

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Community/Team Name: Kimball Prairie Forum

Geographic Area: City of Kimball, and Fairhaven, Maine Prairie and Kingston Townships

HCP Round/Years: Round 5, April 1999 – April 2001

Project Focus: To plan and implement selected projects as a result of a 1999 MN. Design team visit

Vision/Purpose Statement:

The mission of the Kimball Prairie Forum is to preserve the quality of life, promote educational and economic opportunities and to protect the natural environment of Kimball.

Priorities:

- Organizing a task force with broad representation to hire a firm to conduct a planning and feasibility study on the City Hall/Library.
- To develop a framework plan for seven major corridors in Kimball by conducting well-attended planning sessions
- To provide the residents of Kimball area with a library offering more square footage than the current one, along with safe access to include off-street parking
- To renovate the historic Kimball City Hall
- To improve safety of pedestrians crossing Main Street and the safety of local traffic using Main Street
- To develop new signage and communication vehicles in the community by creating a new identity and website
- Support Kimball Public Schools in meeting their mission and implementing their strategic plan
- To determine if Kimball can support a retail medical services facility

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- \$5,000 - Community Theatre grant (June 2000)
- \$25,000 - Feasibility Study grant (December 2000)
- \$15,000 - Early Childhood Coalition (November 2003)
- \$10,000 - Early Childhood Coalition Implementation (June 2005)

Key Accomplishments:

- Had the Minnesota Design Team visit April 30 – May 2, 2000
- Conducted a successful community vision meeting in November 1999 with 125 key stakeholders
- Developed four task forces that were priority areas highlighted at the community visioning: Supporting Education, Traffic Calming, Library of the Future, Preserving City Hall
- Created both a brochure that highlights significant planning efforts undertaken by Kimball as well as a resource document on reference materials
- Cataloged all materials from HCP training and stored them in the Kimball Public Library
- Were instrumental in working with the Kimball school district to pass a \$9.9 million referendum for new construction/remodeling of the high school
- Purchased new signage for Kimball
- Utilized HCP Chair as “mentor” for incoming HCP community teams
- Completed feasibility study on City hall building and secured permission of City to proceed with fund raising for first phase of renovating the building.

Date Updated: January 22, 2007