

On April 11, 2023, a Special City Council Meeting – Facilitator Retreat for the Minot City Council was held in the Finance Conference Room at the New City Hall (10 3rd Ave SE).

Members Present:

Burlingame, Evans, Jantzer, Olson, Podrygula, Ross

Members Absent:

Pitner

The works session began at 8:34 am in the Finance Conference Room at the New City Hall (10 3rd Ave SE).

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Julia Novak, of the Novak Consulting Group, began with introductions and provided an overview of the expectations for the day and for the retreat in general.

“DISRUPTIVE TRENDS AND THE GAP”

Dr. Nalbandian presented a workshop that explores the disruptive forces that affect contemporary local government and shared insights about how the roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the executive and legislative functions are intended to work in the Council-Manager form of government. He discusses how disruptive trends are inevitable and the reactions to those trends are intentional. The group discussed the impacts of disruptive forces such as social media and how the negativity has more impact than the positivity.

The group took a break from 9:44 am – 9:55 am.

When the group came back together, Dr. Nalbandian started to discuss the need to cultivate meaningful relationships with durable partners in the community across government, schools, the private sector, and non-profits. He questioned the group on who the durable partners are in Minot. He discussed 5 ways to cultivate engagement: inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower from www.iap2.org. The overall goal would be to increase policy capacity.

WORKSHOP DEBRIEF

After hearing from Dr. Nalbandian, the group discussed key takeaways to establish a foundation for our governance discussion.

The group took a break from 10:47 am – 11:04 am.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

Strengths – Opportunities – Aspirations

The group broke apart to discuss our current strengths and city needs to be poised to address. Some of the takeaway from the discussion includes:

Strengths

- Staff/Employees
- TIF Projects
- Other Entity Investments
- Committed and Passionate Mayor and Council
- Crime Rate is Stable
- Partnership with MAFB
- Downtown Revitalization
- Community Support
- Ability to Rebuild Relationships with Durable Partnerships
- Tight Knit Community
- Technology and Automation within City Services
- PIO with Social Media
- Foundation for Partnerships

- Progress on Flood Control
- Sentinel Project in the Future

Opportunities

- Sentinel Project in the Future
- Substance Abuse Issues – Crime Issue
- Workforce Issues
- Image with the MAFB
- Childcare
- Redevelopment within the Flood Plain
- Old Trinity Building
- Opportunity for Development in Downtown 2nd floor and up
- NAWS (Sales Tax Reallocation)
- Housing Equity
- Young Population
- Structure of Internal Organization
- Federal Funding
- Growth on both Ends of Town
- Economic Development
- Managing Community Expectation for Service

Aspirations

- Continued Support for Completion of Flood Control and NAWS
- Minot a place where families want to come
- Sustainable growth of community
- Stable Leadership within Community
- Be more modern with governance and interaction with people
- Transparent as possible for the public
- Be prepared to attract the workforce and service the growing community
- Safe and Welcoming make more progress in this area
- ‘Ring the Bell’ – Unleash what we can be
- Everyone who feels different feels welcome and Safe
- Known as a model for Respect and Civility and Rationality
- Connective and Cohesive within ourselves and with other Political Partners
- Master of our own destiny – become leaders not follow what everyone else does
- Open to change – Acceptance of People
- Become a regional standard where people want to come and stay
- Community of Choice

The group went on a lunch break from 11:55 am – 12:44 pm.

MAGIC CITY ASPIRATIONS

Dynamic and Prosperous – Dynamic and Flourishing – Minot is a thriving and vibrant community, built on the spirit of sharing strengths, the City is committed to being adaptable and ready for strategic growth, and making successful investments in targeted partnerships.

Resilient and Prepared – Minot is ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Safe and Welcoming – Minot is a safe community where neighbors care for one another and we embrace and celebrate all aspects of diversity. (culture)

Excellent and Connected – Minot is an innovative, professional, fiscally responsible City government that works collaboratively with residents and partners to provide community leadership and deliver high quality services.

EMERGING PRIORITIES

Given the aspirations discussed, the council was asked to provide priorities for the organization to focus on in the next two years and put them under what aspiration they coincide with.

Facilitator closed the day at 3:34 pm.