



**City of New Franklin  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee  
City Hall, Council Chambers + Zoom  
June 19, 2023 from 6-9:30 pm**

- I. Welcome to all committee members attending in person and via zoom; welcome to community members who continue to be engaged in the process of the committee's work.
- II. Lauren Falcone:
  - a. Reviewed the evening's agenda and stressed we are entering the final stages of our important work.
  - b. Reviewed the Guiding Principles; committee members made comments and recommendations.
  - c. Reviewed the draft of the Vision Statements that build upon the Guiding Principles for each of the Planning Elements. The committee recommended adding Future Land Use as an additional Planning Element and stressed the need to focus on incremental growth. Point of clarity include:
    - i. Transportation corridors refer to Manchester Road (State Route 93) and Turkeyfoot Lake Road (State Route 619)
    - ii. Infrastructure refers to services provided by the city
    - iii. Agriculture look and feel
    - iv. Community Facilities refers to amenities and activities
    - v. Parks & Rec refers to open and green spaces
    - vi. Economic Development stresses measured, moderate, strategic and incremental growth of small, local business
    - vii. Housing stock
    - viii. Quality of Life – a great place to live, work and play
      1. **ACTION: Committee members were asked to help “word smith” Quality of Life Planning Element**
      2. **ACTION: Put survey result data on the city's website.**
        - a. Discussion ensued on the timing of putting the survey results in the public domain prior to the release of the committee's recommendations and final report. Several members were in favor of putting up the information immediately while others expressed concern about survey results taken out of context. Per previous SC Committee Meeting Minutes, the survey results would be release to those who specifically request them but not be publicized until the final report.
      3. **ACTION: Ensure the order of the Planning Elements is consistently listed in the Vision Statement, Guiding Principles and Implementation Plan**
  - d. Reviewed the action items of the Implementation Plan. The Implementation matrix identifies each Planning Element; where it was heard/originated (i.e., SC Committee, Visioning Workshops, Survey); the Responsible Party to ensure review/implantation; and possible Funding Sources (City Council, State/Local/Government grants, Private philanthropic grant funding; Private Developers, etc.)
    - i. **ACTION: Add a Glossary of Terms to the final report**
  - e. Review of conceptual renderings for the various way-finding ideas to help create a “sense of place” for the City of New Franklin – potential locations include the intersections of Akron Avenue and



Manchester Road, Manchester and Center Roads, Center and South Main Street. Discussion ensued on whether to promote actual locations that might not be ultimately featured amid reactions from the greater public. Other ideas included exploring community art installations. Much discussion on featuring renderings of potential bike lanes, streetscapes, lighting and sidewalks.

- i. Public Comments – members of the general public in attendance were invited to provide feedback on the various elements of the draft Comprehensive Plan. The committee was thanked for their diligence and work over the past months, commended for their transparency, and thanked for keeping the community involved. Comments included environmental concerns were mostly addressed in the Economic Development Planning Element but should be included in virtually all other elements. Comments concerning the need for balance between wanting to grow the city while at the same time preserving the current quiet, small town feel. Several in attendance voiced their desire for better communication from the city on where residents get their information. Many of the current plans are similar or carried over from the previous Comprehensive Plan. Questions arose of if the western edges of the city seemed under-represented in the survey responses. Discussion on inclusivity and representation of ideas while balancing against available resources. Recommendation to annually revisit the plan and timeline for implementation. Questions arose on how the final report will be distributed and communicated to the public, suggestion for a final public workshop or report “release party” and urgings to continue seeking community input. OTHER COMMENTS:
- ii. Plans implementation: concerns re vagueness, broad nature as the plans presented before council; community should be involved in process as to defining the *what*.
- iii. Why environmental concerns relating to development mentioned only in AG?
- iv. Quality of life statement: vision statement sounds too much like marketing/branding—too dismissive of rural character; don’t remove from top paragraph of vision statement; OK to not be unified in NF community’s vision; OK to have multiple identities within the city.
- v. Housing/growth: cognitive dissonance between marketing to new resident’s vs maintaining rural character; think about how NF should grow; stay ahead of potential growing pains w/traffic, etc. Plan to mitigate congestion, without the need for traffic circles, etc.
- vi. Communication: more needed, which was pointed out in survey; where do people get their info? Would have been good to track that data in survey process.
- vii. Old comp plan: 90% identical to what is being discussed here; feels many of the recommendations were not implemented (Michael, later: re-do of the plan was to verify what is consistent even in light of the changing community)
- viii. No vacant houses/buildings as a goal: how feasible is this? (Plan would be just to mitigate down as much as possible).
- ix. Bike lane on Center Road between Main and Center would be unsafe due to S-curve.
- x. Garden at south end of Manchester... spend less money by getting a garden club together to provide their own investment; community-led project.
- xi. Hard to pinpoint what character is: i.e., 10 different ideas from 10 different people.
- xii. Commends the committee on culling through all the info, etc.
- xiii. Identify and character: do not get it wrong; focus on what it is, in spite of four school systems, growing community from small bedroom community, senior population, etc.

- xiv. Development all east of Grove Road; what's happening west of Grove for the community? Do they want those connections to Towpath, amenities, etc.? Melody Village is part of NF; what is CITY going to look like? Southern portions, too. Cleveland-Massillon Road as an opportunity for Agri-education. Ignoring portions of the city through development of facilities, amenities and infrastructure could polarize the city further and lose the opportunity to solidify its identity.
  - xv. Bike paths would require road widening, filling ditches, etc. Do we realize the magnitude of the improvements proposed?
  - xvi. Don't narrow the scope of the plan to just main corridors if it will alienate or spark wants from other portions of the city (Mark: survey asked where people wanted to concentrate development and it was on the main roads; Michael: we did send survey to entire city... Jack: Ward 4 was slightly lower but not by a lot; Tim: multiple identities will all contribute to having one identify in the city; Michael: council meets twice monthly to address concerns, especially as to diversity and inclusion).
  - xvii. Echoed previous comments; small community, rural character
  - xviii. Nefarious activities at State Park: were they from the community or visitors? The more we open the community, the more we open the door for ... just keep in mind. (Tim: welcome people but remind of and enforce the rules)
  - xix. High taxes and conflict with the need for more law enforcement.
  - xx. Thank you for workshops and good advertising.
  - xxi. Chart column where heard: clarify public visioning versus steering committee vision.
  - xxii. Plan should include a timeline as to when it needs renewal/rewrite again.
  - xxiii. Website: NF website is amazing, but forgets to go to it; how to make it memorable and present in residents' awareness... mailers?
  - xxiv. Comp plan is great resource; hopes people will have a chance to read it in entirety, not just sections that are of interest. Weave important themes throughout to avoid misinformation spread: fiscal responsibility, controlled taxes, etc. (Tim: misinformation will still happen, so be prepared; Michael: creating generous debate).
  - xxv. Consider holding more workshops at the release of the comp plan to read together; presentation and discussion as to how residents will still have a voice; resources for being an educated citizen; curb concerns that initiatives in the plan are not known (Michael: this plan will include an action plan for execution, but needs funding...; will do our best to get the word out).
  - xxvi. (Jack: parsing out pieces will happen; word-smithed out terms that sounded like dictates.)
  - xxvii. Hit the hot points first, but ease into them; prioritize so people reading the plan know that they were heard.
  - xxviii. Identify the low hanging fruit that council can enact on in near future.
- f. Adjournment – There being no further business, Chairman Conwell thanked the committee members and general public for coming to the meeting. MC stressed that this final report will become a living document and reference for city leadership's future use. Finally, stressed the renderings are conceptual only and those ideas that could be easier to implement are prioritized for action.

9:39 PM - Adjournment

