

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Tuesday, March 21, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Morey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Michael J. Morey; Council Members Paul Fisch, Randi Vick and Robert Standish. Members absent: Gary Klug. Consultants and City staff present: Shannon Sweeney, Joyce Iverson and Robert L. Nelson. Visitors present: Ann Thompson, Mike Werner, Mary Mell, Kathy Nelson, Leonard Ranzenberger, Mike Murphy, Faith Bergin, Shelia Murphy, Todd Roesler, John Esch, Bob Klug and Jane Palen, Reporter.

BUSINESS ITEM: Mayor Morey introduced consultant Shannon Sweeney and turned the meeting to him for further discussion on updating the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Sweeney distributed handouts which included a typed summary of the discussion at the past meeting, listing the community strengths and challenges of the City Of Caledonia. It also included a listing of thirteen possible goals to set during this process. Mr. Sweeney reviewed the listings of community strengths and challenges showing the number of votes each mentioned received by participates with the greatest number of participants interested in researching the possibility of extending a bike trail to Caledonia. The second most interest was toward attracting new businesses to Caledonia. Number three was to establish design standards for development. Substantial discussion was devoted to promoting the implementation of a city/regional trail system. Ann Thompson and Joyce Iverson explained the current strategy of Houston County and communities there in for extending the trail system from existing trails now ending in Houston and LaCrosse. The state grants are distributed in such manner to encourage connecting existing trails, leading to the current plan for extending a trail from Houston to LaCresent to LaCrosse. Thereafter, the plan would be to extend trails to each community within the County and possibly extend into Iowa. A suggestion was made that if the city took initiative to create a trail from Caledonia to Eitzen or Caledonia to Beaver Park then encouragement from the State would be to join those existing trails with the Houston to LaCresent trail. Discussion was held on Goal #2, to maximize the Cities potential to pursue high quality economic development opportunities. Consensus of opinion seemed to support helping existing businesses expand for developing and entrepreneurial atmosphere for local residents to create new businesses, keeping in mind the remote aspect that businesses from other communities' maybe enticed to Caledonia. Goal #3, promoting a variety of housing types in Caledonia was discussed with emphasis on greater volumes of housing being made available for senior citizens. Goal #4, encouraging the community to actively pursue construction of a recreation center was briefly discussed when a decision was made to end the meeting because of the time of day. Mr. Sweeney said the meeting next month would pick-up with Goal #5.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Mayor Morey, seconded by Member Fisch, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted in favor, the motion was declared carried and the meeting then adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Michael J. Morey, Mayor

Robert L. Nelson
City Clerk – Administrator