



**Visioneering Wichita  
Regional Comprehensive Recreation Plan  
Preliminary Strategic Alliance Meeting  
March 1, 2007  
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Karen Walker, Robert Mendoza, Larry Ross, Sommer Miller, Georgie Carter, Janet Miller, Tim Johnson, Brain Bascue, Frank Seitz, Irene Hart, Scott Dunakey, Eldon Miller, Larry Hoetmer, Scott Wadle, Neal Owings, Craig Simon, Mike Lueck

Leadership Team: Allison Hamm, Andy Solter, Elizabeth Bishop, Glen Dey, Irene Hart, Janet Miller, Jennifer Rose, Karen Walker, Larry Ross, Mike Lueck, Robert Mendoza, Ron Holt, Scott Wadle, Sommer Miller, Whitney Vliet Ward

Next Regional Comprehensive Recreation Plan Strategic Alliance Meeting: TBD

Minutes from the December 4, 2006 Regional Comprehensive Recreation Plan Preliminary Strategic Alliance meeting were accepted and approved.

Attendees were invited to join the Leadership Team to help with further development of the Alliance.

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I. Purposes of the Meeting

- Provide an update on recent planning and meetings held (the City of Wichita PROS Planning, WAMPOS and ARCAP)
- Provide an update on the Speakers' Series
- Provide an update on Knight Foundation Grant Opportunity
- Provide update and next steps for Information Clearinghouse Website

II. Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces Updates

Larry Hoetmer of ARCAP provided an update on partnership activities to date. The group is working on a "master plan," and toward that end, has hosted several public meetings, with an "open house" format to garner feedback on plans. There has been good attendance at meetings. In Hutchinson, there were some landowners in attendance who were initially concerned about increasing access to the river and their property. After responding to those concerns and continued dialogue, their responses were more positive. Oxford participants included many frequent river users who provided very positive feedback. The Wichita meeting at Minisa Park included a mixture of opinions, some more positive than others. Although few of the meetings had young people in attendance, many in attendance at meetings represented scouts, and other youth activity leaders. More meetings are scheduled for April 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Scott Wadle, City of Wichita, shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted work being done by an independent consultant, MIG. In addition, the City is currently in the processes of inventorying parks and recreational assets, mapping those out, assessing maintenance needs, etc. City of Wichita is also including in its inventory non-City of Wichita resources, i.e. YMCAs, health clubs, etc. K-State also has and is willing to share significant data on parks and recreation resources throughout the state.

Scott Dunakey, WAMPOS, discussed and updated on the regional transportation plan and the linkage between transportation planning and parks and trails development plans. He emphasized that the development of parks and trails has critical economic development impacts, as people and families make decisions about locating/re-locating to the Wichita area based on the availability of these types of amenities. On January 22, WAMPOS released initial draft of plan, and has made several presentations since then. A public meeting is scheduled on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at City Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor. In addition, a link will be added to the Visioneering Wichita website to allow citizens and residents to see and

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comment on the plan.

Janet Miller shared information on the planned Speakers Series, Dream in Green, which will start at the end of March and continue on an every-other-week basis through the end of May. The series is designed to bring in national experts to speak with the community and promote civic dialogue. Organizers have raised \$47,000 of their \$49,000 goal for the project, which is sponsored in part from resources garnered through the Kansas Health Foundation, Greenway Alliance and the KU School of Medicine. The National Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces conference is scheduled for mid-April. The keynote speaker is the director of the CDC, speaking on the connection between parks, recreation and open spaces and wellness.

Suzie provided an update on the New Challenge Grant through the Knight Foundation. Wichita is one of 200 who have advanced to the second level of consideration for funding. She also reported that the Health Care Alliance is currently establishing smaller work groups and emphasized the natural connection with the Health Care Alliance and the Regional Comprehensive Recreation Alliance.

III. Next Steps

No date was set for the next meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Recreation Planning group.