Accessible Government Subcommittee Framework

<u>Summary</u>

The Accessible Government Subcommittee addresses ways to maintain and enhance connections between residents and City government (reference Community Connections & Accessible Leadership from 2019 Red Wing Comp Plan).

<u>Examples of discussion topics/focus areas:</u>

- Increasing participation on City Boards/Commissions and Council
- Getting the word out about City Activities
- Specific outreach to BIPOC and youth
- Templates, considerations, and contacts for resident-initiated projects on City property
- Access to Govt Data (e.g. building permits, site plans, etc.)
- Reviewing current public participation processes for improvement (Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, etc.)
- Resident communication with full Council
- Accessible Government Key Themes from Comprehensive Plan Phase 1 Public Engagement (see next page)

<u>Overall Committee Product:</u>

In accordance with Winona's 2045 vision, city values, and Comprehensive Plan Overarching Themes; new goals, objectives, and policies/actions identified by the subcommittee are recommended for incorporation into Comprehensive Plan.

<u>Committee Timeline:</u>

- March/April-July 2022
- Two (2) meetings per month – 1-1.5 hours long

<u>Accessible government</u>

At our public events and conversations, we asked folks to tell us how they'd like to be involved in the comprehensive plan update process and other city processes. Asking these questions helped Engage Winona meet the needs of a diverse range of groups and gave us insight into the accessible government comprehensive plan topic.

Key themes

<u>Opportunities to be involved, contribute (50 comments)</u>

Respondents had lots of ideas for how they'd like to be involved. Comments covered topics like ensuring all groups are heard, public comment at city council meetings, better representation on city boards and commissions, additional opportunities to give input on the comprehensive plan update, and inclusion of moderate voices.

<u>Information sharing and use of web tools (9 comments)</u>

Comments about information included a desire to see the results of the engagement sessions. Participants also wanted to see more social media engagement at the city level, and a better city web presence.

<u>Community gatherings (22 comments)</u>

Participants wanted more opportunities to connect with city staff and elected officials in informal settings. Participants also said they were interested in getting involved in subcommittees as part of comprehensive plan development.

<u>Accountability and transparency in governance (16 comments)</u>

Respondents wanted to see their comments heard and acted upon, and wanted visible implementation of the comprehensive plan. Some said they wanted to see more flexibility on the city's part with reference to new business development.

<u>Other (8 comments)</u>

Other comments referenced environmental concerns, term limits for appointed and elected officials, and connecting across political divides.