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Minutes
Barron County Strategic Planning Work Group
Monday, December 15th, 2025 3pm
Barron County Government Center, RM 2151
335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812
Minutes taken by CA French

Committee/County Board Members Present: Okey, P. Anderson, Bartlett, Banks, Turcott,

Staff Present: French, Muench, Kummett, Hagen

Virtual Attendance: None

Others Present: U.W. Extension Staff: Lori Baltrusis, Karl Green, Sarah Brown,
B/C EDC Staff: Dave Armstrong , Brandi Nelson

#1. Call to Order: 3.04pm Chair okey

#2. Public Meeting Notification:
French provided notification of public posting

#3. Special Matters and Announcements:
None

#4. Public Comment:
None

#5. Approve Agenda
P. Anderson/Turcott approve agenda, carried

#6. Approve Minutes 11-19-2025 Meeting:
Bartlett/Banks, approve minutes, carried

#7. Approved \$5,000 Payment UW Extension - Strategic Planning:
Motion: Turcott/Barlett to approve above payment, carried

#8. Discuss/Review/Approve Process for Next Five Year Plan:
Discussion lead by Karl,
In the mission statement, change the word "progressive" to "responsible"
Motion, P. Anderson to change word, second Bartlett, carried
Mission Statement to now read: "To enhance life by providing services in a fiscally responsible manner through leadership, collaboration and innovation, that is responsive to all Barron County citizens."

Vision Statement: Discussion, on meaning, B/C's inspiration, work that the county has done,

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A Safe, Stable, Sustainable, County

Motion/ P. Anderson, second Bartlett to change Vision Statement to above. Carried

Discussion on Directional Statements:

- #1. "Expand affordable housing for aging population, rentals and entry level buyers"
Agreed statement needs to stay, discussed attempts to expand smaller homes
- #2. "Expand broadband coverage and enhance technological advancement in Barron County."
Discussed and agreed to leave
- #3. "Maintain and improve all county owned facilities"
Maintain and improve all county owned properties
Motion Bartlett/Turcott to change to "properties", carried
- #4. "Improved mental health and decrease substance abuse"
Strengthen community health and safety, mental wellness and substance use prevention.
Motion Bartlett, Second P. Anderson to change #4., Directional Statement to above, carried.
- #5. "Remain fiscally responsible"
Remain fiscally responsible through planning and execution
Motion; P. Anderson/Turcott, to change Directional Statement #5 to above, carried.
- #6. "Attract and retain new and skilled workforce"
Discussed and agreed to leave
- #7. *Monitor technology, including, (AI), and effect on Barron County*
Motion Turcott/Bartlett to add the above directional statement
- #9. **Staff Updates:**
Staff updates as printed in the agenda were discussed, no action taken
- #9. **Future Agenda Items:**
January meeting: Data presentation on Barron County Services and changes to local/county landscape since last planning document
- #10. **Set Next Meeting Date:**
January 16th, 9am.

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#11. Adjourn:

Chair Okey declared adjourned at 4.35pm by unanimous consent

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