

Imagine Bloomington

Public Input Workshop Summary – Group 1 Goals (5/2/2013) Monroe County Public Library

Group 1 Goal Topics: Downtown, Housing & Neighborhoods and Land Use

Total Workshop Attendance: 16

Voting Summary:

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<i>1</i>	0	0	1	7	7
<i>2</i>	0	0	0	3	12
<i>3</i>	0	1	4	7	3
<i>4*</i>	0	0	2	8	6
<i>5*</i>	0	0	4	7	5
<i>6*</i>	1	0	0	12	3
<i>7</i>	0	2	1	7	5
<i>8*</i>	0	0	5	7	4

* - one respondent only voted on 4 goals.

Group Discussion Summary

Goal 1: Identify and define neighborhood edges as transitional infill areas along high volume roadways, Indiana University Campus, and Downtown targeted for higher intensity, context sensitive, infill development areas.

Goal 1 Discussion:

- Henderson & Hillside development – good example of density
- New developments should fit in with the neighborhoods (form and scale)
- Elm Heights and Bloomingsfoods. Good cooperation for developing this project - neighborhood participates with the development.
- Urban Farms – local food in neighborhoods

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Goal 2: *Equalize the balance of student-oriented with nonstudent-oriented residential housing markets with an emphasis towards increasing nonstudent-oriented housing options attractive for senior, workforce, multigenerational, accessible, and multi-family housing markets.*

Goal 2 Discussion:

- Indiana University/Community discussions - more Bloomington citizens having involvement on the Indiana University Board of Trustees.
- Mix of housing options for a wide spectrum of people.
- Senior housing important – public transportation for seniors.

Goal 3: *Immediately provide historic protection measures for structures around the Courthouse Square and seek to leverage redevelopment incentives associated with protection measures for other historic surveyed structures, districts, and neighborhoods.*

Goal 3 Discussion:

- Student demographic/population threatening historic structures.
- Character of Courthouse Square is currently good.
- Buildings and activities active in the downtown.
- Additional housing should be non-student.

Goal 4: *Adopt a strategic community affordable housing plan for families/individuals earning less than 120% of annual household median income.*

Goal 4 Discussion:

- Diverse housing – planning and incentives needed (tax credits and financial).

Goal 5: *Focus commercial-oriented development around area and local serving activity nodes with an emphasis on converting strip and corridor oriented development patterns towards higher density residential uses.*

Goal 5 Discussion:

- Property located behind Staples and Barnes & Noble. It's an auto repair that's a good example of a mixed commercial/residential development.
- Building forward design needed – completed streets.
- Neighborhood developments needed – commercial.

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Goal 6: *Empower neighborhood associations so that they can improve their intra-collaboration and access to government agencies by participating more actively in discussions about community issues.*

Goal 6 Discussion:

- Good communication with City of Bloomington, Indiana.
- Neighborhood associations hard to organize.

Goal 7: *Sustain the Downtown's renaissance and diversify its overall market condition through employment and supportive housing initiatives within the Certified Technology Park and the regional attraction of the Convention Center.*

Goal 8: *Identify specific geographic areas of the community that need more development guidance and need a higher degree of detail than typically provided.*

Goal 7 and 8 Discussion (combined discussion on both goals):

- High paying jobs needed in downtown.
- B-Line connects neighborhoods.
- Good amenities.
- Switchyard Park.
- Technology and infrastructure are very important

New Goal Idea Submissions:

- NWSNA is concerned about visual impact of Tech Park development (boxy factory style bldgs. And boxy high-rise apartments) and impact of parking overflow.
- Senior housing, in-town senior center and patrolling of B-Line between Adams and Fairview.
- Consolidation of sustainable systems managing food waste, energy conservation technologies – geo.
- More really nice trailer courts for low income people and affordable housing. Check Carmel, Pacific Grove or Florida retirement centers (trees, shrubs, bike paths and small garages for car, nice roads and design).

General Comments:

- My interest is primarily in sustainability and food security and encouraging urban agriculture. Secondly, I feel alarm at the number of apt. units and buildings and the number of bars increasing exponentially in the downtown area.