



City of Grand Forks Staff Report

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
Maureen Storstad
12/19/2016
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Committee of the Whole – December 12, 2016
City Council – December 19, 2016

Agenda Item: Mayor’s Vibrancy Initiative -- Downtown

Submitted by: Meredith Richards, Community Development Deputy Director

Staff Recommended Action: Hear presentation by Downtown Group co-chairs; receive and file report

Committee Recommended Action: Forwarded to Council with the recommendation to receive and file

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor’s Vibrancy Initiative was launched in early 2015 to develop an integrated approach to allocating funds for community development and quality-of-life opportunities. This recognized Grand Forks’ rich and dynamic cultural environment and its importance to the overall community. It also recognized that a more strategic approach could provide greater impact and efficiency. Two working groups – Arts & Events, Downtown Development – emerged to take on this task. The Arts & Events group presented its final report to City Council in September. The Downtown Group recently finalized its report and recommendations, which will be presented by co-chairs Jim Galloway and Jonathan Holth.

DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY GROUP TIMELINE	
Spring 2014	Mayor notes importance of a vibrant community in his State of the City address
Winter 2014/15	Issue identification/strategy development for enhancing Grand Forks’ vibrancy
Spring 2015	Launch of Mayor’s Vibrancy Initiative
March 2015	Downtown Group holds first meeting
Summer 2015	Vibrancy Initiative outreach/engagement visits to Winnipeg, Ft. Collins
October 2015	Vibrancy Initiative Progress Report to City Council
March 2016	Downtown Public Forum held (Herald Community Room)
June 2016	Downtown Group reviews draft report/recommendations (narrative)
November 2016	Downtown Group approves final report subject to graphic and editorial corrections
December 2016	Final Downtown Report approved by co-chairs, made available online

SUPPORT MATERIALS

- Final report is available at <http://grandforksgov.com/home/showdocument?id=15668>