

Comprehensive Plan Update
Aldermanic District 6 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

November 20, 2014 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Transit Facility
2700 Week Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Portage County Associate Planner Sarah Wallace, Jerre Corrigan, Bill Scholfield, Sally McGinty, Marc Violante, Christine Mealiff, Susan Schlicht, and DeeAnn Donahue.

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 then led discussion within the small group using the questionnaire as a guide. 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?
 - Mom and pop, unique shops and restaurants. Nice to have stores but it is easy to get to Appleton. Would like to see a Cabela's or a Gander Mountain (sporting good stores)
 - Culture
 - Downtown is very unique and is a draw, especially for the parents of college students. It would be nice for the Fox Theater to open
 - Unique mixture of traditional values and strategic vision
 - Easy community to work with as a developer
 - Forward thinking
 - University – 4 year
 - Government is easy to work with
 - Fun community.
 - Culture and entertainment
 - Employment and workforce makeup
 - Mixture of shops. Small "mom & pop" shops and restaurant that are not chains
 - Good selection of local restaurants
 - Character
 - Environment and aesthetics
 - Down home feel
 - Strong Business atmosphere
 - Eclectic

- Neighborhood feel without huge sprawl
 - People come back
 - People have good ethics – forward thinking
 - Good customer service
 - You can get anywhere in a short time, little traffic issues
 - Strategic location in the state
 - Healthcare, good resources
 - Strong local sports organizations
2. What do you see as the community's major weaknesses or liabilities?
- No large outdoor sporting goods stores
 - Difficulty to develop a large sports complex
 - Limited selection of woman's clothing stores
 - Limited Mexican restaurants
 - Division/Church/Post Road is dangerous. A lot of traffic. Would like it to stay four lanes but design it with a median
 - Hwy 10 is dangerous. People don't shop the stores because of this. Need a bypass
 - Lack of bike lanes in the urban core
 - Noise and lights from I-39 into the subdivision. Need walls
3. What do you see as the community's major opportunities
- Use the big empty buildings for youth organizations
 - Repurposing the empty stores
 - More activities for young people
 - Fox theater renovation and reuse
 - Developing a 300 convention center
 - Intercity bus system
 - Need a bakery
 - Need to keep the character of Stevens Point
 - Need more restaurants like Panera and Chipolte (fast casual)
 - Need more activities that are non-alcohol base
 - Need more activities for kids and teens
 - Maintaining four lanes on Business Highway 51
 - Wider sidewalks to accommodate bicycles
4. What do you see as the community's major threats?
- Need to continually grow, standing still is falling behind on growth
 - As we grow, we need to protect existing residential neighborhoods
 - Roundabouts on Business 51
 - Deterred shoppers on Highway 10 east due to increased traffic
 - No bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on highway HH over the interstate and on Brilowski Road
 - Jet breaking noise from the airport
 - Not adapting to transportation trends
 - Limited lodging, not large enough to attract large conferences

- Encroachment and infringement of development on neighborhood, such as along highway HH and Hoover Road – difficulty of maintaining neighborhood character (lights, noise, etc.)
 - Traffic on highway HH and noise – difficult to exit onto thoroughfares
 - Large development of business parks, and infrastructure to accommodate growth – financial implications
5. What is your dream for our community?
 - Maintain and improve character
 - Creating and maintaining a friendly living environment to attract business, jobs, and development
 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?