



# Appendix 1B

## Community Profile

Engagement: Comp Plan In A Box

7 pages

**January 28, 2017**  
**League of Women Voters – GV**  
**Comp Plan in a Box Comments**

Evaluation of Comp Plan in a Box - What worked?

- Questions to guide the conversation
- Like that Golden Valley is reaching out

Suggestions

- Multiple languages for materials, braille, translators
- Provide a facilitator to groups that need it – ask for volunteer facilitators
- Process will take several hours
- Groups could choose 1-2 topics vs. doing them all
- Make sure groups have a recorder
- Have a time keeper for the group
- Put page numbers on sheets to better keep track of them
- Too many documents look similar
- Groups need a good facilitator
- Make sure a broad range of people participate in this process, not only those with city connections and/or those very well-versed in the details of our city

**General**

1. Three word best describe Golden Valley

- Ideally located
- Manageable size
- Welcoming
- Green
- Diverse
- Not Diverse
- Modern
- Changing
- Aging
- Comfortable
- Picturesque

2. What do you value most about Golden Valley

- Green space
- Location
- Safety
- Home
- Friendly and accessible city staff
- Opportunities to get involved civically
- Great city newsletter

3. What sets Golden Valley apart from other cities in region?
  - Investment in streets and other city services – GV looks better than other nearby cities
  - Proximity to Minneapolis, ease of getting there
  - Community activities, lots going on
  - Accessible bike and walking trails; able to bike anywhere
  - No lakes (2 with minimal public access)
  - Protection of natural resources, parks and open spaces
  
4. What important changes does Golden Valley need to make – next 10 years? 20 years?
  - Maintain/update
  - Starter housing
  - More continuity of life housing
  - Disability housing
  - Indoor winter space for kids
  - Reduce carbon footprint – solar on Honeywell roof, build LEED, electric vehicles
  - Two school districts – bring families together vs. the separation of the two districts
  
5. List 5 words that describe how you want visitors or potential new residents to think or feel when they hear the name Golden Valley or visit Golden Valley.
  - Inclusive
  - Welcoming
  - Safe
  - Comfortable
  - Kids can walk places safely
  - Forward thinking
  - Innovative
  - Artistic
  - Engaged

### **Land Use**

1. What uses or amenities are currently lacking in Golden Valley?
  - A pool
  - Dining and entertainment
  - Indoor ice center
  - More variety in housing prices and types of housing
  - Better connections to the trails
  - Public meeting spaces that are free of charge
  - Another good bar
  - Mini golf
  
2. What does Golden Valley need to become more livable?
  - Trail access
  - Maintain open space
  - City center more accessible to biking from east side
  - Bus/shuttles for those who cannot drive
  - Mixed use spaces – retail on ground & housing above

3. Are there part of Golden Valley that are in need of change?

- A greater range of housing options

4. Are there parts of Golden Valley that should not change?

- Keep the green space

\*\*Land use and zoning changes cannot be made without a public process; they should not be made as a part of the Comp Plan without public notification and public hearing.

### **Housing**

1. Describe the types of housing you see in Golden Valley and how you expect that might change by 2040

2. What types of housing are lacking in the community?

- Limited disability housing
- Starter homes in good condition
- Smaller homes, trend to smaller apartments
- Smaller homes on smaller lots – for elderly, singles, etc.
- Becoming dementia-friendly – training for police, residents, etc. tool-kit for neighbors
- Extended family housing, common with immigrants; what zoning rules need to changes, housing issues
- Mother-in-law apartments

3. What kind of housing should be available to senior citizens living in Golden Valley?

4. What do you think are the biggest challenges to the housing market now and into the future?

- Land values
- Price
- Land almost all developed
- Issues with subdivision

5. Should the city government take an active role in providing affordable housing for eligible residents?

- The group had a difference of opinion – some yes, some no, some want more detail on question.

### **Water Resources**

1. How will residents, businesses and government contribute to a healthier environment, particularly water quality?

- Use less salt

2. How do we reduce water pollution in or community?

- Use less lawn fertilizer
- Look at ordinances that require a certain amount of yard be planted in grass
- Allow more types of yard landscaping

3. What concerns you most about the status of our local water bodies and water supply?
  - Require sprinkler systems to have moisture monitor
4. How should the City identify and execute a sustainable funding plan for the replacement and repair of stormwater, drinking water and waste water infrastructure?
  - Have utility fees already
  - Can neighbors keep leaves out of drains?

### **Parks**

1. What do you value most about Golden Valley park system?
  - The variety of parks and equipment
  - We love them!
  - Little parks in neighborhoods
  - Natural buffers at ponds
  - They are well maintained and cared for
2. What improvements should be made to Golden Valley park system?
  - Continue to assure they are adaptable
  - Adaptable to other activities such as lacrosse or cricket
  - Picnic areas
  - Restrooms
3. Are there parts of the Golden Valley park system that should NOT change?
  - Make sure they do not disappear!

### **Transportation**

1. What transportation options are available in Golden Valley?
  - Cars
  - Uber
  - Bikes
  - Walking
2. What new technologies will impact transportation?
  - Need plug-ins for electric cars
  - Self-driving cars
  - Hour-cars
3. How does Golden Valley prepare for new transportation options?
  - A way to get to light rail and park at light rail
4. What is your biggest concern with transportation network in Golden Valley?
  - Lack of transit options
    - May impact number of people willing to move here
    - May affect diversity of residents
    - Younger people don't want to own cars
  - Transportation needed to social services and similar agencies

5. How do you think the transportation system will be or should be different in year 2040?
  - Cars on demand vs. owning a car
6. What kind of transportation options should be available to senior citizens in Golden Valley?
  - A city circulator/shuttle
  - Hour-cars

### **Sustainability and Resilience**

1. What are the most important assets in Golden Valley that must be protected for future generations?
  - Parks and green space
  - Bassett Creek
  - Sweeney Lake
  - Twin Lake
  - Sochacki Nature Area
2. Is Golden Valley and its residents adequately prepared for more frequent and intense weather events?
  - No, but most communities are not
  - Backup servers/Wi-Fi
  - Technology for police - have information to check on elderly, home-bound in event of emergency
  - Rainfall deluge is a concern
3. What are the most crucial and/or urgent issue facing Golden Valley long-term environmental sustainability?
  - Communications during and after the event
  - Post storm clean up – what is city responsible for and what is resident responsibility
4. Do Golden Valley residents have adequate access to healthy and local food?
  - Yes, except for lower-income people

### **Economic Competitiveness - All questions put together**

- Allow citizens to do things for community that are not overly regulated (GV Farmer's Market)
- Buy from local businesses
- Major corporate headquarters – GV – put us on map, contribute to community, employees live here and shop here.
- Maintain infrastructure
- More mixed-use developments
- Incubators
- Grocery store – keep in city



## Comp Plan in a Box: Meeting 5.31.17

Here's our feedback for the Comprehensive Planning team. In general, we were very happy to see so much effort being made for sustainability and the environment! Thank you!

Progressive We Stand has 55 members dedicated to progressive activism in Golden Valley. We also work on state-wide and national issues, but our focus is always local. We appreciate the opportunity for this dialogue.

### Sustainability Section

- Would like recycling compost option (like in Minneapolis) that can take care of people's food waste etc.
- City vehicles: We love the idea of city vehicles being cleaner, just want to be sure you're talking about electric or hybrid
- Can we incentivize remodeling with solar or other sustainable initiatives so that when people do remodeling projects they consider alternatives? Maybe incentives in the permit fee structure?
- Adding solar panels to city buildings is a great idea
- Continue to educate public about solar/wind options offered now by Excel
- We need to educate the public about the hazards of lawn chemicals and fertilizers (carcinogenic, contaminate watershed, etc.) and promote healthy alternatives (native grasses, natural lawn care). Would be happy to talk more about this if you need info!

## Transportation section

- Please un-do what the GOP just did and allow undocumented immigrants to register for licenses, take drivers tests, and get vision tests. Safety should come before politics, it makes no sense to have more untested drivers on the road.
- Minimize use of salt and chemicals on roads during winter. Colorado uses dirt. Please look into alternatives and protect water!
- We want more bike lanes and don't like the idea of taking out the bike lane on Winnetka, however we're not totally sure which area you mean.
- One thing we'd LOVE is to connect the bike trail all along the railroad instead of having to get off on city streets to go around the country club. That railroad trail is so nice and we're not sure why you have to get off of it between douglas/Winnetka area. But if you're taking the bike trail out on Winnetka, putting it along the railroad line might be the solution that makes everyone happy (well, except possibly the country club).

## Land use section

- We like the idea of a more walk-able, aesthetically pleasing downtown (but not too fancy, we don't want to be like 50<sup>th</sup> and France and think our town character is more down to earth).
- Please promote more locally-owned businesses! Too many chains, not enough real restaurants and mom and pop shops.

## Parks & Nature

- Plan looks good. We really want to protect Theo Wirth but think light rail is important. Hopefully there will be no other encroachments on Theo, it's our gem.
- Would love a dog park!

## Economic Competitiveness

- Had the idea of a business cooperative that housed some proven, profitable businesses, and some that have social missions (similar to Cookie Cart in North Minneapolis). We will be sending a separate proposal on this to explain more!

## Water

- Again, educate the public about the hazards of lawn chemicals and about safe alternatives – there are lots available!
- Is rainwater collection an option for the city? Probably not ☺, that was an idea that popped up.