

CapitolRiver Council Strategic Planning – Identifying Our VISION

Given that CRC is charged with the following mandates ...	What should CRC's VISION be?
<p>Serve as a conduit of information between the neighborhoods and the City Council, HRA Board, Mayor, and City Departments.</p> <p>Lead and implement high-quality planning and public policy decision-making activities, related to land use, housing, transportation, economic development, food systems, waste management, neighborhood livability, public safety, and the natural environment. This work ensures that the City's planning and public policy decision-making processes include diverse voices and a local perspective.</p> <p>Improved Neighborhood and City Livability and Sustainability -- engage the community in the concrete work of making the District 17 neighborhoods better and more sustainable places to live, learn, work, and play. Provide technical assistance and support for community-based livability and sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to community gardens, place-making projects, neighborhood clean-up events, tree restoration projects, local library associations, etc.</p> <p>Community Building -- build connections within and between communities. This work includes coordinating large neighborhood events, support for National Night Out and other block-level organizing, outreach to underrepresented populations, and technical support for small-scale community building initiatives.</p> <p>Participate in a peer support/best practices network composed of district councils or similar grassroots, place-based organizations in the region.</p> <p>Review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for residents who currently are under-represented. Pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents who have been historically under-represented.</p>	<p>Mission should be who you want to be. Current CRC mission:</p> <p>CapitolRiver Council, an official advisory group to the City Council, represents and works in partnership with all District 17 stakeholders to act on urban planning and community building efforts as part of a shared vision to support sustainable, safe, healthy, <u>CONNECTED</u> (proposed addition) and vibrant neighborhoods.</p> <p>Vision is where you want to BE, and from that you get your strategic goals.</p>

Excerpts from the 2016 CRC Strategic Plan

VISION: CRC will clearly be recognized as ...	Notes / Questions / Suggested Changes
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We initiate forums on issues that affect downtown, A resource (???) of information for our residents and connect with the city, businesses, other residents. <u>stakeholders to the City Council, the Mayor and other City officials.</u>2. We lead the community working toward increased safety, <u>equitable</u> development, and information sharing.3. A strong supporter of economic development and quality of life for those who live and/or work here.4. In particular, a voice for the needs and aspirations of small business. (Cut this?)5. A preferred partner (<u>in community engagement processes / projects</u>) for our Councilmember and the Mayor, involved proactively in work occurring here.6. An organization known for effective facilitation of conversation, collaboration, and building community.	<p>Question - are we FOR businesses or residents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Why aren't there more business representatives engaged in our work, especially small business owners / managers?- What is our "elevator speech?" (30 seconds). Who you are / what are you solving / what are the benefits?- CRC is at a lot of tables ... sometimes we feel like our voices aren't heard as much as they should.- When committees and working groups are part of CRC, we need to emphasize that, and get credit for what we do.- How can we be more assertive in who we are and what we are representing?- Could we put the 6 points in the Vision as a sentence or two?- We initiate forums on issues that affect downtown stakeholders.- In particular, we advocate for people who are underrepresented.- CRC is more of a connector than a representer (connecting people / organizations that have shared values, as opposed to "representing" someone, for example, in conveying their opinions to elected officials).-
Organizational Values	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy: to give voice to residents and small business owners as they seek to navigate the landscape we share with large corporations and the city government.2. Inclusivity: to seek diversity and excellence in people, ideas and services.3. Relationship focused: to build and nourish relationships in the community.4. Accountability: to hold ourselves accountable for results.5. Mutually supportive: to help each other succeed as members of a vibrant and diverse community.	

Additional Background: Examples of recent / past work related to mandates:

Serve as a conduit of information between the neighborhoods and the City Council, HRA Board, Mayor, and City Departments.

- Example: Solicited feedback / ideas for the City's Capital Improvement Budget (partners included Mayor's office, Saint Paul PD, Parks, and Public Works)

Lead and implement high-quality planning and public policy decision-making activities, related to land use, housing, transportation, economic development, food systems, waste management, neighborhood livability, public safety, and the natural environment. This work ensures that the City's planning and public policy decision-making processes include diverse voices and a local perspective.

- Example: Recruited volunteers to serve on planning / engagement advisory groups for Lower Landing Park, Summit Avenue Bikeway, and Riverview Corridor, among other projects. (Mayor's office, Parks, Public Works, and Ramsey County)

Improved Neighborhood and City Livability and Sustainability -- engage the community in the concrete work of making the District 17 neighborhoods better and more sustainable places to live, learn, work, and play. Provide technical assistance and support for community-based livability and sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to community gardens, place-making projects, neighborhood clean-up events, tree restoration projects, local library associations, etc.

- Examples: 1) Discussed City HRA decision to provide support to the Listening House and signed onto a letter of support that had been signed by other local organizations. 2) Advocated against proposed budgets (2017-2020) that would eliminate a public-private partnership to allow downtown residents and businesses to purchase hanging flower baskets. The program has now been added to the City's base budget through our leadership. 3) The CRC Skyway Governance Advisory Committee has consistently advocated for enforcement of the skyway hours of operation, standards of maintenance, and other regulations (that are often NOT enforced).

Community Building -- build connections within and between communities. This work includes coordinating large neighborhood events, support for National Night Out and other block-level organizing, outreach to underrepresented populations, and technical support for small-scale community building initiatives.

- While CRC doesn't "coordinate large neighborhood events," there are many organizations that do that in District 17. The CRC Executive Director responds to all required requests for support, for example, for requests to serve alcohol outside for events like the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Wheels of Italy festival, and various other events that require special permits (where district council support is required). Outreach to underrepresented populations is improving, but some CRC board members do NOT want CRC to engage some underrepresented groups, such as renters with below-average household income.

Participate in a peer support/best practices network composed of district councils or similar grassroots, place-based organizations in the region.

- The CRC Executive Director attends monthly staff meetings with other district councils and seeks out other community leaders for peer-to-peer learning and professional development.

Review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for residents who currently are under-represented. Pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents who have been historically under-represented.

- Example: CRC created an Inclusion Plan following one year of discussions at each board meeting related to diversity, equity and inclusion. The CRC Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure are also intended to help us achieve this mandate, however, the CRC board has always struggled to “call out” disrespectful behavior in meetings.