

Comprehensive Plan Update
Aldermanic District 8 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

December 11, 2014 – 6:30 PM
Stevens Point Municipal Airport / Mattson Field
4501 Highway 66, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Eighth District Alderperson Tony Patton, Norman Strojny, John Strojny, Jerry Hild, Marti Sowka, John Koshnick, Tom Tielens, Henry Glodowski, Adam Kosterman, Larry Sipiorski, Jim Pollock, and unknown female woman.

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?
 - Great recreation areas; parks and trees
 - District 8 has great housing and is close to downtown
 - Low home prices
 - The city has a good and responsive forestry department
 - District 8 is centrally located
 - District 8 has a lot of open land
 - Plover River, canoes and kayaks
 - District 8 has the main water source for the city in the Plover River basin
 - A lot of wildlife is in District 8
 - District 8 has a lot of older, but nicer homes. There is the need to keep them in good condition.
 - Arts
 - Airport
 - Sculpture Park
 - Green Circle Trail
 - Historic development along the river, turning dump into active uses
 - Wisconsin River, too bad the bank built on the river
 - Water supply, both quality and quantity
 - Former Lullabye Furniture property
 - Good roads
 - University and Mid-State Technical College

2. What do you see as the community's major weaknesses or liabilities?
 - Highway 10 traffic, need another way over I-39
 - Limited growth opportunities
 - High taxes
 - Not that attractive to people who don't want to drive. Parking should be less of a concern because people are driving less
 - Ability to bike on the streets, need more bike lanes. Need for an intercity bike path, specifically on State Highway 66
 - Empty stores downtown
 - Crossing Division Street
 - Edgewater Manor has a high vacancy rate, land could be used for something else. A small group swayed the Council
 - Location of city garage drop off site, need more centralized location
 - Water pumping capacity affecting neighbors

3. What do you see as the community's major opportunities
 - UWSP students can be used on many projects in the community
 - Franklin Street is underutilized. It would be a nice spot for a hi-rise, condos, or apartments
 - Former Emerson School site could be developed and still keep some park land
 - Former Emerson School site should be a park, they are not making any more greenspace
 - Need more apartments or housing choices for young families
 - Growth to Brilowski Road and Jordan
 - Highway 10 intersection at Interstate 39 – make it less confusing
 - Less car dependent community
 - Wider sidewalks for bicycles and pedestrians
 - Long term use for Edgewater Manor
 - More preparedness for emergency management

4. What do you see as the community's major threats?
 - Oak Wilt
 - Railroad tracks on Country Club Boulevard – lengthy delays, potential for a train derailment
 - Competing with other adjacent communities for developments – Stevens Point versus Plover or Wausau
 - Lack of lots for housing. – Natural constraints for growth
 - City garage in Bukholt Park

5. What is your dream for our community?
 - High growth – building tax base
 - Keep home town feel and culture
 - Build amenities to attract younger families
 - City growth to Brilowski and Jordan Roads
 - Fox Theater redevelopment
 - A very active downtown
 - Added grocery stores – i.e. Trader Joe's or Whole Foods
 - Welcoming and maintaining young people

- Restored and maintained housing stock
6. What kind of community do we want to create?
 - A welcoming community for a variety of populations and people
 7. What would you like to see change?
 - Entrances into the community need to be improved aesthetically
 - Bury power lines
 8. What would success look like?
 9. Any other additional comments or feedback?
 - Housing is generally well kept in the city