

MEETING MINUTES



PROJECT NAME: South Whitley Comprehensive Plan

PROJECT NUMBER: n13512

DATE: 02/03/2014

LOCATION: Community Work Session (CW#2)

ATTENDING:

Attendees from South Whitley (40 Participants), Dave Sewell (Whitley County Planning); Eric Lucas (MKSK); Sukirti Ghosh (MKSK)

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REPORT:

These minutes represent the author's understanding and interpretation of issues discussed and decisions reached. Errors, omissions or disagreements with the information contained herein, should be addressed to the attention of the writer, within two days of the date received.

1. MKSK Presentation

- Project Overview
- What We've Learned [Learning Phase]
 - Emerging Themes from Stakeholder & Steering Committee Sessions
 - Emerging Themes from Relevant Studies/Plans
 - Inventory Maps
 - Market Understanding
- What are the 'Big Ideas' [Idea Phase]
 - Emerging Themes/Big Ideas

2. Break-Out Sessions

- Facilitated discussions on 3 topics
- Each topic – 15 minute discussion, 15 minute sharing
- Topics
 - Topic 1: What are your thoughts on the targeted ideas and strategies presented today?
 - Topic 2: What are some of the things that you think can be added as additional targeted ideas?
- Feedback/Input from the participants
 - Engage students
 - Like the recreational trail idea
 - Do we want growth?
 - Plow Day is successful, can we integrate or expand events like this within downtown?
 - Like the Town Square idea – opportunity to do multiple activities – eating, yoga, Zumba

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- Parking space in downtown – have to be convenient; utilize vacant spaces/lots in downtown for parking; probably diagonal on west side of State Street and parallel parking on east side of State Street
- Eel River trail – another reason to bring people downtown
- Amish integration within the community and downtown, inventory of assets
- Would like to have Farmer's Market
- Wetlands on south and east of downtown – maintain those and preserve natural areas
- Promote venues for twenty something's and high school kids – can be addressed by the Town Square
- What comes first – infrastructure or development?
- Sidewalks to north also [Dollar General]
- Like the overall direction, specifically downtown space
- Like the graphic notion of signage
- Encourage business/entrepreneurs in downtown
- Collaborate with school to create a downtown move-in ready space for programs and community participation
- Facades – aesthetics and structural stability should be assessed
- Preserve historic downtown
- Utilize auditorium of the school for other things
- Vacant lands within downtown – plant grass, murals
- What can happen in Dwyer's building?
- Gravel pit for fishing and recreational facilities
- Wi-Fi – extend that into public areas and downtown parks/potential town square; would be an amenity in summer
- Athletic fields – provide amenities for younger kids – soccer fields
- Promote community communication, brochures
- Opportunity for retirement community, independent living
- Support businesses for Whitley Products, Fox Products
- Preserve old housing but opportunity for new housing
- School's motto – can be the same for the community
- Reach out to alumni for mentoring
- Promote more green spaces
- People like Carol's unique character