



"People Serving People"

Middletown Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 October 2003

Minutes

Present:

Steering Committee –Alesia Alderman, Valerie Back, Joseph Bidwell, John Civile, Dane Donham, Jim Ewers, Wanda Glover, Sonny Hill, Harold Jackson, Cathy Newkirk, Nancy Nix, Sandra Pearce, Virginia Ritan, John Sawyer, Bob Wells, Laura Williams, Tom Williams.

City Planning Staff - Marty Kohler, Brian Forschner

Consultants - Caleb Faux, Doug Harnish, Brad Schwab

Mr. Schwab started the meeting with introductions. Mr. Faux then described the importance of the Comprehensive Plan, that the Plan is a vision for the City's future a guide for making decisions about where and how development should happen

He also discussed the Steering Committee's role during the planning process.

Mr. Faux then asked the Steering Committee, "what are some important questions the Comprehensive Plan update must answer." Several responses were given that were tied to economic development including:

- How do we market ourselves to potential companies?
- How do we diversify our economy?
- How does Middletown fit in the regional economy?
- How do we promote ourselves?
- How do we compete with other communities?





Mr. Faux then asked the Steering Committee to talk about their general thoughts about Middletown, what things are important to address. A number of individual responses were given that are summarized using the following topical headings:

Downtown

- The downtown is weak and must find a niche to be vibrant.
- Downtown needs better access from the Interstate.

Economic Development

- We need to do a better job of promoting ourselves. We must do better with advocacy efforts.
- We need to pay attention to the companies that we have.
- The city is essentially landlocked.
- There is a need to embrace regionalism.

Access and Circulation

- Limited access to I-75 with only one interchange - more are needed.
- Large portions of Middletown are far away from the Interstate.
- No direct access to downtown.
- Great access to region.
- Transit service is lacking.

Redevelopment

- Must recreate the city by removing large sections of rundown and obsolete housing.
- Let's try something new besides a building-to-building, band-aid approach.
- Must have a targeted comprehensive approach to redevelopment to make something special.

Perception and aesthetics

- Must improve the image of SR 122 at I-75.
- A general perception that the city looks bad, due to a lack of landscaping and building maintenance, sign clutter.
- Need design standards to guide future growth.
- Schools are bad, which is keeping new companies and executives out of town.

Infrastructure

- Combined storm and sanitary lines are a problem.