



Minnehaha County Is Planning Ahead!

The document that will guide development for the next 20 years is nearly complete. The Minnehaha County Comprehensive Plan, Envision 2035, has been in the works since the beginning of 2012. Planners have gathered public input through open houses and regular meetings with a task force to discuss plan elements. On March 24th, an open house was held at West Central High School to present a draft plan and gather any additional public response. The planning department presented a preliminary overview of the proposed comprehensive plan as new business at the planning commission meeting on April 27.

Envision 2035 is divided into nine chapters and an appendix that is used to display maps and additional information. Six plan elements compose most of the plan's core aspects that will guide development. These elements include: economic development, rural conservation & housing density, land & water resources, transportation, future land use, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Feel free to visit envision2035.minnehahacounty.org for more details on the recently adopted comprehensive plan!



New Planning Commissioner Appointed

Doug Ode casted his first vote as a planning commissioner at the regular meeting in April. Doug joined the Planning Commission out of a desire to represent production agriculture. He brings a knowledgeable background of livestock production because of his experience with his own dairy operation. He has ample experience as part of various associations and volunteer positions. The Minnehaha County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Doug Ode as Planning Commissioner. Please join in welcoming Mr. Ode's experience to the County Planning Commission!

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Editor: Kevin Hoekman

UPCOMING MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

Planning Commission

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
August 24	(July 31)
Sept. 28	(Aug. 28)
October 26	(Oct. 2)
Nov. 23	(Oct. 30)

**Offices Closed on Holidays
No Meeting in December**

MOVING FORWARD

Planning Ahead



ENVISION 2035

Open House at West Central High School in Hartford

On March 24th, the Minnehaha County Planning Department conducted an open house in order to present a draft copy of the comprehensive plan to the general public for input, comments, and/or revisions. Each plan element was presented as a poster and a couple of copies of the document were available for viewing. The event was a success with an attendance of 20 citizens signing the attendance sheet.



Photos show citizens visiting with staff and viewing posters of the comprehensive plan element.

Photos taken by Scott Anderson

Construction Season In Full Swing

Construction season has arrived, and building permits are being issued far faster than last year's pace. At the close of the first three months of this year, 130 building permits have been issued totaling \$8,703,692 in construction value; this is a difference of 85 building permits and \$5,906,482 from this time last year.

Eleven of the 2015 building permits were for a single family dwelling unit. Although this is a quick pace for permits in recent years, many more permits would have to be issued to catch up to the new residence construction of the late 1990's and early 2000's. The average annual new dwelling units from 2002-2014 totaled 61.5 housing units. The pace of construction appears as if it will continue at least through April. The day that I am writing this the Planning Department issues yet another two single family dwelling units and a large commercial storage building.

All the new construction has kept Dan Kistler, Chief Building Inspector, busy with inspections and calls throughout the county. These inspection requests have been especially high for construction phases that require timely response to move forward such as footings and septic system inspections. Over the summer months Dan expects to complete hundreds of inspection each month.



2015 American Planning Association National Conference—April 18-21 'Sustainable Seattle'

Every year the American Planning Association (APA) holds a national conference in a major city. This year the APA Conference was located in Seattle Washington. Over 6,400 planners from the US and elsewhere attended the four day event. The City of Seattle is a leader in planning for sustainable land uses which is the reason for the theme of 'Sustainable Seattle'. Some of the notable aspects of Seattle planning is the extensive bicycle lanes, urban growth boundary, local food systems, and transit orientated design.

Minnehaha County Planning Department sent two staff members to the conference to learn from the hundreds of choices of workshops, sessions, speakers, mobile workshops, and convention hall booths. By attending the event our planners will understand the cutting edge planning techniques, trends, and policies that may be able to be used here to develop Minnehaha County in a sustainable way.



This was the second APA Conference attended by David Heinold, and the first one as a planning professional. David noted that this experience allows him to better find "solutions that improve the quality of life for county residents, better management of growth and development, and streamlining the process for agricultural production support."

Planning Commissioners

Wayne Steinhauer

Wall Lake Area
2011-2015

Becky Randall

Dell Rapids Area
2013-2017

Doug Ode

Brandon Area
2015-2019

Mike Cypher

Wall Lake Area
2013-2017

Bonnie Duffy

Split Rock Area
2012-2016

Jeff Barth

County Commission
Representative
2015

Bill Even

Humboldt Area
2014-2017

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Minnehaha County

Planning & Zoning Newsletter

Moving Forward ~ Planning Ahead

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Submit newsletter photos, news, stories,
or events to David Heinold by Oct. 31!
More news to come!