



City of Grand Island

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Council Retreat

Item -5

Goal Setting

Staff Contact: City Council

City Council Goal Setting: 2009-2010

In recent years, the Grand Island City Council has formulated a set of goals to use to guide development of the annual budget and to serve as a statement to the organization and to the community of progress that the Council intends to make in important priority areas.

The current adopted City Council Goals is in need of annual update, and it is time to re-examine the goal headings to determine if changes need to be made to reflect current priorities. Using the current set of goals as a starting point, please examine the goal headings (Public Safety, Infrastructure, etc) to determine if changes need to be made. Council has typically had 5-6 goal headings, and it is important that we stay with that number in order to keep the collective goals manageable and meaningful.

When the current set of goals was adopted by Council, staff added a brief line describing the direction or the end that a goal area is intended to go or reach. I believe that this brief statement adds considerable value to the ability of the public, city organization, etc. to understand the meaning and the importance of the goal. Please give some thought to how a statement should be worded for any goal area that you are interested in.

The third aspect of the Goals is the goal activities that are identified under each goal heading. Think of these as objectives for pursuing or progressing a particular goal. These activities, or key objectives, can be tangible or may involve a process or a planning effort. Either way, they are pathways to goal attainment. Please consider what activities you are interested in identifying as key to attainment of goals that you have in mind, or that exist in the current Goals.

It is vital to the process of goal setting that the Council and staff have a common understanding of the attainability of each goal. Clearly, for a goal to be attainable and for the City to hold itself responsible for completing the goal, there needs to be a determination that the necessary resources for goal attainment exist. Where goals are longer-term, there needs to be an understanding of what acceptable progress will be at points in time.

I have attached the current GI City Council Goals (with progress report), along with an example of Goals from another City that uses a similar approach as we do. Should time not permit us to complete this process at the Retreat, we should schedule a follow-up session in the very near future to do so.



City Council Goals 2008-09

Public Safety

To Provide the highest level emergency response to the community

GOAL Pursue 911 backup center location in an existing building

A temporary location has been identified at Fire Station #1 for a limited-capability call center, able to receive 911 calls (without addresses) and utilize a limited number of basic radio frequencies. The temporary location is an emergency stop-gap strategy until a more suitable and capable alternate site is determined.

Economic Development

To Ensure a stable local economy

GOAL Assist in creating and retaining quality jobs through LB 840 program

Several City Departments have been engaged with the EDC and other entities in the effort to recruit Project Amada to Grand Island. Included was development of information for Blaine St. improvements, sanitary sewer and water extensions, and Tax Increment Financing.

GOAL Assist CRA in identifying and creating new business redevelopment projects

Staff processed the redevelopment plan request (expedited) for Project Amada, which was approved by the CRA and awaits future consideration by the City Council at such time as the project moves forward.

Infrastructure

To Preserve and develop consistent infrastructure

GOAL Support infrastructure for sustained housing/commercial development

The Public Works Department will assist developers on proposed development. The Annual Paving Program has an available \$300,000 budgeted for assessment districts for paving.

GOAL Progress the Railroad Corridor Study

The UPRR was working on crossings this past summer. The consultant was unable to complete survey work until the UPRR work is complete. The Public Works Department held a plan-in-hand review on September 17th. The consultant submitted plans to the City to review and forward to the Railroad with a Notice to Intent on the proposed Quiet Zone, and the Railroad will start the design work on the interface between the wayside horns and the railroad's circuitry.

GOAL Prepare a master plan for infrastructure development south of Grand Island

This requires funding of a consultant or in-house design from the Waste Water Superintendent. There will need to be sufficient funding in an upcoming budget in order for this to proceed.

GOAL Support relocation of State Fair to Grand Island

A condition report was prepared on the existing private sanitary sewer owned by Fonner Park in case it would be upgraded and taken over as public to serve the new state fair complex. The sanitary sewer main construction includes an extension of existing public sanitary sewer main in Fonner Park's Main Driveway in a north-south direction to serve new buildings.

Stolley Park Road will be widened to a three-lane roadway from Locust Street to Stuhr Road. A westbound right turn lane will be built at the entrance or entrances to the facility. Design work will be in 2009 and storm drainage work during the winter of 2009-2010, finally concrete paving in summer of 2010. Fonner Park Road will be striped to a three-lane roadway from Locust Street to the entrance to Fonner Park. Fonner Park Road could be widened to a three-lane roadway from Fonner Park's entrance to Stuhr Road as part of the 2010 Asphalt Resurfacing Program if traffic studies indicate the need.

On November 13, the City hosted a meeting with State Fair Board project representatives to identify and discuss key site development issues. Several City Department Directors and staff were present, along with representatives of the State Fair Board and architects/engineers involved with site development and building design. At present, the Building Department is working with the architect for the State Fair to determine building design issues related to building occupancy.

GOAL Progress Broadwell Grade Separation Project

Funds are budgeted to begin the process of hiring a consultant engineering firm for the environmental and preliminary engineering work. Preparation of a Request for Proposals is being coordinated with the NDOR. The City expects to have a draft RPF to the Railroad for review by the end of this week.

Government Efficiency

To Identify and develop potential opportunities between governmental agencies for coordination, cooperation, collaboration, or consolidation of programs.

GOAL Seek inter local partnerships that eliminates duplication and promotes efficiency

The city streets division worked with the Hall County Highway Department to share an asphalt paver. The City/County Emergency Services Director has begun a process to review the Inter-local Agreement between Grand Island and Hall County for the purpose of insuring the continued effectiveness of the of the Emergency Management/Communications Center.

GOAL Complete a comprehensive City Code review and update

The Council and City Administration started the comprehensive code update in 2005. All but a very few chapters have been updated in some fashion. The following comments relate to chapters that still need to be revisited or that have not been updated since 2005:

- Chapter 5 was updated to harmonize with state law but certain areas are going to be discussed at the Animal Advisory Board January 2, 2009 to determine if any further amendments should be recommended to Council.
- Chapter 6 relating to bicycles was repealed but PD has expressed some interest in restoring bicycle regulations into Chapter 22 (motor vehicles).
- Chapter 9 is the cable franchise which is in ongoing negotiations.
- Chapter 16 relating to fire protection had just been updated in 2005 before the comprehensive review goal was adopted and would require considerable input from the fire department if further revision is necessary.
- Chapter 19 relating to the library is not a chapter that may be updated without resolving underlying policy issues about library governance.
- Chapter 28 relating to railroads does not need to be updated...our power to regulate is very limited.
- Chapter 30 relating to sewers is pending. An entire new chapter regarding illicit storm water discharge was drafted last year and was submitted to Public Works for review.
- Chapter 32 has been amended twice since 2005 and further revisions have been submitted to Public Works and are awaiting review and comment. They were scheduled to go to Council but were pulled to give further consideration to a snow removal policy.
- Chapter 34 relates to telecommunications and is highly specialized. It was updated in 2005.

GOAL Investigate County industrial Tracts to determine potential means to seek payment for City services

The City of Blair brought forward to the League Legislative Subcommittee an initiative to modify the County Industrial Area law. The primary interest of the City of Blair is to clarify when a tract is no longer eligible (by usage) for County Industrial Tract designation. The Legislative Subcommittee referred this issue to the Economic Development Subcommittee, (The City Administrator serves on that Committee) for review and recommendation. The ED Subcommittee has recommended to the full Legislative Subcommittee that legislation be introduced to “modify the County Industrial Area law to clarify definitions, to clarify the appeal procedure, to change provisions for annexation from a county population of one hundred thousand to ten thousand persons, and to provide an expiration date for such areas”. On October 31, the Legislative Committee voted to have the League draft legislation for introduction in this Session. The League Executive Board will meet soon to discuss details of proposed revisions, and a draft will be sent out for review of the ED Subcommittee prior to introduction. Administration discussed this issue with the League Attorney on November 17, and he believes that there will be consideration given to including time limits on both new and existing Industrial Tracts. At present, there is no provision in the law to set a time limit on the existence of an Industrial Tract.

Quality of Life

To Enhance the level of community and citizen well-being through enhanced civic opportunities

GOAL Continue to support development of the Heartland Public Shooting Park

2008 saw the introduction of two new shooting venues to the Park. Also added was an Action Handgun venue and a facility for International Bench-rest Rifle Competition.

GOAL Update Parks and Recreation master plan including a study of children’s play area at Island Oasis.

The master plan update will be completed in house. The design and engineering is complete for the Children's Wet Play Area and construction funds need to be identified before the project can proceed.

GOAL Progress the Community Appearance Plan

Legal and CSO meetings realized necessary updates to various codes, council approved \$40,000 2008/09 budget for demolition, number of properties are resolved without court intervention, Multicultural Coalition joined the PRT to assist, a number of PRT properties will be demolished within three months (rpts will be forwarded to Council), Community Development submitted a one million dollar grant for demolition, construction and down payment assistance, web page upgrade will contain a citizen request system which will assist in addressing problem properties and respond 24/7 to citizens.

GOAL Take steps to mitigate groundwater intrusion problem

The Public Works Department will continue to regulate construction with the inclusion of subsurface drainage systems when applicable.

GOAL Complete the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Digesters

The council approved a professional services agreement with Consulting engineers Black & Veatch with Olsson Associates as a sub-consultant. The design kickoff meeting was November 18, and design work is in progress for a 2009 bid letting.

Public Health

To Be a Good Custodian of the natural environment

GOAL Secure funding and begin construction of the Household Hazardous Waste facility

Council approved facility redesign with Milco and Associates and the inter-local is complete. A construction grant was submitted in September 08 to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Trust. An operational grant will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in February 2009. Both grant award notices are give in the spring and summer of 2009. Partnerships continue to be forged as more interest gathers on the subject.

GOAL Continue to aggressively address environmental issues and advocate for citizens

Public Works met with the consultant for the design of the anaerobic digester complex in November. Discussions continue with JBS Swift & Company on daily loading and renewal of their discharge permit with the City and the NDEQ. A proposal is before the Council to contract with a wastewater consultant for assistance with cost of service analysis and industrial rate design for wastewater treatment services.

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Current Weather Conditions

Temp: 16
 Forecast: 22/21
 Humidity: 65
 Wind Speed: 12



Cloudy

[Full Forecast at Yahoo! Weather](#)

Mayor and City Council Strategic Goals

Adopted by the City Council on September 16, 2004 by Resolution No. 04-12

Planning for Growth: Promote a balanced approach to growth, including consideration of population growth, regional cooperation, annexation and other land use issues.

Key Objectives:

- Clarify our vision for city growth for optimum efficiency and sound planning oriented towards quality of life. Review the Comprehensive Plan in light of our fiscal model. Evaluate projections for growth at higher densities.
- Clarify plans, assumptions, and policies regarding annexation and or boundary modification. Explore areas for future annexation and consolidation including the eastern portion of the city and other neighboring towns. Develop standards for annexation that will provide maximum benefit for the community.

Economic Vitality: Promote commercial, industrial, and retail development including redevelopment efforts and Downtown revitalization.

Key Objectives:

- Develop incentives for Downtown redevelopment which will address design standards and long-term parking issues. Develop an RFP for a pedestrian-friendly retail district east of the new City Hall. Consider potential reuses for old City Hall as well as Arnold Hall.
- Develop incentives for an upscale shopping area.

Sustainable Development: Promote development that sustains rather than depletes the community, that is fiscally sound, that contributes to a high quality of life, and that nourishes the community.

Key Objective:

- Require a fiscal impact statement on every new significant development.

A Progressive and Positive Approach: Promote a way of thinking and planning that is innovative and future-oriented while still respecting traditions and preservation efforts.

Key Objective:

- Re-evaluate the City's sales tax, including the park and road tax. Consider substituting or adding a cultural fee.

Managing the Environment: Promote a "clean and green" community that offers family-oriented activities and recreational and cultural opportunities and that encourages citizens to keep up their private property.

Key Objectives:

- Conduct a feasibility study and develop an implementation plan, if warranted for a Cultural Arts facility.
- Develop a master plan that incorporates both the location and the appropriate funding of a new Senior Center.

Managing Resources Efficiently: Ensure that we are fiscally responsible, while investing in the infrastructure of the city, modernizing the government, investing in our human resources, and improving customer service.

Key Objectives:

- Develop a capital improvement road plan based upon a review of the 23-year road plan and an updated thoroughfare master plan. Explore the use of public/private partnerships to help accelerate potential road projects.
- Ensure that the new City Hall building and Council Chambers are technologically up-to-date.
- When revising departmental plans, (such as the 10 year road plan) facilitate the sharing of data and analysis to include the assumptions or projections of other departments.
- Use technology to improve customer service, to track and communicate the status of capital projects, and to improve the maintenance plan for city streets.

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