wants to check to see if the council had been talking to each other outside of council meetings.

"I don't want to cause trouble for anyone, I really don't. I had my 20 years, and if we're going in different directions, go ahead. Do something good for the city though," Fischer said.

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States with the Best & Worst Taxpayer ROI

by John S Kiernan

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There is an obvious disconnect in the minds of taxpayers between the amount we fork over each April and what we ultimately receive from the government in return. Tax Day is a tangible, painful reminder of our investments in federal, state and local governments, but it's difficult to discern the government's precise role in our day-to-day quality of life and overall pursuit of happiness. Perhaps that's why 52% of people feel they pay too much in taxes and most people think roughly half of their tax dollars are being wasted.

One thing we do know is that taxpayer return on investment varies significantly based on simple geography. Federal income tax rates are uniform across the country, yet some states get far more federal funding than others – as WalletHub recently illustrated in its Federal Government Dependency Report. But federal taxes and funding are only part of the story.

Ideological differences regarding the role of local taxation have resulted in citizens of each state shouldering dramatically different tax burdens. This, of course, begs the question of whether people in high-tax states benefit from correspondingly superior government services or if low-tax states are more efficient. In short, where do taxpayers get the most and least bang for their buck?

WalletHub sought to answer that question by contrasting state and local tax rates to the quality of the services that are funded at those levels, which we separated into six main categories – Infrastructure, Education, Health, Safety, Economy and Pollution – that collectively consist of 27 metrics. You can read more about our methodology as well as review our complete findings below.

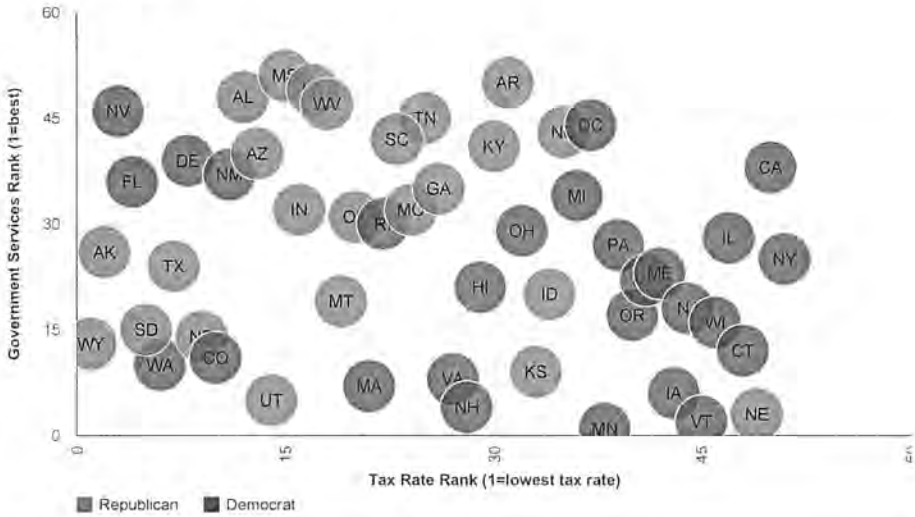
1 Main Findings

2 Detailed Breakdown by State

3 Ask The Experts: Taxes as an Investment

4 Methodology

Main Findings



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ROI Rank	State Name	Tax Rate Rank	Overall Government Services Rank
1	Wyoming	1	13
2	Alaska	2	26
3	South Dakota	5	15
4	Washington	6	10
5	North Dakota	9	14
6	Colorado	10	11
T-7	Florida	4	36
T-7	Texas	7	24
9	Utah	14	5
10	Massachusetts	21	7
11	Nevada	3	46
12	Montana	19	19
13	New Hampshire	28	4
14	Virginia	27	8
15	Delaware	8	39
16	New Mexico	11	37
17	Minnesota	38	1
18	Kansas	33	9
19	Indiana	16	32
20	Vermont	45	2
21	Iowa	43	6
22	Hawaii	29	21
23	Oklahoma	20	31
T-24	Nebraska	49	3
T-24	Rhode Island	22	30
26	Idaho	34	20
27	Arizona	13	40
28	Oregon	40	17
29	Connecticut	48	12
30	Missouri	24	32
31	Wisconsin	46	16
32	New Jersey	44	18
33	Maryland	41	22
34	Ohio	32	29
35	Maine	42	23
36	Georgia	26	35
37	Pennsylvania	39	27
38	New York	51	25
39	Illinois	47	28

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ROI Rank	State Name	Tax Rate Rank	Overall Government Services Rank
40	Michigan	36	34
41	South Carolina	23	42
42	Kentucky	30	41
43	Alabama	12	48
T-44	California	50	38
T-44	Tennessee	25	45
46	West Virginia	18	47
47	North Carolina	35	43
48	District of Columbia	37	44
49	Louisiana	17	49
50	Mississippi	15	51
51	Arkansas	31	50

Detailed Breakdown by State

All Categories

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Best School Systems

1. Vermont
2. Wisconsin
3. Virginia
4. California
5. New Hampshire

Worst School Systems

47. Hawaii
48. New Mexico
49. Mississippi
50. Louisiana
51. Nevada

Best Roads & Bridges

1. Nevada
2. Florida
3. Montana
T-4. Idaho
T-4. Kansas

Worst Roads & Bridges

T-47. Connecticut
T-47. Hawaii
49. Massachusetts
50. Rhode Island
51. District of Columbia

Best Hospital Systems

1. Iowa
2. Minnesota
3. Nebraska
4. Kansas
5. Utah

Worst Hospital Systems

47. Tennessee
T-48. Alabama
T-48. District of Columbia
50. Nevada
51. West Virginia

Lowest Violent Crime Rate

1. Maine
2. Vermont
3. New Hampshire
4. Virginia
5. Wyoming

Highest Violent Crime Rate

47. New Mexico
48. Alaska
49. Nevada
50. Tennessee
51. District of Columbia

Best Water Quality

1. West Virginia
2. South Carolina
3. South Dakota
4. North Dakota
5. Hawaii

Worst Water Quality*

39. North Carolina
40. Illinois
41. Delaware
42. California
43. New York

*Data is not available for 8 states

Lowest Home Price Volatility

1. Alaska
2. Iowa
3. Kentucky
4. Indiana
5. Kansas

Highest Home Price Volatility

47. Michigan
48. California
49. Florida
50. Arizona
51. Nevada

Overall Gov Services Rank	Infrastructure Rank	Edu Rank	Health Rank	Safety Rank	Econ Rank
1	Minnesota	5	7	2	9
2	Vermont	21	1	20	3

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Overall Gov Services Rank		Infrastructure Rank	Edu Rank	Health Rank	Safety Rank	Econ Rank
3	Nebraska	15	8	3	22
4	New Hampshire	51	5	7	1
5	Utah	10	39	5	7
6	Iowa	26	13	1	18
7	Massachusetts	42	12	12	6
8	Virginia	24	3	32	11
9	Kansas	12	24	4	36
10	Washington	30	15	8	16
11	Colorado	17	22	11	32
12	Connecticut	48	10	22	2
13	Wyoming	1	44	27	41
14	North Dakota	4	41	37	44
15	South Dakota	7	43	13	46
16	Wisconsin	14	2	17	29
17	Oregon	3	29	19	19
18	New Jersey	47	9	29	8
19	Montana	2	42	15	38
20	Idaho	6	37	10	20
21	Hawaii	33	47	6	5
22	Maryland	28	6	35	15
23	Maine	41	26	21	10
24	Texas	31	17	14	33
25	New York	39	14	16	14
26	Alaska	11	33	30	51
27	Pennsylvania	32	11	42	31
28	Illinois	19	25	24	12
29	Ohio	25	16	37	13
30	Rhode Island	45	40	41	4
31	Oklahoma	46	36	25	41
T-32	Indiana	38	19	33	17
T-32	Missouri	29	31	25	39
34	Michigan	37	28	45	23
35	Georgia	18	17	28	21
36	Florida	20	21	35	40
37	New Mexico	8	48	18	48
38	California	49	4	9	26
39	Delaware	13	22	44	34
40	Arizona	16	34	23	43
41	Kentucky	22	32	34	28
42	South Carolina	27	27	39	50
43	North Carolina	39	35	31	25
44	District of Columbia	34	38	48	27
45	Tennessee	23	20	47	47
46	Nevada	9	51	50	45
47	West Virginia	50	46	51	37
48	Alabama	43	45	48	30
49	Louisiana	44	50	40	34
50	Arkansas	36	30	43	48
51	Mississippi	35	49	46	24

Ask The Experts: Turning Taxes Into an Investment

Nathaniel Baum-Snow: Associate Professor of Economics, Brown University

John Horowitz: Chairperson and Associate Professor of Economics, Ball State University

Jay Ryu: William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

David Nice: Professor of Political Science, Washington State University

Benjamin Y. Clark: Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

1 What's the correlation between state taxes and the government services?

2 How can state and local governments use tax revenue more efficiently?

What's the correlation between state taxes and the government services?

"I would guess about 0.6. It is positive for sure but not close to 1."

- Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Brown University

"Generally, higher tax rates likely mean more resources and higher spending. The latter, all else equal, will boost service quality. However, there is one caveat. In wealthy jurisdictions, the scenario makes sense. But in a poor jurisdiction with lower fiscal capacity or a weak tax basis, higher tax rates only reflect efforts to catch up with other wealthy jurisdictions with lower rates but higher tax revenues. There is no guarantee that service quality will necessarily be improved in poor districts with high tax rates."

- Jay Ryu, Ohio University

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Other things being equal, I think there is a broad tendency for higher state and local tax revenues (not the same as rates, obviously) to associate with better services. Studies looking at combined state-local education spending per student have sometimes found that higher spending is associated with better student performance, though not all studies agree with that.

In some policy areas, the difficulty of doing the job affects the cost of services; building highways in mountains or in large cities is vastly more expensive per mile than building highways on flat, level, rural ground that isn't very valuable. The higher spending due to the greater difficulty of doing a job can create big slippages between spending and program quality. At the local level, very poor jurisdictions may have to adopt pretty high tax rates in order to generate enough money for basic services, but they won't produce very high tax revenues, so they don't end up with above-average funding levels.

The declining state financial support for higher education across the country has led to dramatic increases in tuition and fees, and the shift from scholarships to loans has meant lots of students graduate with very heavy debt burdens. A number of other countries, however, have been expanding access to higher education while we have been reducing access. As a result, we have gone from having the largest proportion of our young people in college of any country in the world to being about 14th in the world.

The relationship can also be complicated by whether there are incentives to hold down costs or not. The US has the highest level of health care spending, per person, of any country in the world, yet a number of other countries have better health outcomes (average life expectancy, infant mortality rates, etc.) than we do. Part of this is because our system generates a great deal of administrative overhead and neglects some relatively inexpensive activities, such as vaccinating children, that affect health outcomes a good deal."

- David Nice, Washington State University

" Probably not. The services delivered vary quite widely from state to state and local government to local government (within a state and nationwide). This makes the sort of comparison quite hard. Having lived in 10 states across the country I have personally seen substantial differences in the level and quality of services. Some of what drives these differences is based on need. In Georgia there is not a high level of demand for snow plowing, for example, because they don't get much snow. When they do things grind to a halt for a few days, but it doesn't make sense to prepare for that event with massive levels of capital spending on snow plows. While in Ohio, where I currently live, they have to spend a lot on plows, drivers, salt, and sand because we get a ton of snow. This weather also tears up the roads – costing tons of money.

States also put mandates or devolve certain tasks to local governments in different ways across the country. In New York State counties deliver Medicaid – thus those local taxes are going to be much higher than in state where that is not delivered at the local level but by states.

There are also different expectations or demands of services at varying levels of government. New York has as part of its constitution some guarantees of a social safety net, thus that tax and spend more on those programs than some other states where that is not part of the fabric of the state.

Here in Cuyahoga County, Ohio we have assistance to Vets being provided at the local level. I personally think this is great, in that those vets can get help locally more easily to reintegrate into civilian life and any other challenges that they might face, but I haven't seen that same level of attention or spending on what is ostensibly a national program (the military) at the local level. Some might ask, why isn't the Pentagon or VA providing better service to these vets? Again we made this choice locally (a very long time ago) to do this."

- Benjamin Y. Clark, Cleveland State University

How can state and local governments use tax revenue more efficiently?

" 1) Reduce the cost of raising tax revenue: simple broad based taxes. Some estimates find that it costs $1.50 for the Federal Income Tax to raise a dollar in revenue.

2) Reduce conflict of interest so elected officials are not voting on own pay increase.

3) The efficiency of organizations depends on the quality of the people and the quality of the leadership.

4) Outsource when others can be more efficient.

5) Create a city that people want to live in"

- John Horowitz, Ball State University

" I have long given up my hope of governments using money more efficiently. But my personal opinion is that there should be some centralized monitoring of cost. Performance-based budgeting, albeit flawed, might police over some waste. But not too much control because it will cause other inefficiencies. Overall, some central monitoring will be a quick fix. In the long run, governments better provide services that citizens want, and those at the amount they exactly demand. This concept is what economists refer to as allocative efficiency."

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"One step, which many states and localities are using to varying degrees, is using more evaluation analysis of major programs to get a more precise reading on the effectiveness of those programs. Unfortunately, those analyses are sometimes overwhelmed by ideological considerations that may be more important to state/local officials than evaluation research. The recent push to discourage people from voting in a number of states has been justified by claims that the changes will reduce ballot fraud, yet the legislative hearings on a number of the bills have produced little or no systematic evidence of ballot fraud, and some of the policy changes, such as reducing the number of days for early voting and making absentee ballots more difficult to obtain, have nothing to do with ballot fraud.

We see a similar dynamic with health care reform. A number of the states that have fought against the 2010 health care reforms have unusually high shares of their populations without health care coverage (public or private) and have been making less progress in improving health care access than have the states that have cooperated with the Affordable Care Act.

One other example is the death penalty. Evaluation researchers have reached very diverse conclusions regarding whether the death penalty helps to discourage violent crime, and the Innocence Project, which operates out of Northwestern University's Law School, has found a number of innocent people on death row in various states. Nonetheless, the death penalty is taken for granted in some states as a good way to deal with murderers.

One difficulty in gauging citizen perceptions of the returns on investment that they receive from state-local taxes is that many Americans are not very well informed regarding state-local government finances. A survey in the Pacific Northwest that was done several years ago found that many people in the state of Washington thought we had a state personal income tax (we don't) and that many people in Oregon thought their state had a general sales tax (it doesn't). Moreover, large numbers of people in both states didn't know that education was the most costly state-local government program. It reminded me of a couple of national surveys done in the 1980s on national government finances. Both surveys found that about 40% of the respondents thought that the most costly federal program was foreign aid, which is a tiny share of the federal budget."

- David Nice, Washington State University

"One underserved factor here is the review of tax expenditures (tax credits, deductions, abatements). This is a place where governments give them out, reducing tax revenues (spending through the tax code rather than direct spending) and rarely go back and make sure they are actually doing what they say they are doing. This happens at all levels of government (fed, state, local). This would be one area I would argue we need to start with."

- Benjamin Y. Clark, Cleveland State University

Methodology

WalletHub sought to determine where taxpayers get the best and worst return on their investment by examining state and local tax payments through the prism of the services that are funded at those levels.

We divided those services into six main categories – Infrastructure, Education, Health, Safety, Economy and Pollution – and evaluated 27 total sub-metrics designed to gauge the quality and efficiency of government operations in each area. We then compared each state's Average Government Service Ranking to its ranking from our recent report on the States with the Highest & Lowest Tax Rates, ultimately arriving at a clear ROI hierarchy for taxpayers across the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Each overall category was given equal weight in this analysis. The following is a breakdown of the specific metrics that we used as well as the weights we assigned to each.

Infrastructure = 1

- Quality of Roads & Bridges: 0.4
- Public Transportation Usage Percentage: 0.2
- Average Commute Time: 0.2
- Park & Recreation Expenses Per Capita: 0.1
- Walkability: 0.1

Education = 1

- State K-12 Public School Rank: 0.3
- State University System Rank: 0.4
- Public HS Graduation Rate: 0.3

Health = 1

- Number of State and Local Hospitals per 100,000 Inhabitants: 0.2
- Public Hospital System Rank: 0.2
- Average Life Expectancy: 0.2

All Categories

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- Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live Births: 0.2
- Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses: 0.1
- Average Health Insurance Premium: 0.1

Safety = 1

- Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Inhabitants: 0.3
- Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles of Travel: 0.3
- Number of "Under the Influence" Traffic Violations per 100,000 Inhabitants: 0.2
- Sex Offenders per 100,000 Inhabitants: 0.1
- Youth Incarceration Rate per 100,000 Inhabitants: 0.1

Pollution = 1

- Water Quality: 0.5
- Air Pollution: 0.5

Economy = 1

- Unemployment Rate: 0.3
- Average Income/ Cost of Living: 0.3
- Annual Rate of Job Growth, Adjusted for Population Growth: 0.1
- Home Price Volatility: 0.1
- Percentage of Residents Living Below the Poverty Line: 0.1
- Economic Mobility Rank: 0.1

Sources: The data used to compile this report is courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. News & World Report, TRIP, Environmental Working Group, America's Health Rankings, FBI, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Parents for Megan's Law and the Crime Victims Center, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Medicare.gov, Manhattan Institute, Families USA, Social Science Research Council, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, The Equality of Opportunity Project, and WalletHub research.

Author

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John Kiernan is Senior Writer & Editor at Evolution Finance. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a BA in Journalism, a minor in Sport Commerce & Culture,...

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DISCUSSION

Your thoughts?

Post your comment

Dmstowe: Does this normalize for different costs associated with providing services that individual states may face. For instance, Kansas is a physically large state which makes maintaining high quality roads a more expensive proposition than say Rhode Island. Likewise, California may face special geologic difficulties in providing quality water and housing markets in Arizona and Florida may be volatile for reasons completely outside the state's control. If ROI doesn't take into account how these sorts of things may jack up the ...

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Apr 23 at 09:14pm | Flag

0 Reply

ThisisXian: John,

I hope I'm not trolling with my first post here, but I notice that states with highest ROI don't appear in your "Detailed Breakdown". In other words, they ranked best for ROI, but didn't rank in the top 5 in any of the categories you used to determine best states for ROI (low crime, best water, etc). Wyoming for example, ranks 1st for ROI, but only appears in your "detailed breakdown" once— fifth place for low crime. No where else does Wyoming appear in the breakdown. Texas doesn't appear at all.

...

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Apr 23 at 04:54pm | Flag

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82

All Categories

Bennash: So if low cost effective govt is possible, then that should be the goal: make all services cheaper. Can we all agree on that? Why be wastful? No one can argue for waste.

Apr 22 at 07:25am | Flag

0

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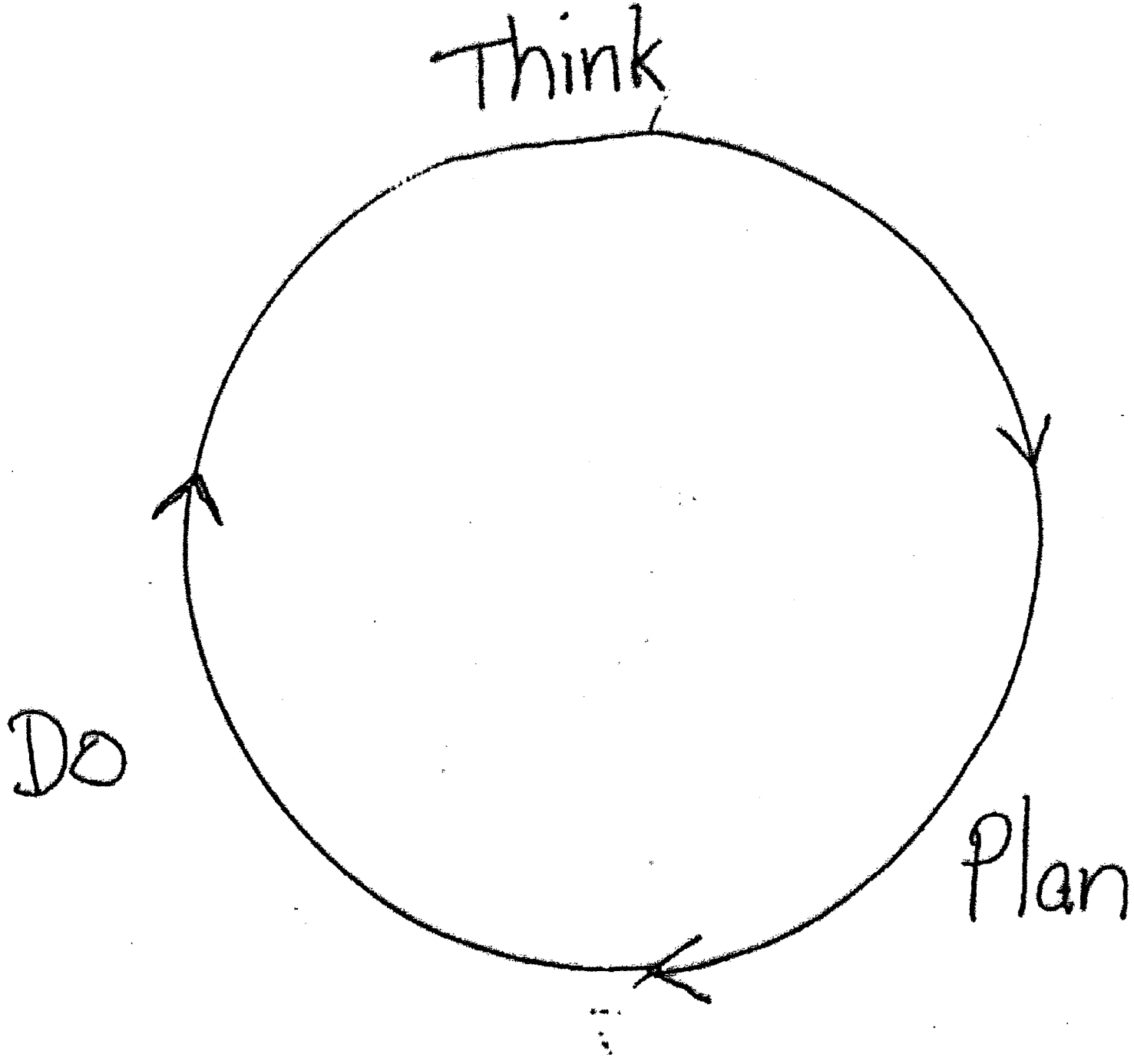


図 18

The Big Picture

- We help people.
- We are…Good stewards of resources.
- We promote…Sustainable community (environment and land use and business model for the City)
- We help… each other be successful praise those who do well, get rid of those who do poorly or are not adaptable to change.
- We are…Open with each other. We talk about money, organization, goals.
- We… support each other.
- We promote…Community above self.

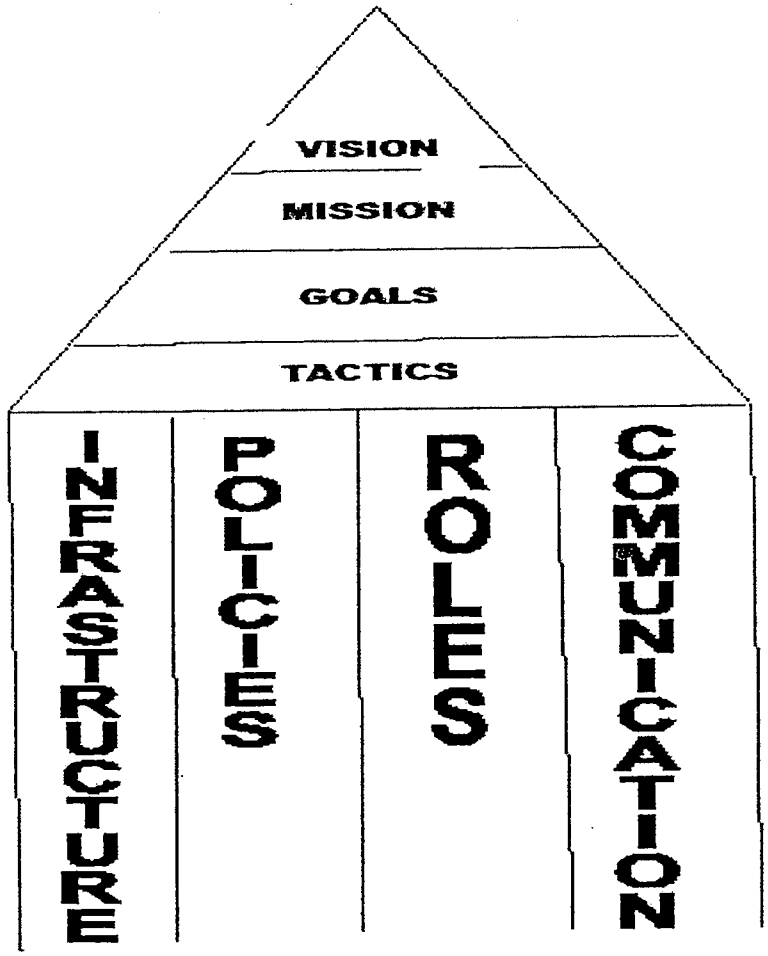
Items of Vital Importance

- Exceptional Schools
- Vibrant Business Community
- Available Early Childhood Care and Educational Opportunities
- Affordable Housing
- Plan for Changing Demographics

June 2012

Who are we?

- Where are we today?
- Where do you want to go?
- What is the plan to get there?



Who are we?

Where do you want to go?

Do we have a plan to get there?

North Commercial District (NCD)

- Provide efficient vehicular access to future commercial developments from Highway #169.
- Improve the pedestrian and multi-modal circulation within the North Commercial District.(NCD)
- Enhance the aesthetics of the Highway #169 corridor through design and landscaping.
- Segregate commercial activity including lighting, noise and vehicular traffic from the residentially developed neighborhoods.
- Reduce vehicular conflicts and improve the safety of the public.
- Support the goals and policies within the Highway #169 Inter-Regional Corridor Study as to access and crossings.
- Promote the provision of meeting or large group activities (City Council).
- Diverse and sustainable building design and standards emphasizing enhanced accessibility. (City Council).
- Enhanced enjoyment and utilization of Hallett's Pond site (City Council).
- Modified April 2013

DOWNTOWN PRIORITIES

- *Promote projects that improve or are sympathetic to the historic scale and nature of the downtown.*
- *Business development that promotes a mix of niche retail, food/beverage and entertainment. Promotion of office uses in upper floors is valuable to retail trade in the downtown.*
- *Building enhancements that are not only historically sympathetic. This should be done while promoting upper floor housing or living in the downtown. This will enhance use of businesses by creating density. This should be done while striving to maintain retail or service businesses on the lower floors of buildings.*
- *Promote uses, events, activities that set the downtown as a place of destination.*
- *Use arts and cultural activities to promote the use of downtown as a destination.*
- *Continue to provide EDA dollars to build and upgrade buildings in the downtown.*

ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

- Council/Staff
- Council/Council
- Internal

Project goal: This project team will conduct research on the benefits and drawbacks of St. Peter's odd-year election cycle and will make a formal policy recommendation based on their research to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 5-7 students

Project #4: Child care

Project description: A 2007 study found a growing demand for child care and a lack of child care spaces in the city of St. Peter. In the six years since this study, the child care market in St. Peter has changed, but it is unclear to what extent demand is now being met. Additionally, in 2013, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill authorizing the unionization of child care workers. It is unclear what impact this will have on the number of licensed child care providers.

Project goal: This project team will research the demand for child care facilities in St. Peter and the availability of child care spots. If a greater demand exists than can be met with current facilities, this group will identify ways of incentivizing the creation of new child care facilities. The project team will make a formal presentation of collected data and the policy recommendation to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 5-7 students

Exploring Perspectives on Civility: A Community-Based Research Project

Brin Bailey, Dawn Comstock, Kyle Hilding, Margaret Lane, Michelle Myers, David Newell, Michaela Rice

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Recommendations

Through interviews and conversations with St. Peter residents, areas of opportunity were identified within the community. Based on the findings and prevailing research around civility, we generated the following recommendations. These recommendations intend to provide a framework for thought, discussion and possible future direction. These recommendations were divided into short term objectives and long term objectives.

Short Term Objectives

1. Integration of diverse languages into the community

A. Continuing/expanding/improving ESL program in schools and the community
B. Church mass in Spanish

Outcomes:
Based on the interviews, we found that residents feel a language gap is present. The above suggestions would help to eliminate language barriers within the community and school settings.

2. Continued research in the community

A. Include community members in continuing research and solution implementation
B. Establish and promote St. Peter core values

Outcomes:
By Involving the community in future research and recommendation implementation, community members become more committed to the solutions themselves. In addition to a greater commitment, continuing research by the community could result in more recommendations that address the root of problems within the community. In addition, identifying specific values allows the community to see common connections across community divisions.

3. Improved communication about events in town and at Gustavus

A. Advertising of events using non-technological means and in multiple languages

Outcomes:
Make events in town and on campus known and accessible to all demographics especially those without access to technology.

4. Diverse St. Peter community task force

Outcomes:
This would be a representative group able to speak for the identified demographic factions within the community. By having individuals from various groups of the city all in one task force, this would create a committee that addresses the wellbeing of the entire community addressed in a collaborative manner.
In the long term, this group could be designed to ensure that St. Peter continues to value civility and work towards a goal of interconnectedness. This task force could be help address current issues and head future research projects for the community.

5. Festivals

Outcomes:
Festivals create a fun environment that fosters curiosity and education about different cultures. Results could lead to a community that is more culturally aware and able to connect with one another. This could help bring to light the constancy of values across demographics.

Long Term Objectives

1. Community conversations including all demographics

Outcomes:
The purpose would be to create a culturally educated community that understands what the overall community shares in values. It could result in a greater sense of community and all people feeling equally invested in affairs of the community.

2. Shared community spaces

A. Green Space
B. Community Gardens
C. Space for Kids/Teens
D. Outdoor Grilling Spaces

Outcomes:

This would help create a space available to all people in the community. Ultimately this would foster an environment to meet new people and develop connections across demographics.

3. Community Leadership program

A. Generate a program within the community that is geared toward developing community leaders across demographics

Outcomes: The program would contribute to the growth and development of residents interested in becoming community leaders for the purpose of furthering civility in St. Peter.

4. As a community, engage in conversations around Peter Block's questions

What commitment am I willing to make?
What am I willing to pay?
What is my contribution to the problem I am concerned with?
What do we want to create together?
(Block, 2003)

Outcomes:
Conversations centering around these question could lead to a greater, community awareness, understanding, connectedness, and an overall cohesive community.

Proposed Park Pavilion

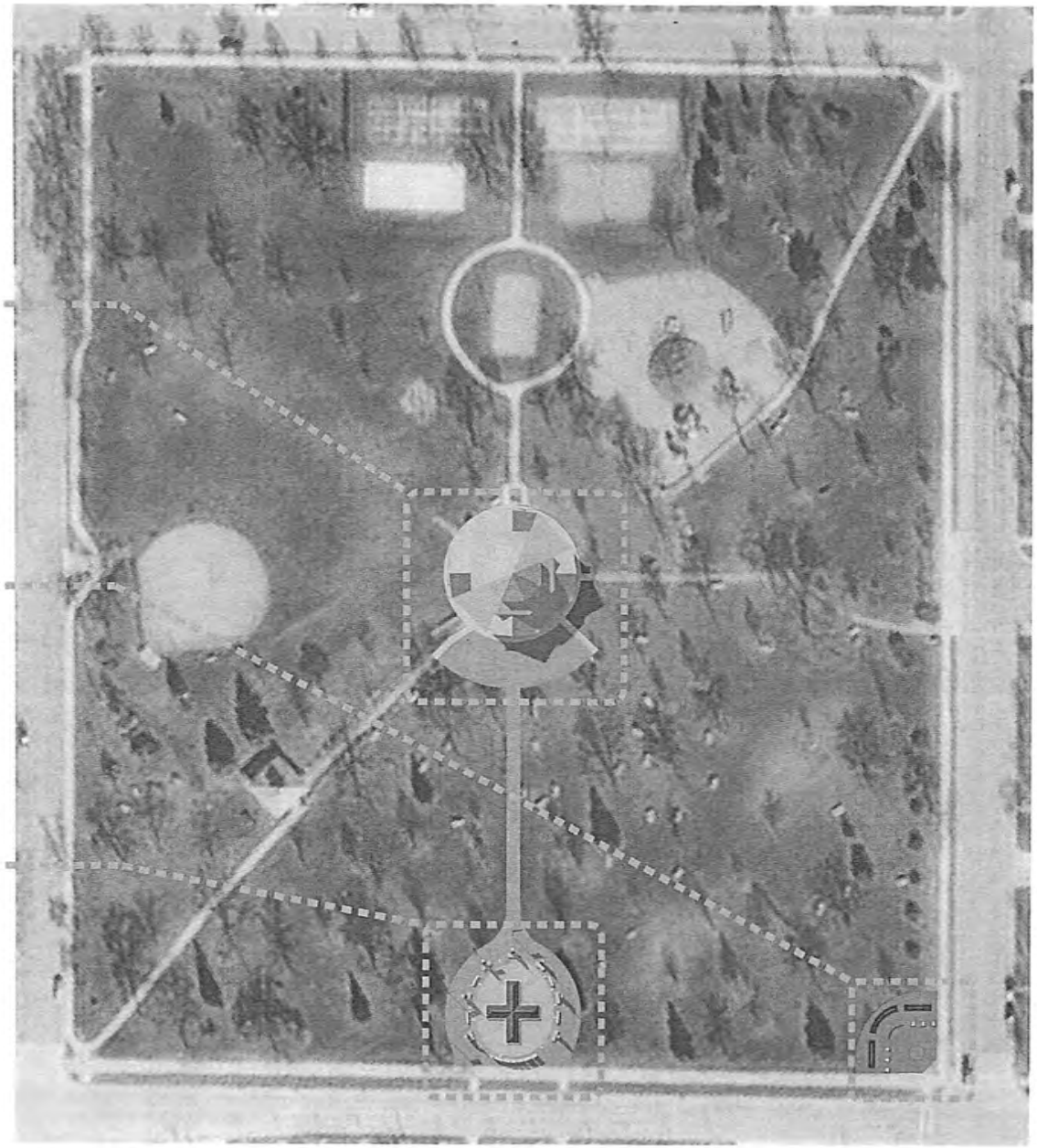
Minnesota Square Park - 473,578 Square Feet
Proposed Park Pavilion - 13,000 Square Feet
2.7% of total park area

Proposed Veteran's Memorial (2nd location)

Minnesota Square Park - 473,578 Square Feet
Proposed Veterans Memorial - 3,600 Square Feet
0.07% of total park area

Proposed Veterans Memorial (1st Location)

Minnesota Square Park - 473,578 Square Feet
Proposed Veterans Memorial - 11,044 Square Feet
2.3% of total park area



Minnesota Square Park Aerial

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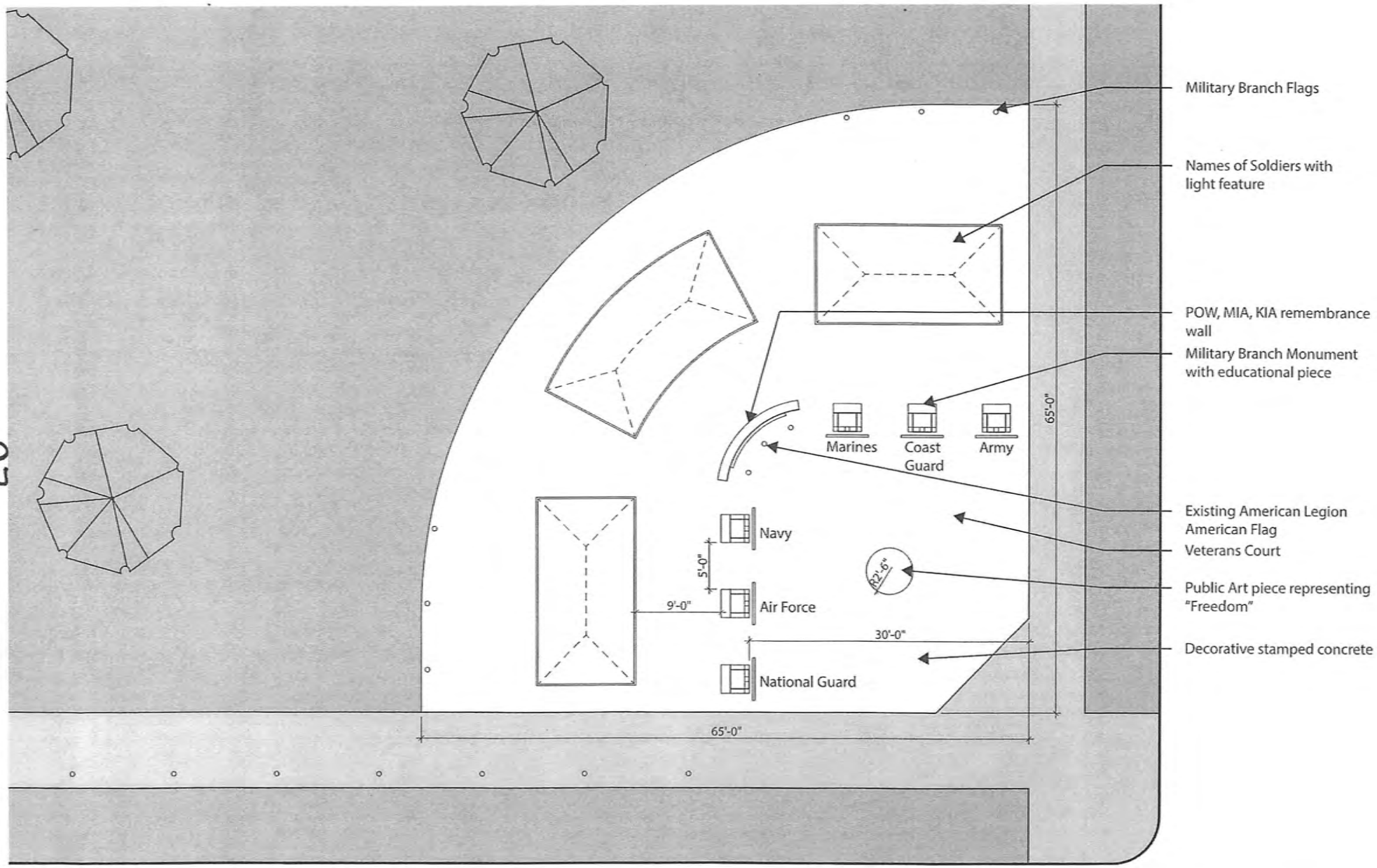

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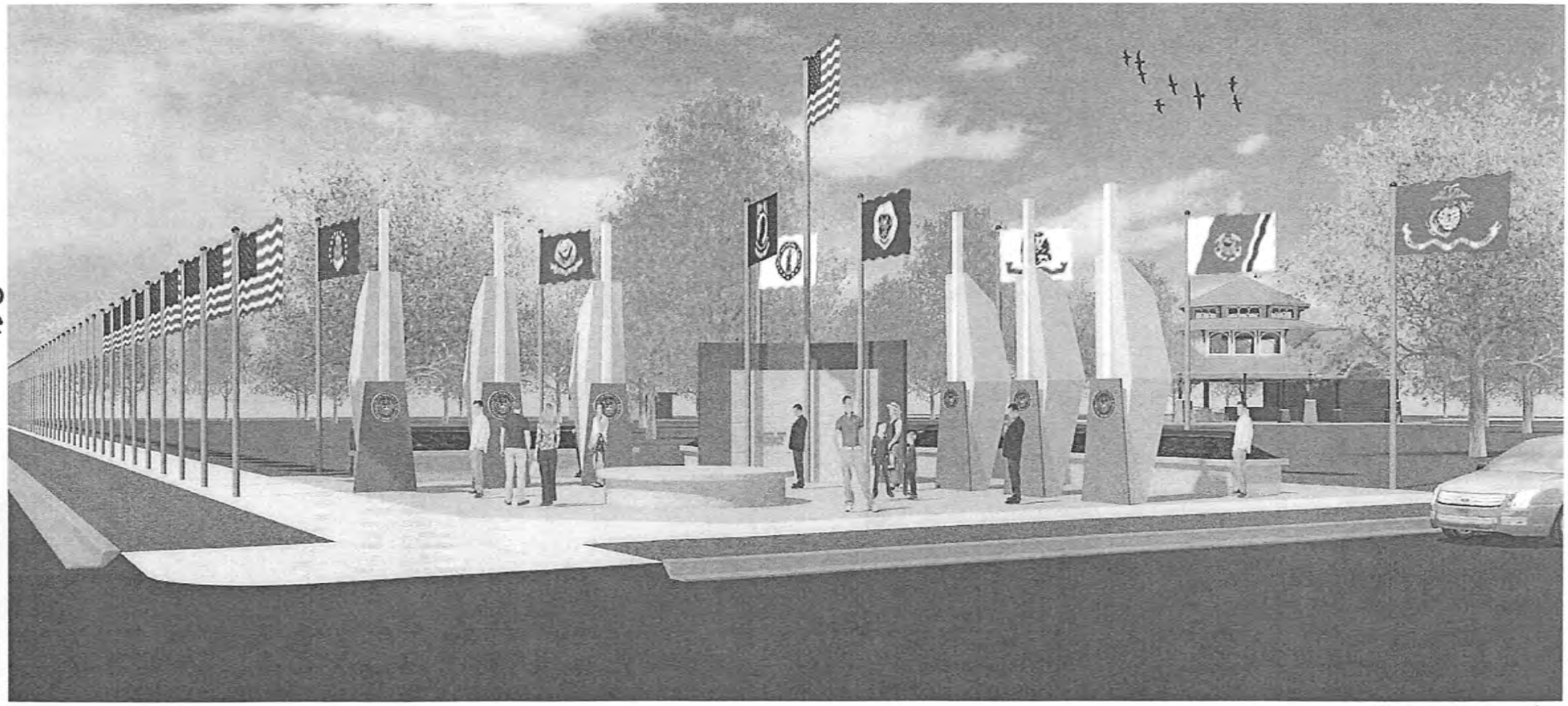

Corner Perspective
HW !69 & College Avenue

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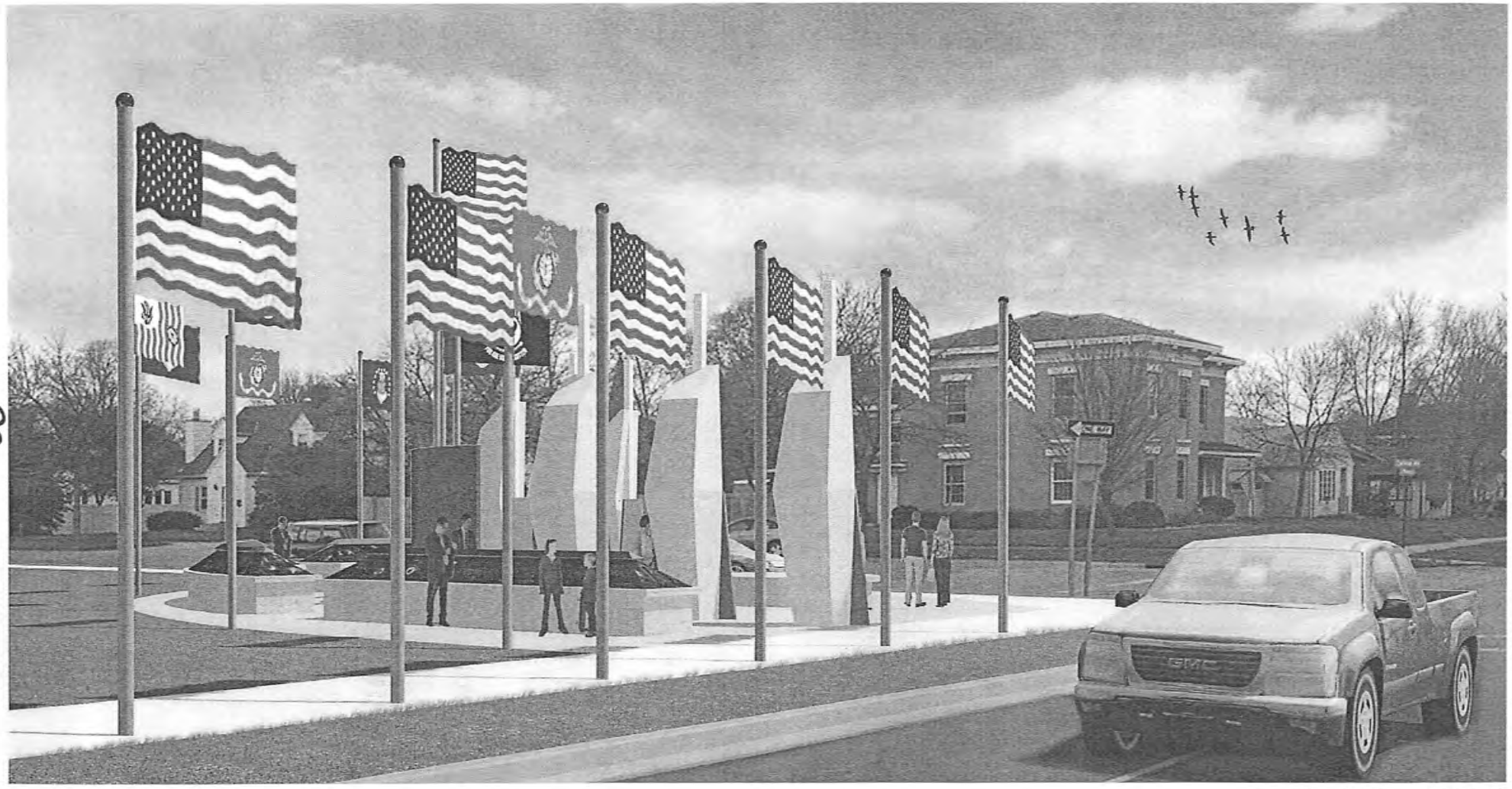

Looking North on HW 169
towards College Avenue

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Veterans Court Perspective

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