Onalaska Apple Festival October 7, 2023 Results

Community Development staff had a table at the Onalaska Apple Festival to provide information and gather the community's thoughts about the subarea plan. (Note – The existing Onalaska Subarea Plan was adopted in 2017 and this effort is an update to that plan). At the festival, two handouts were provided: subarea plan overview and frequently asked questions about Onalaska and the county. There was a sign up sheet where people could provide their email to be added to the notifications list. And there were two posters. The first poster was a map of Onalaska and the surrounding area. People were invited to put star where they live, work or play. The second poster included policy statements based on the first three community meetings. People were invited to pick their top three priorities.

Top Three Priorities

The statements on the poster came from two community meetings (June 7 and August 23) and the first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting (September 19). People were invited to take three dots and place them next to the statements that they feel are the most important. There was also an open space for people to suggest other priorities. Because each statement represents a priority that the community identified, none of the statements will be removed from the planning process. The exercise serves instead to help staff and the CAC understand what the community feels is the most important and therefore what should be a priority focus of the discussions going forward. Below are the results of the poster survey, in order. Images of the posters are found on page two.

- 1. Protect the surrounding rural area and resources lands (61)
- 2. Preserve the small town character of Onalaska (57)
- 3. Ensure that locally owned businesses are thriving (38)
- 4. Improve the safety of 508 (23)
- 5. Provide necessary goods and services in town (16)
- 6. Create bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets (15)
- 7. Provide a diversity of high-quality affordable housing (12)
- 8. Ensure that people can live, work and play in town (11)
- 9. Create new employment options (9)
- 10. Support and expand community facilities and services (9)
- 11. Other priorities: better cell services/internet (4), senior transportation (1), bowling alley/movie theater (1), hospital (1) and love (1)

Perhaps the best comment was provided by a young lady, under 10 years old, who asked if she could provide a comment and thought that "love" is the highest priority. Staff would agree.

