

**Northfield would be perfect If ...** *(Yellow post-its with pink category labels)*

### **VISIONING**

Got to imagine 10 to 15 years from now.

### **LEADERSHIP**

City hall moves into community national bank building area.

Greatest impediment to downtown business development is city hall. It does not enable!

City council members go out to get views of small shop owners, less prominent ones.

Are we leaders or are we followers?

A park system to be proud of like Minneapolis lakes, but appropriate to our small town, rural/river environment.

Better, “more downtown friendly” access and utilization of the park on 5<sup>th</sup> and highway 3.

Proceed with Hoisington Koegler design for the enhanced Bridge Square performance space.

Create a band shell in the new Way Park. Revitalize the West Side w/ music away from Hwy 3.

### **DOWNTOWN BOUNDARIES**

Try to keep some basic goods and services downtown, not just antiques and gifts.

Area of downtown expanded to match rapidly growing population.

Extend business district along Division to Woodley – more mixed use opportunities, etc.

Allow downtown to expand south on Division St. to Woodley.

Have Carleton entrance at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Division blend into downtown appropriately.

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

+ 50 years, stay a college town, student activity, open to public, music, drama, cafes.

More activities to attract people and fill the streets!

Sidewalk entertainment and dining.

Downtown music festivals.

A Fermentations sort of restaurant in downtown Northfield.

### **GOVERNMENT**

Big goal – line item in city budget for “artstown” support.

Encourage the EDA and council to have bonding referendums to develop an expanded regional art center.

DO NOW: Revoke 1306, create building board of appeals.

Encourage bonding referendum for new pool, library and other infrastructure projects.

All city staff and most direct labor live in the city.

A city council which discusses quality of life issues to avoid becoming ubiquitous suburbia.

Seed grass and repair lawn in Bridge Square.

Downtown maintenance of sidewalks and curbing needs to be more timely.

Active, on-foot enforcement and education of existing (or improved) codes, ordinances and posted signage.

### **GARBAGE**

A public, centralized compost and garbage storage plan needs to be developed.

## **GRAFFITI**

HPC should develop grant program for removing graffiti from historic buildings – an expensive process.

## **CODE ISSUES**

Get rid of 1306 and “there shall be a board of appeals for the building official.”

## **SAFETY**

Stop sign at 7<sup>th</sup> and Division.

Fix the screwy traffic pattern on Water Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

We need comprehensive lighting standards designed to meet everyone’s needs.

## **RETAIL / ENTERTAINMENT**

Mix of retail that meets the residents’ needs.

A lively entertainment district.

Banners that are vibrant and change every one to two months.

Downtown filled with successful library, shops and restaurants.

The backsides of buildings are as attractive and interesting as the fronts.

More pedestrian friendly; need to expand boundaries of downtown; expand retail: clothing, shoes, etc.

Mary Rossing’s bandshell in Ames Park.

All stores filled on Division Street 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

Return of Centerfield Music.

More outdoor music in Bridge Square.

Busy foot traffic 7 days. (Sunday store hours).

I can buy a pair of jeans in downtown.

## **RIVER ISSUES**

Extend river walk.

Fully embraced river.

Build a foot bridge over Cannon north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Repair river banks to slow erosion south of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Board walks or trails on both banks of the river from Carleton property on the north to 5<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, or beyond. To Dundas?

Sand blast and repaint 4<sup>th</sup> street bridge over Cannon river.

Repair concrete sidewalks around dam, post office and bridge square.

Repair iron and concrete wall/railings below dam and 4<sup>th</sup> street.

Canoe launch in downtown.

Remove dam and return Cannon River to a rapids between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Add rubble rock to east and west embankments of Cannon River between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street.

More interest and events on the river front/river walk.

## **JOINT PLANNING**

Joint planning group with Dundas and townships has been succeeding toward goals.

Hwy 35W commercial has not grown so fast it has drained Northfield.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

A much more active volunteer force for maintenance and improvement.

A positive attitude about downtown by Northfield citizens.

Stronger influence of citizen boards taking “load” off staff.

A strong economically self-sufficient downtown supported by local government staff and citizens.

### **DOWNTOWN CONSTITUENTS**

All goods and services have not moved to the Target area.

Downtown Northfield is the place to office in the region.

A balanced place to work, live, shop, socialize and recreate.

There are an equal number of storefronts that cater to residents as there are that cater to tourists.

All second floors filled with residents or businesses.

A tourist destination because people want to observe authentic life styles.

The first floor spaces provide services for the creative people who live and work on the second and third floors.

The best small college town in America.

A “must see” destination for Midwesterners.

### **BRIDGE SQUARE**

Bridge Square reconfigured so the fountain is nearest Division Street.

### **RIVER WALK AND RIVER**

Open a visual “pathway” from Bridge Square to the river walk to the north.

Multiple event locations beyond Bridge Square, i.e., more use of Ames Park and new public area with river front development.

Well developed and publicly accessible river front. It’s an amazing asset that’s severely underutilized.

Use of riverfront building faces for retail toward the river.

More focus on the river.

Develop and execute park plan for river front site and other downtown river way.

Open the back of buildings to the river in the 300 block of Division via new walkway alley and access.

### **LIBRARY**

The library has expanded downtown.

Library expanded downtown.

### **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**

More police to monitor South Water Street.

Maintain trash pickup more frequently in downtown and maintain (clean) receptacles.

Thoroughly clean once a week.

Northfield would be clean and well maintained.

Bridge Square would have grass in the bald spots.

Preserve and maintain downtown. Clean streets and sidewalks year-around.

### **RAIL CONNECTIONS**

Restore the old railway depot.

Commuter rail to the cities.

### **VISUAL APPEAL**

Identify infill projects such as alley ways and other public spaces.

Small scale development to complete 200 block of South Water street.

Develop west side of Water Street (Basil’s, etc..) with more tasteful infill, i.e., Kjerland building – all vacant sites and Key building.

Downtown would be perfect if it was aesthetically appealing thru historic preservation and new construction for residents and visitors and host to arts and entertainment activities.

A detail – we need water spigots 3 per block – to keep walks and buildings clean.

We need to think about standards before allowing wall murals.

Encourage zoning or ordinances that will define nature of infill and development sites in the fringe downtown.

downtown public spaces w/ (the) period accentuated, lights, benches, bike racks, signage.

## **CARS – TRANSPORTATION**

Parking structure like Grand Ave. with stores on the exterior.

More and convenient parking.

Develop the parking lot earmarked by past plans west of Hwy 3 between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Highways and their traffic are diverted around downtown.

Better access to “friendly parking”.

Downtown Nfld would be perfect if there was continuing growth of moderate density housing in and within walking distance of downtown, over the next 10 years.

+ 50 years: Weather friendly; no parallel parking.

Rationalization of people powered vehicles vs. foot traffic and cars/trucks.

Utilizing a gateway approach to Hwy 3 from Target into town using lighting, flagging, green spaces and trails/paths.

Plan for a commuter terminal NOW to be implemented in the future for rail or bus transportation to the Twin Cities.

Work with MNDOT and Dundas and Bridgewater Twp. To develop a ring road and river crossing south of Jefferson Parkway.

## **PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY**

Resident friendly – enforcement of reasonable quiet during evening hours.

More non-street pedestrian ways radiating through and from downtown.

Pedestrian friendly – clearly posted signs to indicate where people may or may not cycle and skateboard.

Sidewalk cafes.

Multiple two-bike bike racks on each block downtown (both sides of the street.).

Streets frequently closed for community events and miscellaneous activities throughout the year.

Vibrant sidewalks.

Steady traffic from Mill Towns Trail users; bike racks placed strategically.

Easily walkable from west side of Hwy 3 to est side.

Still safe at night.

More public art downtown.

More benches.

Install traffic lights at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and St. Olaf Ave. on Hwy 3.

Replace street lights (shoe boxes) around Bridge Square and Water Street with units that work.

The lighting would be consistent and in good working order.

Flower planter along downtown.

More trees! More plants!

More people living in a close to downtown who don't require parking to enjoy it.

Pedestrian friendly design is obvious.

Brush snow from downtown sidewalks daily during snow days with a powered sweeper (City).

Sidewalk snow would be removed by the city.

No parking on Division Street – sidewalk width doubled.

Wide sidewalks to facilitate relaxed use of downtown.

beautifully landscaped alley connections to parking.

Northfield – “a place of little destinations” e.g. – where west side trash bins are located we install a Small rose garden, a little looping pathway, 2 benches where people can literally sit and smell the roses. By “little destinations”, I mean – not more shops – but non-shopping destinations that impart beauty to the senses and engender thoughtfulness.

### **PARKING**

More parking downtown ASAP.

Parking ramp at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Washington.

Parking (at least) adequate in all areas of downtown.

Establish parking structures on both east and west banks.

### **PEOPLE ISSUES**

Downtown would be perfect if it became relevant to a high percentage of Northfield area residents – meeting frequent needs as well as wants, and appealing to visitors as well.

“Zero tolerance” for public drunkenness.

Strong respect for youth of community so we retain local talent and continuity.

Majority live work population in downtown complementing senior housing, residential, and visitor usage.

No train horns.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Alternative to low cost signage – finding mechanism to encourage classy store signage. KS

We need a contemporary directional and events information system that includes multiple, linked computer monitors in store window and elsewhere that allow for instant updating and a high volume of information.

Good information and directional signage!