

Comprehensive Plan Update
Aldermanic District 10 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

January 8, 2015 – 6:30 PM
Ben Franklin Junior High School
2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Fourth District Alderperson Mike Wiza, Allison Sellers, Carl Rasmussen, Kathy Kelk, Jan Green, Alex Kochanowski, Bob Larson, Kathy Dugan.

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 a 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 groups have been summarized below for each question.

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. What do you see as the community's major strengths or assets?
 - Excellent EMS, police, and fire services
 - Arts and Culture – Events on the River, and Cultural Fest
 - Well defined business corridor in the district, linear in nature
 - Wonderful water
 - Excellent EMS services with great response time
 - Stevens Point planning for railroad overpass on Hoover Avenue
 - Green Circle Trail
 - Schmeeckle Reserve
 - Walkability
 - Diverse workforce, hard workers
 - Great public and private schools – bilingual programs
 - McDill pond
 - Central location
 - The 10th district has a well-defined business corridor
 - UWSP

2. What do you see as the community's major weaknesses or liabilities?
 - No distinctive line between Village of Whiting and City of Stevens Point
 - No room for physical growth in district 10
 - Dangerous Minnesota Avenue at the intersection of Business 51

- Pot-holes
- Aging infrastructure
- Hwy HH and Whiting Avenue – lack of crosswalks for pedestrians and bicycles, could add a gravel trail
- Need pedestrian accommodations on Sherman Avenue
- Canadian National railroad blocking City Streets
- Imbalance between rentals and owner occupied homes
- The 10th district is a linear district, not a nodal district. You need to take advantage of cross roads.
- Speeding on Business 51.

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

- Abandoned railroad could be turned into bike path
- Berkshire Hathaway hiring may lead to new opportunities for housing and other businesses
- Stevens Point support of McDill pond maintenance
- Promotion of the City's wonderful water
- City plowing of Copps Grocery Store (southside)
- Gravel trail and/or crosswalks on Hwy HH (Riverview Avenue)
- Increase of owner occupied housing
- Cater to growing businesses such as Berkshire Hathaway
- Development of railroad easement to the Whiting Mill
- Improve bicycle routes between points of interest, commuting, not just recreational use
- Create bicycle routes in other communities stemming from the Green Circle Trail
- Operate buses on weekends to provide transportation to events throughout the community
- Infill development in district 10
- Provide additional housing for baby boomer generation
- Development of disc golf course on Patch Street.
- Creation of historic park near Copps Grocery (southside)
- Continue to enhance of Green Circle Trail and bike friendly environment throughout the district
- Creation of better bicycle and pedestrian accommodations at railroad underpass on Michigan Avenue
- Traffic light analysis throughout the City
- Partner with Village of Whiting to share costs of services – McDill Dam
- Aesthetics on the southside, specifically along the causeway on Business Highway 51
- Diversion of stormwater – not into McDill Pond
- Smaller grocery stores
- Good paying jobs
- No need for four lane on Michigan Avenue by the underpass, could add bike lanes
- High growth in jobs
- Revisit the need for stop lights, move back to four-way stops
- Partner with Whiting on stuff to share costs
- Entrances into the city could be improved

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

- Business Highway 51 road reconstruction project delay
- New Kwik Trip store damaging surrounding businesses
- Flooding at the underpass on Michigan Avenue

- Development in Plover – residential
 - Highway 10 bypass
 - City debt has mushroomed
 - Direct drainage road salt and other contaminants into McDill Pond
 - Too many rentals
 - Lack of good paying jobs
 - Crossroads Commons in Plover taking all the retail
5. What is your dream for our community?
- Quality of life improvements - reasons for living and being a Stevens Point resident
 - Slow and steady growth
 - Improved community spirit
 - Upkeep and improvement of owner occupied housing (aesthetics)
 - Maintain larger town amenities and small town feel
 - Keep historic style
 - Arts and culture
 - Parks
 - Infill development growth
 - Bicycle routes for commuting
6. What kind of community do we want to create?
- Arts and culture
 - Parks
 - Infill development growth
 - Bicycle routes for commuting
 - Slow steady growth
7. What would you like to see change?
- Highway 10 interstate crossing options for pedestrians and bicycles
 - Fix downtown parking – difficult to back out of angled stalls on Main Street
 - Clark and Main Streets becoming two-way traffic
 - Opportunities and financial support for maintenance and upkeep of historic homes
 - Better paying jobs
 - Keep parks in public domain
 - Division Street development
 - Revitalization of downtown connection between downtown and WI River
 - Improved dissemination of information to the public
 - Better bicycling option in the city
8. What would success look like?
- Decrease poverty rate
 - Addition of good paying jobs
 - Lower taxes
 - Happiness of public measured in City departmental complaints
 - Raise in median income
 - Awards amongst cities across the nation

- Improve the connection of the Wisconsin River to the downtown
- Reduction in complaints

9. Any other additional comments or feedback?

- Parking lot across from Belt's needs a curb-cut for sidewalk access to avoid pedestrian access within the driveway.