

Comprehensive Plan Update  
Aldermanic District 2 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

October 16th, 2014 – 6:30 PM  
Parks and Recreation Building  
2442 Sims Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Community Development Department Intern Kelly Strombom, Chris Doubek, Neil and Nancy Karc, Hans Walther, Denise Mrozek, and Dwaine Halrat

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Meeting Summary:

Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski and Associate Planner Kyle Kearns provided a brief presentation where they described the city's comprehensive plan update project and visioning tactics to establish an overall vision for the community. This included describing the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis (SWOT) to assist in gaining critical public feedback and input. Staff proceeded to provide examples of feedback and input which pertained to a small area or neighborhood, or to the entire community, citing that an overall vision is derived from an examination of the entire community.

A questionnaire was provided, of which can be obtained online, which included nine questions for participants and attendees to answer freely or use as a guiding document when providing input and feedback. Staff led the small group through the questionnaire provided. Responses to the questionnaire and feedback gathered by staff from public comment and conversation within the small group have been summarized below for each question.

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. What do you see as the community's major strengths and assets?
  - Parks
  - Green Circle Trail
  - Schools
  - People are strong
  - Low crime
  - Quite
  - Outdoor recreational activities
  - TIF-Good needs to be done
  - College students
  - UWSP-a lot of offers to the community because of the university(conference space, sports, special Olympics)
  - Farmers market
  - Culture and the arts
  
2. What do you see as the community's major weaknesses or liabilities?
  - College students
  - Lack of student housing
  - Lack of parking downtown and on the east side
  - Ministry is losing doctors-Lack of trust in physicians-Not enough experienced doctors
  - Lack of convention promotions
  - Not enough place to stay in the hospitality industry

- Holiday Inn is too expensive
- Hard to start a business so people move out of town(CR Commons) to do so-too many restrictions
- East side Wal-Mart
- Hard to find a job
- Lack of manufacturing jobs
- Little to no growth
- Unfriendly business environment
- Heavy traffic on Hwy 10
- Main street is too narrow and hard to see cars
- Aging population
- Lack of senior housing
- Most festivals revolve around alcohol
- Mopeds being driven on sidewalks
- Lack of green space in the downtown area
- Hwy 10 bypass will kill businesses

3. What do you see as the community's major opportunities

- Create a convention center off of Hwy 10
- Add more restaurants and business along Division Street geared towards students
- Airport land
- Houses next to Green Circle trailhead offer opportunities for growth
- Convert Comfort Inn and motel to student housing
- Parking for student at the N.W. Corner of Schmeckle
- Enforcement on occupancy should be enforced
- If Kmart closed it could be used to bring a mixed use development
- Job creation in manufacturing
- Keep UWSP Graduates in Stevens Point
- Community service projects for minor offenses(picking up goose droppings in the parks)
- Billboard for community events
- Wausau 400 Block program-Family oriented
- Balloon rally
- Parades
- Internship at the visitors bureau

4. What do you see as the community's major threats?

- College students
- Paper industry is weak
- UWSP parking ramp-Not in my backyard
- No parking in Lot Q at UWSP
- Only two hours parking o street
- South side pod housing too many residents
- Students need to report housing problems through an anonymous phone line
- Backlash from community on student housing
- Mopeds on sidewalks
- Deer
- Kmart closing

- Developers don't want to build here because of the restrictions
- No entry level jobs in manufacturing

5. What is your dream for our community?
6. What kind of community do we want to create?
7. What would you like to see change?
8. What would success look like?
9. Any other additional comments or feedback?