*Hennepin Comprehensive Plan – Policy Advisory Committee Meeting   
October 26, 2017, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Brookdale Library*

Group Input Exercise on themes and sub-elements

Five themes were introduced to PAC members:

* Connected
* Prosperous
* Livable
* Resilient
* Reducing Disparities

Participants were asked to give their thoughts on the themes and the elements listed with them (see attached graphic). They were also asked to discuss which theme were most important, if anything was missing or did not seem to belong – and what critical roles the County should play within the themes or elements.

PAC member Comments and Observations

Overall

* Like all these themes; like the overall framework of setting policies and goals around themes
  + There are many pieces when dealing with broad regional issues
  + The themes show an overall umbrella – that shows how the region is or can be successful
  + Think of the recovery of North Minneapolis after the 2011 tornado; we want to be able to recover (in one area or one sector) without bringing down the whole

Prosperous

* Questions about how this relates to the comprehensive plan and state planning mandate “Technology” is a key word – aspire to be the best technology county in the country
* Infrastructure is important - the county has a key role in infrastructure
* Energy –
  + Clean, renewable, and efficient energy
  + Develop more jobs in renewable energy
  + Energy may be related to technology; is an important concept too
* Work with educational institutions to help youth get into the area of renewable energy; provide training opportunities for youth by working with private companies in this area
* Cities and counties should provide employment opportunities and career pathways for youth trained in renewable energy
* City and counties should be the leaders in this area of renewable energy
* Leverage city, county, and private partnerships
* City and county sometimes do fragmented work; need to be collaborative and complementary is crucial to realize efficiencies and savings
* New technology is evolving and cities and counties need to enhance work and services harnessing this area and being leaders in this area
* Work libraries to help with connectivity to jobs, and recreation spaces; use libraries to enhance this technology
* Maintain a vibrant business community and keep sure that we keep working on this to ensure that businesses are retained; this will attract new residents and keep the ones already here.

Livable

* Public safety – Don’t forget about this
* Everyone has equal access to safety
  + This could be a core value
  + Every neighborhood
  + County and cities deliver safety equally to all
  + Reinforce and support municipalities
  + Criminal justice system should be fair and fast
* Water Quality
* Quality/Affordable Housing
* Services and access to quality and affordable health care
* Remove economic barriers to economic development and business opportunities to grow the workforce
* Multi-modal transportation
* Connected, engaged, and welcoming neighborhoods, communities, and cities
* Strategic and innovative partnerships
* Green space- reducing our carbon footprint and encourage planting of trees
* Reduce disparities in all areas – employment, health, education, housing, etc.

Resilient

* Questions about what is resilience, why it is a theme?
* Is this about emergency management, and if so why?
* Infrastructure is important - the county has a key role in infrastructure

Reducing disparities

* Role for the County is to remove barriers
* “Be the county that eliminates governmental reasons for failure”
  + Language
  + Cultural barriers
  + Housing
  + Economic development
  + Workforce needs
* Business support - for immigrant-owned business
  + Cultural/economic entrepreneurship
* Transparency is a piece of equity
* Community engagement is a piece
* Ask and plan for “What can the County do to help (other sectors) excel” such as:
  + Education
  + Workforce
  + Other
* Natural resources (including parks, urban farming) and facilities play a role in reducing disparities
* The term “reducing disparities” seems off – it is an action or doesn’t match other concepts; consider an outcome word, such as:
  + Fair, Just or Equitable
* Public safety – Everyone and every area has equal access to safety
* Support for families – day care, transportation, mental health, chemical dependency
* “Connectivity” – connect people to jobs, education, workforce training and housing
* Cultural inclusiveness/ competence; improve attitudes regarding people from different back grounds and religions, acceptance of cultures
* Use the libraries and work with schools to educate about the core values of the different cultures in HC
* We have to be a leader and a model; have to work with and influence schools
* Work with front end thinking – work with kids and schools
* Important to have religious sensitivity, tolerance and understanding
* Parks -- How can use the parks better to help with inclusivity?
* To be more inclusive you might need to adapt park spaces such baseball fields and football fields into soccer fields. Have to adapt to change-diverse residents
* Housing – Quality and affordable housing
* Public safety – need to review incarceration procedures: over-representation of minorities in prison populations
* Better connection between law enforcement and citizens, especially youth. See the Joint Community Police Partnership as an example
* Real access to fundamental health services such as vaccinations, inoculations, and routine preventative health check ups
* Educating different refugee and immigrant groups about vaccinations and their importance
* Transportation – Provide access to good, stable public transportation, affordable and multi-modal

Connected

* Move an “education” circle into connected
* Connect people to jobs, education, workforce training and housing

Other

* Growing need for elder care services; extreme shortage of quality of care for aging population; facilities are understaffed which sometimes leads to abuse, neglect, and over-medication
* There should be another additional bubble for all themed bubbles – Cities and counties need to work with each other and complement each other in enhancing services to residents.