

DATE: April 12, 2022

TO: Planning Commissioners
Teresa Jensen, Interim Community Development Director
Mikayla Schmidt, City Planner

FROM: Betsey Buckheit, Planning Commission Chair

RE: Comprehensive Plan review

Planning Commission bylaws state:

“The Planning Commission, in the first quarter of each year, shall review the adopted sections of the Comprehensive Plan and determine if changes should be considered. The primary purpose of this annual review will be to identify policies that should be studied for possible changes or new policies added to the Comprehensive Plan. Upon completion of their annual review, the Commission may undertake special studies and reports, receive education on relevant issues, and/or make recommendations to the City Council regarding policy changes. These items would then be considered for inclusion in the work program of the City Council or Planning Commission for the coming budget year.”

Although we have missed the first quarter deadline, we will now begin a systematic review of the Comprehensive Plan in advance of updating the Plan in the near future.

For the April 21, 2022 meeting, please read the first chapter of the Comprehensive Plan:

- [Introduction](#): This chapter provides a quick history of Northfield’s Comprehensive Plans since 1966 as well as a summary of the process of developing the 2008 Plan.

To guide our discussion, consider the policy statements in the Plan and how Northfield has implemented them, diverged from them, or adopted new policies not reflected in the Plan. For example, the Plan has policies on the environment, sustainability and natural resources. Since the Plan, there has been significant development in these areas including adopting the Climate Action Plan. How do Comprehensive Plan policies need to be revised to present the current picture of Northfield’s intentions about climate the environment?

How’d we do? As we review the Plan, we’ll also try to identify which objectives have been met, where we’ve seen conflicts between the Plan and the LDC, and to develop a “report card” for the 2008 Comprehensive Plan for the Council.