

Yellow group–

Introductions

9 attendees plus 3 facilitators

What does community mean to you

Safety (228), Comfort (229)

Communication (230)

I Sharing something- Place, Experience. (231)

Identity – our little secret (232)

How do you envision this wc – GrandChildren

The same, but improved, “Rural” like – the way it is- but improved (233)

Space better utilized for rural atmosphere(234), better maintained paths(235)

Improved transportation, trains, (236) more efficient transportation (237)

No Section8 around here (238)

I like paths or houses, single family (239)

What we have, everyone knows everyone and looks out for each other (240)

Love deer, turkey (241) - Don't think we will have a train (242)

Bus route (243)

stopped from expanding Park and Ride (244)

## 2 Continued

Stopped them from building parking lot most people from Maplewood(245)

Should have more transportation in future (246)

Know each other more (247)

More connecting between apartments and home owners (248)

I would like to connect more (249)

I would like the neighborhood more open and aware of what is happening, who my neighbors are, but not to lose the rural feel (250)

Feel like the space that we could all meet and share, we can find how we can all benefit (251)

Opportunity in a place to share (252)

I can bring my kids to a place where kids from apts might bring their kids, all families can benefit (253)

A core to our Highwood communities (254)

I wish to see a shared space, feel welcome in (255)

Looking for our kids to find a community (256)

It would be nice to have a space to draw people together (257)

Rec center (258)

Library (259)

Nature Center (260)

Coffee Shop (261)

Opportunities – rec center (262), houses (263), single family houses(264), people can enjoy it (265)

Gold mine for ideas (266)

My idea a balance, a good vision for love it the way it is(267)

We don't really know our neighbors, too far apart (268)

Can't be left how it is now – housing (269)

Great chance to create a whole community (270)

Amenities good for kids to death (for all ages) something for everyone(271)

Nobody wants it (the land) (272)

What do we want our neighborhood to be (273)

### 3 Opportunities community to work together

Halloween Party someplace for kids (274)

Block party – define differently (275)

Getting people together (276)

There are lots of block parties (277)

Can we work Totem Town for Space (278)

We need to bring in people who don't look like us (279)

We want to reach across and meet people in the middle (280)

The of neighborhood are arbitrary. This will affect all District, River, City Parks, all of St. Paul, Minneapolis, This is big land, will affect all of the city (281)

If we are talking about – the people in this room, in immediate neighborhood (282)

Into action by use of area (283)

Large events we need to go out of our area (284)

3.

We need to see what we already have and look 50 years into future (285)

Things will get more dense and we will lose open space (286)

We need to get together with an idea. If we don't have an idea the city will come in and do what it wants. (287)

There is value to open land. Other org that could come in that are complimentary to open space (288)

A youth camp in woods that is 20 mins from house (289)

Opportunities – we really don't know what isn't possible (290)

We are hear to get ideas (291)

80 acres in prime land – want to keep it the way it is (292)

Safety concerns are rising. How do we preserve safe community? (293)

How much control do we have? How do we partner? (294)

Getting to vision on working together. Getting (295)

Why are we not meeting needs of children (296)

Out of home is not new

No transportation

No girls

Changing needs & thinking

Nothing for youth with mental health issues

St. Paul can meet the needs if they could figure it out (297)

Property and juvenile issues need to be separated (298)

Clarification of what is happening re:juvenile justice (299)

We could have a community meeting

What is the level of specificity

If we are looking to establish relationships (300)

How do we engage other people

Can we have a gathering to get together and meet (301)

Interfaith meal – is that a format for this? (302)

Interfaith meeting (303)

Could take that structure – Police, councils, (304)

Has this happened elsewhere

Precedent study on has this happened before, will it happen again. What is the process (305)

We can't have it one way we need to give and take (306)

How much time will it take (307), who are we talking to with our plan (308)

We should have planners look at this (309)

Planners who can study the land and help us to know what we can do in a more educated way (310)

We are missing the data. Here (311)

Need more information to keep going (312)

- architect, (313)

Council – here is the best recommendations (314)

- What we need to do is to present compelling vision
- Make it so compelling to have a great plan

We have a plan – So why do we need a plan (315)

- Why do we need a plan. Highwood plan is not a legal document

City took out portions and incorporated them

What is it you would want to know more about

Information on land – slopes, layout (316)

How many acres are buildable (317)

Develop planning process – Got the level you need at Ford Plant (318)

Who do we need to talk to (319)

Slope study (320)

Talk to PED for map on slope, trees cut (321)

What is buildable space so we can visualize (322)

Are we contacting people – how to bring more people to these (323)

Knock on doors, we need to be casting a wider net (324)

- Volunteer opportunities

## RED GROUP notes

Our group had 11 people (two or three coming quite late). I think only 1 is a renter, but 3 in the room were people of color, 2 (1 Asian, 1 white) had moved here in last six months. Three D1 council members (Paul, Timothy, Bonnie) and two (Seynab, Bonnie, very belatedly Shirley) BTT work group members.

### What does community mean to you?

- Friends and neighbors on our street, living in the house we grew up in, went to school together. Don't agree on everything but ability to talk about disagreements or problems. Help each other. New neighbors too, with fresh perspectives, getting woven into fabric.
- Roots, recognize mutual histories, accept each other's idiosyncracies (like building a fence to keep deer out but leaving big gate they can walk through). Getting to know each other's parents and grandparents.
- A place you can identify with, where you belong, common bond. Like the State Fair "almost everybody gets there, no matter their background."
- Basically one mile radius of BTT
- Shared set of goals, values, interests, can be geography or other factors
- Opposite of individualism and isolation. When people go walking, stop and get to know each other. Want people to get to know my elderly mother.
- Share environment, don't have to agree on everything, want to make it better – "community depends on the work people put into it"
- Helping immediate neighbors, keeping eye out – family been on East Side 4 generations, so larger community, try to shop here – can feel different energy in different areas
- Coming together across differences, like homeowners and renters – "If we're all Lutherans, that's not community" – bridging differences makes it sustainable
- See the reflection of people coming together regardless of race, no discrimination, community being like my family. Integrating, loving, necessity of coming together and learning each other. Defend and protect dignity and safety. Health, education, shopping centers. Every resource should be there – accessible, have to welcome everybody. [When asked if she feels safe now, 1 attendee (apt dweller said YES and that she has lived here since January 2000.)

### What are some opportunities for our community to work together?

- national night out, international NO had 600 people at Conway, beautiful, age mix. Made me want to get involved and plugged in. But, need for good transportation.
- Peace meal at BC middle school. Is another one planned?
- Better transportation – Paul took bus to downtown in snowstorm, took 90 minutes from Londin stop [many said, not much better even without snowstorm...]
- On our street we do a neighborhood picnic once a year, lot of social events rest of the year
- Have we considered doing a progressive dinner (one course each at several different houses)?
- Fair amount of interest in doing NNO event here at BTT. In the past BTT hosted a potluck with kids and their families and neighbors, it was great and some of those kids seem so young you just want to hug them. Timothy: the love and connectedness you talk about for community, that's exactly what these kids need.
- 1 attendee coming late Says he has worked with the kids here, lived here since 67, classic car show guy – shows them how to build, enjoy, ride in them and not steal them. He likes the neighbors and neighborhood, would hate to see the whole property redeveloped, likes the wildlife.
- (facilitator note that on the tour, the staff talked about events connecting the kids to outside world such as regular basketball games here against high school teams – just sayin' there have been SOME community interactions...)

### What do you want to know about this site and this process?

- [new neighbor] what's the point of discussing this, with so many unknowns?
- Can the current buildings be reused? [we said seems very unlikely, but many seem to wish for this...]
- Some talk/questions/comments about the value to kids in BTT. 1 attendee says one of his immediate neighbors is a kid who was in BTT, said it did him good – 1 attendee knows some too that he has worked with. We noted that census is way down from original 100+, now more like low 20s.
- Are there other possible uses for the land that the county might want to use? 1 attendee said she has not seen much excitement with city or county for any new initiatives but who knows? 1 attendee said Met Council has funds for “special opportunity parks” and recommended checking out Silverwood Park in Minneapolis – MC bought land vacated by Salvation Army and built a community space building with amphitheater and more, can be rented for weddings etc to generate some revenue, 83 acres, seems very similar. She noted that St Paul Parks dept is the implementing agency so that would have to go through them.

### How do you envision this area for your grandchildren?

- Spend time with him, walk the dog, explore unique beautiful area. Don't want them wandering down to Highway 61 or crossing Lower Afton. Not long ago Lakota Indians were still coming to Pigs Eye Lake for ceremonies. BTT land is a rare place where nothing has changed [sic] and we don't value it enough. We've started attracting backyard wildlife by heated water, etc, could do more of that in BTT [some say: already a lot of wildlife here]
- Mailland is gravel, grew up looking for agates and rocks, grandkids still looking for rocks, catch frogs in ponds, big issue whether to pave road or not. Vernal ponds, original contours carved by glaciers.
- If park, amenities like benches, maybe some lighting (some in apartments have said they don't know what this land is, big dark woods, don't go there), no empty buildings which could be safety issues
- Only 1% of oak savannah remains (statewide or here or?)
- My preference is to keep open space BUT we have a lot of that, like BC Regional Park. I really like the idea of a community center and FOOD that brings us together (everybody says: yes, food) and create shared experiences. I want to still see the integrity that I have experienced here. [Jean: But how do small kids get to BC park? ((ie hard to walk there across road etc)) Somebody needs to take you]
- Campouts. We've done with youth by the library in Conway Park – would be good for them to escape someplace close, to forget we're in the city. Must be accessible to everybody. (side discussion that there are no trespassing signs now but some go walking there already...)
- We chose to live here for the setting, biking – but we feel isolated and want to be more connected to the world. If someday gas costs \$15 a gallon, we will want (even less) to drive to Woodbury for shopping.

### Blue Group

- + Compost site needs safer entrance (325)
- + rumors about who would be coming to BTT if it stays (326)
- + Open space!!! (327)
- + Community – safe place (328), connections getting to know neighbors (329), HomeOwners meeting renters (330), Bigger than local immediate area (331), Shared experiences (332), Respecting the space (333), Bridging Renters to Owners (334)

- + Envision for GC – provides outdoor activity (335), everybody using space (336), Community/public use (337), preserve nature (338), Restore to old days (339), keep trails (340), Story of 100 yrs lost boys (341), Passive Use (342), Nature Center or Gathering Center (343), Community Garden (344)
- + What makes comm. Good – Goods & Services you need (345), Safe (346), (Promoting health, i.e. garden, paths to walk) (347), better food more accessible (348), farmers Market (349), Space for Rec. needs (350), Picnic areas (351)
- + Property value would go up if Corrections was not here. Value increases with open space. (352)
- + Opps. For Comm. To come together – These meetings (353), Open space minus buckthorn gives volunteer opps. (354), Slow rides etc. (355) , Parks cleanup (356), raising awareness of area History (357), Mnra Park (358)
- + Would like a heads up on plans (359)
- + ?'s about site and process
  - Still confused by all the entities on flow chart (needed to simplify) (360)
  - Worried about who's protecting environment etc. (361)
  - Meet needs for park and Recs (362)

Green Group

1. Small town – get to know neighbors, We’re in it together (363)
2. Resources (364)
3. Get rid of buckthorns (365)

All sorts of people (366)

- Shell (Halal)
- Holiday

Meeting (367)

Diversity (368)

St. Paul

Work together hear each other

Community to participate in –

Trail to Afton View apartment (369)

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One commentator

How do we get updates (370)

Walk along property (371)

What can we start implement? (372)

Any other possibilities? (373)

- Put in writing

Community buckthorn clearing (374)

- Conservation group

Organize what we want to see (375)

- Meeting what is missing (376)

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Heritage – Native American (377)

- Protecting natural resources
- Caretaker of the land
- Savanna

Remove buck (378)

Community center – nature (379)

Nature bringing people together (380)

Facilities (381)

- Safe clean community
- quality

9 attendees plus 1 latecomer

Story -4 them with a Chainsaw – 1 (382)

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- Common interests / (383)
- Mutual concern (384)

– looking for a farm 3-4 yrs (385)

Farm and open it up (386)

Diversity – hard time in rural (387)

Good food & health (388)

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Corridor for migratory birds – coyote (389)

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Unique & positive place to live – Highland/Crocus/Dayton’s Bluff – 94 – Environ and natural resource preservation (390)

Bluffs & people on them / not seen community (391)

1 attendee 25 yrs Lacked a community growing up here that I could participate in (392)

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Grandkids have places where kids can (393)

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Have community – also preserve the landscape (394)

Live on bluff/see wildlife/urban setting (395)

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Preserve wild and have common spaces closer than Battle Creek (396)

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kids Keep TT where it is / unchanged/ (397)

Keep as wild as possible/parkland/community access – possibly wishful thinking / low impact / low traffic use. Senior memory care, e.g. (398)

Future generations – worked with native americans – some small heritage (399)

Protect natural resources – as good or better , also don’t own land (400)

1 Attendee – grandkids

Work w/national park svc – this site – oak savannah – tiny fraction left – hand down to future generations > good or better (401)

state/nationally significant – (402)

Easy to say , If we take this site, it's ok, we have more short term financial gain (403)

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Agree to protect & pass on sustainable state Honorable & county looks at it (404)  
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1 attendee – have a vision – All this buckthorn can be gone – rely too much on government. Enough youthful strength (405)

Community Center – Battle Creek is nice, but integrate with nature center (406)

Connected trail all the way along the river (407)

More facilities / infrastructure (408)

How do we get updated (409)

Work together / what would you like to know (410)

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Walk on the property – community tour (411)  
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3 years for county – fair amount of consistency w/us and Highwood plan – move to “implement a what do people want” plan (412)

1 Attendee – a way to find out if the county stays, they might not need this entire site – if our grandkids want to be here, pin down the county (413)

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1 attendee – nothing in the works for other commercial interests to develop the property – no other plan or proposal (ask Jane Prince) Rumor or pressure – (414)  
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Get it in writing – what's up – (415)

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Community buckthorn clearing? (416)  
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If city/county don't want to put \$\$ in maintenance, can you sell to conservation group (417)

Find potential buyer – possible preservation \$\$ Like 3M (418)  
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How we work together? If we have power to get involved, if a decision to sell comes down the road. Have folks ready to get prepared (419)

Organize as greater community what we want to see (420)

Shared community space plus landscape & organize & adjust the goal (421)

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1 Attendee – interested on what goes on here? (422)

How to infuse community vision to redevelopment visions – (423)

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1 Attendee –

Have meetings & talk what's going on, what's missing, what to gain – community work with this with a cheerful & positive attitude (424)

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July -> Battle Creek peace celebration (425)