VISIONING SUMMARY

During the visioning meeting the public was asked to discover the unique qualities in Marquette and dream about what the future of the city could be in consideration of identified assets and values. An overarching community vision was designed from input gathered, as well as a vision for each planning element addressed in the plan, as shown below:

A Vision for Marquette:

Marquette's unique natural resources serve as a draw for residents and visitors, providing plentiful open space and recreation opportunities and serving as a boon to the local economy. Development is sensitive to protecting these valuable environmental features, and with the exception of some potential residential or recreational growth, is generally contained to existing developed areas. Community services, facilities and infrastructure are maintained and improved (sometimes in cooperation with nearby communities) and are honed to address growing needs in the population. Diverse and quality housing options are available to all residents.

Community Culture Vision

Marquette has a small-town atmosphere & is known for its scenic beauty. It is a desirable location for families, and spaces for community engagement, recreation, & enjoyment are prevalent. Residents also take advantage of activities in the broader region. Volunteer groups and community organizations are engaged. And public art and beautification have been pursued and create further appeal in the community.

Housing Vision

Marquette has a diversity of housing options available to meet the needs of different age and income groups, and housing is considered attainable and affordable. The housing stock is high quality through vigilant maintenance and updating efforts by owners and the community. And the city has pursued incentives and initiatives to do its part in addressing housing needs for current and future residents.

Economic Development Vision

The local economy thrives on a year-round basis. Business development to revitalize downtown has been incentivized and pursued. Major employers contributing to the economic base have been supported, and the needs of the local workforce are met. Tourism remains an economic strength, and the city has adapted and coordinated to capitalize on this.

Transportation Vision

Multi-modal transportation options are supported, the sidewalk network complete, and a network of trails exists between downtown, residential neighborhoods, nearby McGregor, and surrounding destinations and

amenities. The city has coordinated with the Iowa Department of Transportation, the county, and local partners to update transportation infrastructure in a manner that ensures safety and connectivity.

Public Facilities and Services Vision

Community facilities & services are maintained and supported, including ensuring that law enforcement & emergency response have facilities meeting current needs. The city is a partner and leader in bringing services that address local need, such as senior, youth, public transportation, and childcare services.

Public Infrastructure Vision

Community sewer and water infrastructure is maintained and updated as needed. Gaps or problems within the stormwater management system have been identified and addressed. Communication infrastructure provides strong internet access to community members, workers, and businesses.

Agricultural Resources Vision

Marquette's natural resources, steep topography and limited prime farmland mean that large scale agricultural operations are limited in the community. However, small scale or value-added agricultural businesses add to the economic mix. The city is a partner in working with landowners and farmers to implement sustainability and conservation practices to preserve soils, protect water quality, and provide flood mitigation benefits.

Natural Resources Vision

Marquette is a good steward of the natural resources that serve as a draw to the community & provide countless benefits to residents. Water resources serving for drinking water, recreation, & more are protected from harm. Sensitive bluff areas & views are preserved. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound, and the Driftless Wetland Centre continues to provide quality environmental education and outdoor programming.

Hazards Vision

Marquette mitigates flooding risks through maintenance of stormwater infrastructure on roadways, in neighborhoods, and along the creek and river, and future development in floodplain areas is discouraged. The city has the capacity, facilities & equipment necessary to provide emergency response during disasters & storm events. Manmade hazards, such as ground water contamination and dangerous buildings, have been addressed.

Land Use Vision

Low density residential will continue in the R-1 and R-2 districts. Multi-family can be found in existing apartments in R-3 or R-4 districts, and in downtown. At the nexus of Highways 18 & 76 and the river, the downtown district is the primary focus of economic activity, with some existing industries scattered outside of downtown along major roads. Additional commercial expansion is limited due to land constraints. Much of the remaining land area in the community will be largely maintained & protected as conservation areas.