

INTRODUCTION:

Over eighteen months in 2004 and 2005, the City went through an extensive visioning process. With direction from a steering committee made up of a several residents who represented different groups and perspectives in the community, the City engaged dozens of groups and hundreds of residents in a series of “Community Conversations” which were used to gain a better understanding of how they view Shakopee, what issues are most important to residents, and what shared a shared vision for the City’s future might be. The process is depicted in photos later in this section. Early in 2007, the City reconvened the steering committee to review the vision document and updates to it that might be appropriate.

MISSION STATEMENT: *Following is the City’s vision statement;*

The mission of the City of Shakopee is to provide the opportunity to live, work, and play in a community with a proud past, promising future, and small-town atmosphere within a metropolitan setting.

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision statement arrived at for the City of Shakopee is as follows:

Twenty years from now Shakopee will be known and valued as a unique city...

... Where a vital and historic downtown anchors an active riverfront district; and where the Minnesota River serves as a beacon for residents and tourists;

... Where distinct neighborhoods and business areas connect with each other through greenways and trails to protected natural habitat, recreational attractions, and other destinations; and where the arts deepen and enhance our community;

... Where active, healthy, individual and family lifestyles are supported through varied recreational and educational opportunities; where we demonstrate our commitment to youth;

... Where both young and old enjoy community gathering places; where neighbors of all backgrounds respect and appreciate each other; and where diversity is celebrated;

... Where homes meet residents’ lifetime needs and are in neighborhoods that are accessible and connected with one another; where housing developments and public spaces reflect community needs;

...and where the city's unique historic personality is thoughtfully balanced with easy access to urban conveniences;

... Where we support high quality, life-long educational opportunities; where employees receive living wages; and where both local businesses and corporate headquarters are welcomed and well-supported;

...And where high standards reflect our vision and commitment to creating a sense of community for generations to come.

GOALS:

In addition to adopting Mission and Vision statements, the City Council adopted the following as the City's Primary Goals;

- A) Active and healthy community.
- B) High quality of life.
- C) Great place for kids to grow up.
- D) Vibrant, resilient and stable.
- E) Financially strong.

These goals have been incorporated into the fabric of the City's daily business. For example, the goals are recited on every Council agenda, and each item that comes before the City Council is related to the City's stated goals.