

**Town of Gravelbourg Community and Cultural Planning Process
Community Engagement Session – March 18, 2014
Lion’s Den 7:00– 9:00 pm**

Welcome and Introductions

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014 a community engagement session was held at the Gravelbourg Lion’s Den for the community and cultural planning process.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the community and cultural planning process and engage the community in some hands-on planning exercises. Over 40 people including community residents, business owners, Town and rural representatives and stakeholders were in attendance.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

- Welcome and Introductions
- How Planning Helps Communities
- The Planning Process
- Getting to the Work of Planning – Rolling up our Sleeves
 - Hope Setting
 - Visioning
 - Mapping our Future
- Reflections and Next Steps

A round of introductions was shared around the room. Participants were asked to share their names, where they live, and one of their favourite things about Gravelbourg.

Background and Context

- Prairie Wild Consulting Co., has been contracted by the Town to engage the community of Gravelbourg in planning for your future. This process includes the creation and adoption of an Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, and respective maps as per the requirements of *the Planning and Development Act, 2007* and *the Statements of Provincial Interest*.
- Gravelbourg has received funds from SaskCulture to undertake cultural and community planning. Through this process, the Town will have an extensive cultural and heritage policy section embedded in the OCP.

Our Roles

In addition to welcome and introductions, our roles were shared as part of the process. This included roles as facilitative planners, participants, and together. The roles are shared below.

Facilitative Planners	Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare the process for this session. • To ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate. • To help the group move through the process in a timely manner. • To utilize our technical skillset to work with you to prepare local planning tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To participate and provide input into the planning process. • To keep an open mind and participate in individual and group exercises. • To dialogue and provide suggestions and direction for improvements and next steps. • To trust our views are important and respected as an essential part of our success.
<p>Together, for all of us to learn something new, have fun, and share with each other through this process.</p>	

Collaborative Decision Making Model

The community and cultural planning process is based on a collaborative decision making model. This model ensures that everyone has the ability to have a voice and participate equally. A collaborative decision-making model is utilized to make decisions throughout the process and the long term.

This model allows for all range of opinions to be heard, from: *I like it, I like the basic idea, I can live with it, no opinion, I don't want to stop anyone else but I don't want to be involved in its implementation, I don't like it but will support the group decision.* The idea is to create an open space where everyone can voice their opinions and be heard throughout the process. This model guides the community to create a shared vision that everyone can live with.

Foundations for Success

Foundations for Success were created amongst the group in order to ensure a productive and successful meeting and process. These include:

- Respecting Time
- Good Listeners
- Engagement
- Fun
- Refreshments
- Open-Mindedness
- Plan
- Goal
- Respect Opinions
- Different Views

Overall Goal of the Planning Process

The goal of the community and cultural planning process is to create an Official Community Plan with a vision, goals, and policies that reflect the community voice and to assist the Town with land use decision making over the next 25+ years.

How Planning Helps Communities

Community members were shown a number of planning examples across Saskatchewan and beyond of communities who have and have no planning in place. Examples shown included no sense, non-sense, sense and essence.

The Planning Process

- It was shared that an Official Community Plan (OCP) is a comprehensive document that guides the physical, environmental, social, and cultural development of a municipality. The Zoning Bylaw is an implementation tool of the Plan that includes specific lot requirements (e.g. heights, setbacks, etc.).
- *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* and *the Statements of Provincial Interest* are the legislative documents that outline the requirements of an OCP and Zoning Bylaw.
 - As per *the Planning and Development Act, 2007*, a professional planner is required to sign off on an OCP.
- The Planning Process is organized into four phases:
 - Phase 1: Gathering and collecting information;
 - Phase 2: Community assessment and community engagement;
 - Phase 3: Developing the planning tools including the OCP and Zoning Bylaw;
 - Phase 4: Concurrently providing guidance and input into related projects, activities, and programs being undertaken.
- We are currently in Phases 1 and 2 of the community and cultural planning process.
- Policies contained within the OCP are written to a number of planning themes including, though not limited to:
 - Transportation/Infrastructure; Natural Resources/Ecological; Social/Health/Safety/Education; Land Use: Residential, Commercial and Industrial; Economic Development/Tourism; Cultural/Heritage/Recreational Amenities; and Inter-Municipal Cooperation.

Exploring our Future

After a quick break, participants were asked to come back to the larger group and the following exercise was explained:

Hope Setting

Imagine, in 2039 this Community has been celebrated as one of the best communities in our Province. What did we do to get here?

- Share your story of the key decisions you made to achieve this.
- Your recorder will frame your story into GOALS/AIMS/HOPES
- *Be as specific and general as you wish.*
- The hopes become the goals, objectives, and policies of the OCP.

Participants were counted off into groups and given one to two planning themes. They also had the opportunity to switch groups and add to another theme. The hopes from the session are summarized below:

Community Economic Development and Tourism

In 2039...

- Recreational activities and facilities
- Build on heritage and culture (by producing festivals, etc.)
- Attracting manufacturing and processing by having available land, workforce, accommodations and transportation
- Sustainable and responsible use and protection of the environment
- Attractive, affordable real estate market
- Maintaining and enhancing excellent infrastructure
- Using smart technology to enhance technology acquisition and quality of life
- Let's get a Tim Horton's to come here!

- Walking path/biking
- Skate/bike park
- Spray park
- All season use of facilities (multi-use)
- Music and entertainment – seasonal? outdoor?
- Upgrading and expanding green spaces
- Expanding and maintaining Lion's Park
- Youth programs i.e. Cadets, Girl Guides
- Youth/Senior visits/groups
 - e.g. reading programs
- Youth Council – voice to be heard
- Funding and support of commerce
 - Infrastructure in place for expansion
- Bingo, Car bingo
- Community garden

Inter-Municipal Cooperation

In 2039...

- Sustain and enhance hospital, education, international school
- Recreation facilities
 - Utilize each other's'/equal contributions
- Working together to develop economics rather than competing
- Retention of what we have
- Communication between political bodies, etc.
- Regional alliances

Heritage and Cultural Resources

In 2039...

- Maintain and repurpose existing heritage buildings
 - Convent
 - Cathedral/churches
 - Main Street – Essence/branding of “A touch of Europe on the Prairies” – products of
 - Theatre
 - Heritage homes
 - Cultural centre
 - Library
- New construction adhere to community theme
- French heritage/religion
- Multi-culturalism

Transportation and Infrastructure

In 2039...

- Retention of what we have
- Plan of upkeep/maintenance for roads, water, sewer, etc
- More “green” approach
- Rail line support
- Bus service

Natural Resources and Ecological Sensitivities

In 2039...

- Building our own foundations
- Oil exploration
- Higher culturally diverse population
- Losing natural resources as we will become a ‘bedroom community’ of Moose Jaw
- Highly specialized agricultural (and mechanized)
- Highly technologically advanced community
- Expanded and successful community forest

Community and Recreational Amenities and Services

In 2039...

- Regional cooperation regarding Aquaplex & Leisure Centre
- Continued availability of rink
- Seniors club and activities

- Better developed green spaces and walking/biking trail around the community, including the Wood River
- Better waste management; All recycling to reduce landfill abuse
- Value added raw commodities
- Finding and building partnerships

- Fire department
- Safe community
- EMS ambulance

Education

- Bilingual programs
- Literacy program – ESL
- Day cares
- Expand on Great Plains College programs

Social, Health, Safety, & Education

In 2039...

Social

- Community recreational goals
 - Preserve parks and green spaces
 - Preserve what we have
 - Add walking paths, bicycle trails, trees tennis court, new community hall, library, day care centres

Health

- Preserve acute care
- Assisted living – senior centre
- Expansion of community programs
- Enhance wellness, nutrition, mental health services
- Therapies, etc. home care

Safety

- Maintain RCMP

Land Use: Residential, Commercial, Industrial

In 2039...

Residential

- Map of future growth
- Apartment blocks
- Housing – new development(s)
- Continued revitalization

Commercial

- Another commercial zone off of Main Street
- Defined area for industrial/commercial expansion and infrastructure (Bypass, etc.)
- Build up the berm (flood plain)

Industrial

- Have a zone for potential industrial with services

Afterwards, the participants were asked to share their hopes with the group and what they noticed about them. This became the foundation to starting a draft vision for the Town. The vision adjectives are shared below:

- Heritage and cultural resources
- Sense of community
- Quality of life
- Amenities
- Natural Resources – culture, heritage
 - Making boundaries, having open doors
 - Town's best interest
 - Balance
- Growth
- Building relationships with industry, others
- Maintaining communication throughout the community

Next Steps

- It was shared that information from tonight's meeting will be synthesized and put into summary notes that will be circulated around to participants and community members will be invited to participate in a second community that will include a review and further input into the Hopes and a Future Land Use Mapping exercise.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 25th, 2014 at the Lion's Den from 7:00– 9:00 pm. Refreshment to be provided.**

Thank you! 😊