

Listening Session Notes
Property/Business Owners
3/21/2019

Questions: What concerns do you have for development in our downtowns or filling vacant spaces?

- Need more retail mix
- There is no central location for commercial properties on the market with detailed information.
- Parking is not enforced to the limits making it more difficult for residence downtown
- Unaware of guidelines and funding opportunities for historical buildings
- Rear facades are in disrepair and look bad.
- Front facing facades are lacking in appearance for some businesses that are open.
- Need more restaurants and breweries to be more attractive to target group who would live downtown.
- Need more outdoor seating and green spaces, especially OWM.
- It is very expensive to bring building up to code (safety, elevators etc)
- To attract higher-end home buyers we need more amenities downtown, such as better parking and safety.
- Current shops are not open past 5pm. This is not attractive to target group who would live downtown.
- Potential buyers and sellers do not feel speaking with city entities provides much confidentiality.
- No good way to market properties for rent/lease
- Need a better plan to market to buyers/developers

What opportunities are there in our downtowns?

- Offer creative options to tenants (ie: one year lease) to get more visibility
- Need to romance out of town businesses
- Better/dedicated parking for high-end buyers
- Needs to more police presence with safety concerns
- Sell second level residential vs renting
- Organic growth vs directed growth (need both)
- Less service businesses downtown
- Chief Theater would be a great venue for year around bands, dancing, entertainment
- 14% of RW residence live below the poverty level. How do we balance the needs of all?
- City could be creative with the zoning to allow more growth.
- Historic tax credit can cover many “unglamorous” building needs such as electrical, plumbing, roofing, safety, etc
- One advocate to help navigate the systems
- Port has new business Concierge--Melissa Bartman to help with this

- Clean energy programs help with cash flow (Bill H and Cardinals)--PACE
- Cohesive marketing efforts
- Communicate better and more often
- Educate the community on development opportunities.
- SEO on a website for anyone googling keywords which should land them on the comprehensive page to make it easy to develop in Red Wing.
- HRA has a new grant program they are going to seek approval from City Council on.