



AGENDA ITEM #5.2

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Nancy Malecha

Date: July 5, 2016

Subject: Thriving Communities Initiative

Report: The Initiative Foundation offers a Thriving Communities Initiative Program which engages local leaders and citizen in planning for the future (see attached information). With the opportunities the City will experience from the Highway 371 Expansion Project, the Economic Development Commission (EDC) believes that now is the time to begin this important planning process. Dan Frank from the Initiative Foundation will give a presentation on this Program.

The EDC is recommending the Council move forward with the Thriving Communities Initiative Program as noted in the following excerpts from the June 21st EDC Meeting.

- *COMMISSIONER RIECK MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEED WITH THE THRIVING COMMUNITIES*

INITIATIVE APPLICATION PROCESS. COMMISSIONER LUBKE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- *COMMISSIONER LINDHOLM MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE CITY CONTRIBUTE FUNDING UP TO \$3,000-\$5,000 TOWARDS THE THRIVING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE 2016 EDC BUDGET. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.*

Council Action Requested: Council motion authorizing the Economic Development Commission to proceed with the Thriving Communities Initiative and application process on behalf of the City with City funding support in the amount of \$_____ to be paid from the 2016 EDC budget (\$1,000) and General fund balance (\$_____).



Thriving Communities Initiative

The Initiative Foundation's Thriving Communities Initiative (TCI) program partners with Central Minnesota hometowns to engage local leaders and citizens in planning for the future. The Foundation believe that courageous leadership, positive community dialog and civic engagement are the keys to a thriving community.

Throughout this program, each group is challenged to examine how to integrate community development to ensure all segments are appropriately represented. Based on the premise that everyone who is affected by a decision should have an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process, inclusive community dialog is critical to the visioning and planning processes across generations and ethnicities. This 90- to 120- day program helps communities identify their unique assets, challenges and goals in five steps:

- **Step 1:** Core team training (6 hours)
- **Step 2:** Community input meeting (3 hours)
- **Step 3:** Review and discuss community priorities (2 hours)
- **Step 4:** Organize and train task force members to carry out implementation (3 hours)
- **Step 5:** Ongoing technical assistance and grants for implementation (ongoing)

PROGRAM

The Initiative Foundation provides each community with training, technical assistance and resource referral. Because participants work in concert to achieve goals, identified at the grassroots level, the Initiative Foundation will help identify matching funds to move community projects forward.

PROCESS

TCI begins by providing innovative training to diverse leadership teams dedicated to involving citizens in building a brighter future for their community. Each team is responsible for leading their community through a place-based process that results in the development and implementation of a locally shared vision and action plans.

PARTICIPATE

Participation in this program is offered annually through a competitive selection process. Eligible communities must be located within the Foundation's 14-county region.



For more information, contact:

Dan Frank

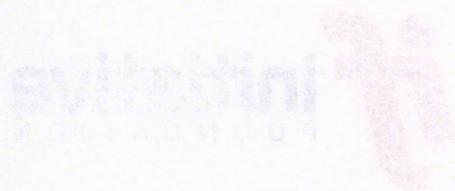
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Thriving Communities Initiative Timeline



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