



Visioning Meeting Notes– 5/17/22

Michael Conwell welcomed group. Consultants gave power point presentation about comprehensive planning, public input, and visioning. Residents moved from table to table to complete a visioning board activity and list their visions by planning element. Steering Committee members summarized comments they heard at each table and below is list of comments:

Reminder to check out article in *Akron Beacon* from Sat.

PARKS / REC/ NATURAL SPACES

- No trail connection that cuts through residents' yards – Towpath to State Park. Why is this a city priority
- Fewer tax burdening amenities
- Multi-purpose parks – kayaking increasing in popularity; tangle with anglers.
- Residents like open, natural feel of parks; not forced-feeling green space
- Keep lots big, open
- Parks serve community demographics well

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Upkeep of roads – city does a good job, especially in winter
- Not a lot of discussion about broadband (no picture on the vision board)
- No paying to tie into city water that needs to be paid for (fluoride, too) – does this improve home values?
- Some want improved water (quality) – others love their well water
- Concern about faulty and failing septic systems, sewage going into lake, and annual registration cost with county
- Housing along lake is old and have old septic systems that are costly to fix/replace
- Need to know what plans/timelines are for extension of waterlines and sanitary sewer services since their expansion will dictate growth
- Some question Health Dept septic inspections (required by law to make annual inspections of septic systems)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Property uses – Lazy L good example
- Reduce empty buildings
- Retain small businesses
- Coffee shop



TRANSPORTATION

- Busier roads now – maintenance should keep up; deal with increased traffic
- Discussion about bigger retail on Manchester Road driving up traffic
- Manchester Road corridor must be looked at now before more unplanned growth occurs. More sidewalks needed near commercial areas, need to look at land uses, signage, turning lanes, possible access roads, streetscape, etc.
- South Main and Comet is a dangerous intersection; Manchester Road and Johns Road is difficult
- Manchester Road to Towpath trail spur
- Other connections to Towpath needed for better access

CURRENT/FUTURE LAND USES

- Comet/Manchester – green stickers (due to green space?)
- High density and senior housing not wanted BUT as people age, less maintenance-heavy facilities for aging population are desired
- Location of water/sewer treatment areas once waterlines/sewer services run
- No vacant buildings

AGRICULTURE

- Lots of green dots
- What is agriculture in New Franklin? Need better description small family farm vs commercial farming
- One red – chicken coop; not desirable (but NF residents do have chickens!)
- Preserve large lots for hobby farming
- Marketing for city is always large plots of land. Must be what people like. Work towards preserving that.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Fire department
- Lots of ambiguity for the Tudor House usage and renovations, and pickleball courts, some comments that they do not like to see trees removed for pickleball court (also may be a loud activity) or need for additional development on Tudor property.
- Interest in a farmer's market and developing a community garden

HOUSING

- Single Family homes on acreage is most desired
- Zoning to clean up homes' frontage- should present better, more picturesque



- No ginormous houses
- Zoning, zoning
- More thoughtful, planned housing design/development
- Questionable quality of Akron schools chasing people to outlying areas such as New Franklin
- Pricing of New Franklin housing stock a bit more reasonable than Medina County

OTHER

- What is New Franklin's identity? Having four school districts in the area makes it difficult - community pride versus school pride
- Only outlying areas are agricultural but mostly for large lot single family housing. Need to check if farming is a truly economic activity within New Franklin

ADJOURN

There being no additional comments, Chair Conwell thanked attendees for their interest, ideas, and time.