

Appendix A: List of Strengths and Weaknesses

The following list of community strengths, weaknesses, and planning issues was formulated at a meeting on December 1, 1997, by members of the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Committee, elected and appointed City officials and City staff.

Community Strengths

Themes:	Businesses meet daily needs
Economics	Partnerships (14 new in last two years (pub-pub; pub-private)
- Jobs	- Schools
- Tax Base	- Others
Neighborhood Appearances	Spacious city
Local Government	Infrastructure
Citizens	Good access to the rest of the metro area
Natural and Recreational Environment	Good access to helpful elected officials and staff
Linkages to the rest of the metropolitan area	Strong property values - high value buildings
List of Community Strengths:	
Recreation for all ages	Well educated and involved residents
Safety, low crime	Good City communication system - CATV, etc.
Mature woods within neighborhoods	Involved citizens
Trails and parks	Balanced budget and reserve fund
Minimal amount of signs and lighting	Neighborhoods
Natural resources	Good external reputation

Land use transitions	Minnetonka
Curving streets	Strong religious community (diverse)
Age diversity in population	Strong seniors programs
Strong housing retail and office mix	Historical roots
Minnehaha Creek and other wetlands	Well planned business areas
Well-managed development process	Good schools
High-quality services	Stability and predictability
Good metro location	Physical character is well established
People and pride of place	Open to new and different ideas
Variety of housing ages, costs and styles	No bars
Balance: C - R - I development	Good state representatives
Natural beauty	High tax capacity
Attractive (wooded) major road corridors	International name recognition
Development has always come to	Strong job creation

Community Weaknesses

Themes:

Overdevelopment and loss of natural character

Cost-Affordability; diversity

List of Community Weaknesses

Mosquitos, geese and deer

Deterioration of natural resources

No “Downtown”

Lack of human diversity

Crowding and air pollution

Attractive target for critics of its success

No open space left - can ' t create new parks

Rigid attitudes (lot sizes, low income housing)

Lack of adequate senior housing

Weather

Resistance to higher densities

Poorly designed older neighborhoods

County home school

Lack of transit

Lack of live music venues

Lack of vision

Lack of workers for local employers

Transitioning commercial nodes without plans

Increasing traffic congestion

Inequitable dealings with three school districts - Wayzata-outsiders pay higher fees; communications among districts

Insufficient pedestrian facilities

Fully developed (difficult to change)

Increasing pressure on the environment

Losing affordable housing and sense of history

Lack of teen hangouts

Aging infrastructure

High price of real estate

Too many home businesses

Low-density inefficient

Lack of adequate buffers in redevelopment areas

Developers want to maximize land use

Difficult to involve busy or transitional residents

NIMBY-ism vs. fiscal limitations to address some NIMBY issues

Intergovernmental relations demanded (many levels)

Neighborhood speeding

Deteriorating roads

Neighbors don't interact

Lack strong source for local news

Creeping homogenization (losing uniqueness)

Unaffordable housing

Appendix B: Planning Issues

The following list of planning issues was formulated at a meeting on December 1, 1997, by members of the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Committee, elected and appointed City officials and City staff. Meeting participants were each given three sticky-back colored dots and asked to place them on the issues they considered most important. The number in parentheses indicates the number of “votes” each issue received.

Overarching Issues

How much should we change an already strong Minnetonka?

How to anticipate broad threats and respond proactively? (2)

Government Subsidy and Taxation and Fiscal Issues

Should be more environmentally proactive? (3)

Should City give property tax relief to seniors?

Which activities should we subsidize? (5)

Should we subsidize intra-city transit? Inter-city transit?

How to make everyone happy at a cost willing to pay? (1)

Are property taxes too high?

Should City encourage large redevelopment projects?

How to renew infrastructure affordable? (1)

How to prioritize spending? (3)

Should we ward-balance expenditures and services?

Natural Resources and Parks

How to respond to need for more athletic fields?

Balance natural resources vs. growth accommodation. (9)

Should Minnetonka provide more neighborhood parks?

What is appropriate role of City in wildlife management?

What percent of each park should be “active”?

Youth and their future in Minnetonka?

What is role of City in providing youth activities? (4)

How to serve all ages recreation needs? (2)

Traffic

How can we improve transit? (5)

How should we manage traffic? -- traffic calming?

Should there be equally spaced major roads in Minnetonka?

When should traffic stop a development? (1)

How to collaborate with other cities? Roads and transit.

Governmental Relationships

How can we increase citizen involvement? (1)

Should we have a balance of joint ventures among school districts? (1)

How to develop more agreements with three school districts?

How to engage the unrepresented?

- People of color
- Lower income

Development intensity and style and housing Affordability

How to maintain beauty while providing population density and affordable housing? (10)

How to redevelop aging commercial nodes? (5) 8-10

Should we actively preserve existing affordable housing? (3)

Should we maintain status quo in zoning or make many changes? (2)

How much lifecycle and affordable housing should we have? (2)

How can we be good land stewards on private sites? (1)

Is I-394 plan working or should it be changed? (1)

Should we focus development in corridors or scatter them?

How much should Minnetonka entice development to encourage diversity?

Should City buy (how much) land for open space?

Will sidewalks ruin neighborhood character?

Should/How to maintain older neighborhoods?

Should Minnetonka encourage affordable lower-density housing?

Should we restrict (limit) development of final areas?