

# Envision Lakeville: 'Cultivate a Sense of Community' Taskforce

## PURPOSE/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Envision Lakeville: 'Cultivate a Sense of Community' Taskforce (Taskforce) exists to support and further enhance the City of Lakeville's community vision. Initiated in 2013 and updated in 2018, Envision Lakeville provides strategic direction for the City's future. The Vision, Community Values and Strategic Priorities serve as an important framework for the evolving needs of our diverse community and must continue to be updated. Emphasis for the Taskforce will be to address and enhance the short-term and long-term strategies that foster opportunities for all to feel a sense of belonging within the City of Lakeville through the '*Cultivate a Sense of Community*' strategic priority.

In late 2012, a Taskforce charged with developing the initial Envision Lakeville plan outlined that, "A sense of community arises from social as well as physical infrastructure and connections. Lakeville will continue to strongly support the social institutions – such as neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, recreation and athletics, community celebrations and more – in which families, friends and neighbors connect with one another and create a sense of community and belonging." Initiatives for this area were then categorized by time periods: 1-5 years, 6-15 years and 16-25 years. Some of the initiatives have not yet been addressed. A non-exhaustive list includes:

- 1-5 years: Create a plan to expand community events
- 6-15 years: Create a master plan to develop and utilize multi-purpose facilities
- 6-15 years: Identify ways to expand and support already established groups and activities
- 6-15 years: Identify new ways in which we can bring together segments of the community

The Taskforce's initiatives were in response to two themes that arose from focus group discussion and survey data stating that Lakeville is "disjointed," "lacks diversity," and has "something missing in the life experience of the community."

In early 2018, the Taskforce was brought back together and charged to "Review implementation progress on the Envision Lakeville plan, changes in the community, stakeholder feedback, and recommend modifications to the plan, as appropriate." The Taskforce identified several accomplishments which were noted and summarized, yet, fell short of other strategic priorities. The Taskforce also identified negative trends and suggested initiatives. Examples include:

- A comparison of the 2013 and 2018 community surveys indicated a notable decrease in resident engagement within the community.
- A community leader work session noted "diversity" and "workforce housing" as the most frequently mentioned priorities the City should consider moving forward.
- A community leader work session identified one of the top *Horizon Issues* as understanding the makeup of the community and how to plan for the changing demographics.

- The Taskforce suggested initiatives related to lifelong recreation opportunities, walkability to destinations, addressing diversity (dealing with issue of being an inclusive/welcoming community) and identifying ways Lakeville stands out as a community people choose.

In August of 2020, the City agreed to hold a series of “Community Conversations on Race” in light of rising inclusion concerns. A working group was formed and the group organized three events that provided opportunities for individuals to share their stories as BIPOC members of the Lakeville community. The events facilitated relationship building and challenging dialogue but also highlighted the gaps members of the Lakeville community experience in the City’s effort to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*.

As Lakeville’s population continues to grow, so too will its richness of diversity. As the presence of different cultures, ages, abilities, and customs in Lakeville increases, it is imperative for us as a community to understand who we are today and to anticipate who we will become as Lakeville grows. This proposal supports this effort through building community engagement and connection.

See Attached Envision Lakeville Summary

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Taskforce is an advisory body of the City Council with responsibility to provide information and assistance in enhancing the strength and accountability of Envision Lakeville’s values and strategic priorities. As its primary duties, the Taskforce shall:
  - a. Develop a proposal to initiate a community survey to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the City’s efforts to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*. This survey will help measure progress of the Envision Lakeville strategic plan and will be similar to surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. Additional questions may be fashioned to collect data specific to the needs of the taskforce.
  - b. Alongside the survey work above, develop and initiate community focus groups to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the City’s efforts to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*.
  - c. Utilize collected community input to propose action steps and strategies to enhance the City’s efforts to *Cultivate a Sense of Community*.
  - d. Provide recommendations to create better awareness of current census data about who we are today.
  - e. Provide recommendations to City Council for community events with the purpose of celebrating who we are and developing deeper connections among community members.
  - f. Provide recommendations to City Council, as appropriate, and present a final report to the City Council by July 1, 2022.

## **TITLE**

The official title of this group shall be the “Envision Lakeville: ‘Cultivate a Sense of Community’ Taskforce.”

## **MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Taskforce shall consist of nine (9) persons appointed by the City Council.
2. The nine-member committee shall serve without compensation. However, the Taskforce may, with the consent of the City Council, incur expense that is deemed necessary as supported by the approved City Budget.
3. The qualifications of the members of the Taskforce shall be those who, in judgement of the Council, are representative of the communities' diversity.
4. The Taskforce shall elect a Chairperson and Secretary from amongst its appointed members

## **STAFF LIAISON**

The staff liaison to the Taskforce shall be the City Administrator (or designee).

## **PROCEDURE**

1. Regular meeting dates of the Taskforce shall be determined by the appointed members.
2. The Agenda shall be prepared, published and sent to committee members five (5) days before the next regular meeting.
3. A committee quorum shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members.
4. The committee shall hold at least one regular meeting each quarter.
5. The Taskforce will complete their work and provide a final report to the City Council by July 1, 2022

# Envision Lakeville

## Vision Statement

“We envision a thriving, multi-generational community where families, friends and neighbors connect, live, learn, work and play. Great schools; a diverse local economy; exceptional parks, trails, and recreational opportunities; vibrant social and cultural institutions; safe neighborhoods and responsive and cost-effective public services— together create a place we are proud to call home.”

## Community Values

### **Diversified Economic Development**

We value the stability and independence provided by a strong, diversified local economy.

### **Good Value for Public Services**

We value high quality public services delivered cost- effectively.

### **Safety throughout the Community**

We value living in a community where people feel safe everywhere they go.

### **Design That Connects the Community**

We value a well-designed community and we place a priority on development that enhances connectivity and accommodates our changing needs.

### **High Quality Education**

We value and are committed to high quality education that sets us apart.

### **A Home for All Ages and Stages of Life**

We value living options for people of all ages and stages of life.

### **A Sense of Community and Belonging**

We value the sense of belonging that comes from our traditions and institutions, and we strive to support and preserve them.

### **Access to a Multitude of Natural Amenities and Recreational Opportunities**

We value widespread access to nature, the outdoors, and recreational opportunities of all kinds.

## Strategic Priorities

Increase Economic Sustainability

Support High Quality Education

Develop a Community of Choice

Cultivate a Sense of Community

Provide Services That Add Value