

EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD

Monthly Consultant Report @ LVP

January 2019

Community Priority Setting Sessions

We have completed all four-community priority setting sessions. The sessions were completed as follows:

Hoyt Lakes: November 19th, 2018 | 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Aurora: December 13th, 2018 | 5:15PM – 6:45PM

Biwabik: January 9th, 2019 | 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Town of White: January 16th, 2019 | 5:30PM - 7:00PM

The agenda was the same for all sessions and was as follows:

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Overview of Potential Priority Areas
 - a. Business Retention, Expansion, & Attraction
 - b. Workforce Development
 - c. Broadband
 - d. Housing
 - e. Child Care
 - f. Downtown/Main Street
 - g. Recreation/Trail Development
 - h. Culture & Arts
 - i. Tourism
 - j. Other
- 3) Actions Discussion & Ranking
- 4) Next Steps and Responsibilities
- 5) Adjourn

We will be presenting the full report and recommended priorities at the next ERJPB meeting.

Blandin Broadband Communities Program

We had the first steering committee meeting on January 10th. The group received an overview of the process from Blandin Broadband Consultant Bill Coleman and established roles for the steering committee at the visioning meeting. The Vision Committee meeting was set for February 20th, 6PM, at the Aurora Community Center and all community members are invited to attend and participate. This meeting will be the key to bringing in partners and leading a wide-ranging initiative.

Regional Childcare Shortage Update

On February 5th at 9AM at Essentia we are meeting to learn about what is working on other communities and to build a business case for a variety of options for child care services in the East Range area.

EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD

Monthly Consultant Report @ LVP

January 2019

Laskin Energy Park Marketing Team - Met on January 16. Karl will meet with Janelle and SEH engineers to complete mapping work for the application, with a goal to submit and have a site visit once the snow is off the ground in spring. Most other work is now complete. The group had additional broader discussion about Laskin logistics in relation to PolyMet and discussed moving the snowmobile trail that currently crosses the Laskin property as part of ERJPB's broader trails discussion.

Biwabik Shovel Ready Team - Met in December for the first time; January meeting postponed to February. SEH doing preliminary engineering work to delineate wetlands and better understand the property.

IREA - Board met in late December; rates going up to \$75. Strategic survey being drafted and will come out shortly. Next meeting will be Feb. 27 at IRRR and will include updates from Commissioner Phillips and a non-traditional lenders panel. Additional community representatives are welcome.

OTHER MEETINGS & COMMUNICATIONS

EDAM - EDAM Winter Conference Jan. 24-25 in St. Louis Park; Karl and Justin from Northspan are attending.

Northland Connection – Work continues on Northland Connection updates to the website. Expect Amanda at Northspan to reach out for property updates from individual communities in the near future. Next Northland Connection meeting will be in March; date TBD.

AMFA - A representative from the Canadian Consulate presented on trade ties between the U.S. and Canada, with a specific focus on the Arrowhead region, at the January AMFA meeting. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two countries and the interconnectedness of trade networks.

NORTHFORCE – NORTHFORCE has hired a Greater NE MN Development Consultant.

APEX - Elissa was named a Board Member, Northspan staff will be engaging with APEX to better understand their efforts on the East Range and how we can be supportive.

Rural Economic Development (RED) Group Forum

The purpose of the RED Group Forum is to expand opportunities in rural communities by explicitly centering on diversity, equity, and inclusion so ALL people in Minnesota thrive. We meet 3 times a year. The defined outcomes are:

1. Learning Forums provide participants with awareness and learning on a wide range of topics to foster community engagement/development.
2. Relationships Forums create opportunities for participants to build relationships to further our purpose.
3. Action Forums serve as a catalyst for collaborations that align resources toward civic action.

The theme for 2019 is Minnesota Generations: Growing Together and the dates and topics for our 2019 forums are as follows:

1. Wednesday, March 13: Who/How Are Our Children?
2. Thursday, June 27: How Are the Millennials?
3. Tuesday, November 26: How Are the Elders?