



2019-2020 City Council Goals & Action Steps

Work with our neighbors to solve area-wide challenges

We believe Charlevoix is defined as a collection of townships, a city, a county, civic groups, neighborhoods, and schools bounded by Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan. In order to support the quality of life and local economy we now enjoy, we understand that it is important to look at the long-term picture of prosperity in this area.

Action Steps:

- The City should focus on creating an environment to sustain and encourage year-round occupancy in our neighborhoods to welcome a growing population
- More and better housing should be created by enhancing the density of our existing residential neighborhoods along with mixed-use commercial opportunities
- A growing population should be supported by growing the jobs and investments in the community through existing businesses and welcoming new investment to perpetuate the vitality of our region

Ensure Charlevoix is environmentally sustainable while also economically viable

Charlevoix should be a leader in using renewable energy to meet the demands of our electric customers and to protect our natural resources. Our built infrastructure should incorporate design standards that protect our waterways, preserve our trees, and encourage healthy living. Recycling, energy optimization, and water conservation will be encouraged.

Action steps:

- Schedule a work session with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council regarding storm water and water improvement
- Engage in learning and planning about how to improve the energy efficiency and environmental impact of City operations including using renewables to power facilities, reducing energy loss, and by working with knowledgeable organizations to create a sustainability plan
- Develop a program for electric customers to cooperate and invest in solar and wind generation projects
- Consider ordinance changes in support of the Lake Charlevoix Watershed Plan and improve storm water effluent
- Improve the availability of recycling receptacles throughout the community - especially downtown
- Continue the work of Solid Waste Ad-hoc Committee by exploring improvements and contracts to remove solid waste including curbside recycling
- Plan for non-motorized trails, bike parking, and pedestrian-friendly design in infrastructure projects where appropriate

Include the senior citizen community in all public events and activities

We have a growing senior citizen population and it is important for all members of the community to enjoy the quality of life we offer. Public facilities, especially parks, should have activities available for all ages and ability levels.

Action steps:

- Expand work with the Charlevoix County Transit Authority to provide shuttles during special events to provide remote parking and ease of transit

- Develop a policy requiring all festivals and special events who use public spaces to provide a statement of inclusion for senior citizens
- Consider adding activities in East Park and Bridge Park like shuffle board and concrete checker and chess boards
- Explore designation as “Age-friendly City” from the World Health Organization

Develop and maintain long-term infrastructure plans

As a progressive, year-round community, Charlevoix’s infrastructure must be reliable in all weather conditions and should deliver the services required by our population.

Action steps:

- Continue development of city-wide Wi-Fi, fiber optic connections, and other technological benefits for our permanent residents, visitors, and seasonal residents
- Improve the snow and ice clearing from sidewalks throughout the community by working with property owners

Provide strong stewardship of public resources and promote good governance

We will seek collaboration with other entities around the area and look for ways to efficiently provide the quality services the community expects. Charlevoix government should be organized around gathering public input and effectively giving staff and Council good recommendations for public policy.

Action steps:

- Consider amending the Shade Tree Ordinance to expand the mission of the Shade Tree Commission to protect the long-term condition of our parks
- Explore further avenues of cooperation with neighboring townships, especially in the areas of infrastructure planning and recreation
- Study the use of our business-like enterprises (i.e. Golf Course, EMS, and others) and the degree to which they are subsidized by taxpayers

Enhance and showcase the outstanding quality of life in Charlevoix

Charlevoix is well known as one of the premiere resort communities on the Great Lakes, but of equal importance is that it is home to our residents. We cannot lose sight of our community being “home.” One of our strongest attributes is the many activities and amenities offered; we should support these and build upon them.

Action steps:

- Recognize the role of our cultural corridor institutions (Charlevoix Public Library, Circle of Arts, and Historical Society) and build on their programming
- Encourage more outdoor dining and placemaking settings that showcase the unique geography, architecture, and programming of Charlevoix, including looking for ways to implement the findings of the Sustainable Built Environment Initiative that studied downtown alleys
- Development of a dog park and a dog beach to help residents enjoy public spaces with their four-legged friends