

# North Vernon Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Notes

**Date / Time:** Tuesday, April 7, 2009 @ 11:30 a.m

**Location:** North Vernon Education and Training Center

**Attendees:** Nathan Burbink, J. Howard, Mayor Soup Campbell, Larry Fagerstein, Kathy Ertel, Col. Chris Kelsey, Howard Malcomb, Dave Shaw, Cheryl Trisler, Pat York, Ryan Curry  
EGT: Scott Burgins, Cory Whitesell, Lisa Dunaway, Jim Rice

The meeting started with introductions, a trivia game and an overview of the workbooks. Scott provided an overview of what planning is and the benefits of planning.

The committee discussed what kind of place is North Vernon with the following descriptions:

- Safe
- Good schools
- Good place to raise children
- Good safety net w/ fire depts, police.
- Good people work here
- “Real” town with a downtown
  - ✓ No “missing teeth”
- Investments in economic development
- Downtown park is great
- People know each other / are friendly
- Lots of veterans
- Airport

The committee then ran through a mapping exercise and identified the following issues:

## **What are the key assets to protect?**

- JPG Airspace (overlap b/w their airspace and N. Vernon)
- Businesses already operating out of the airport
- Protect airport from residential encroachment
- Parks (also grow – need more)
  - ✓ Particularly City Park – additional 10 adjacent acres to acquire

## **Traffic issues**

- Hwy 50 Bypass – down to 2 routes
- School congestion – two routes proposed
- No road b/w Hayden Pike and RR bridge – no access to NW

- Emergency access difficulties (Rescue 20) – 3 & 7 area is spoke of wheel
- “Spokes but no wheel”
- Military Training and school time conflicts – mostly on Hwy 50

### Infrastructure

- Annexation problems?
  - ✓ CSL – out of compliance with IDEM
- Wastewater treatment facility is non-functional
  - ✓ Grant to fix it possibility
  - ✓ Send it elsewhere
  - ✓ Work with Hayden & JNRU & Muscatatuck
  - ✓ Grow town w/o septic systems
- Enough water in Jennings & Muscatatuck
  - ✓ Reclamation process at spent quarry
    - Years worth of water could be stored there
  - ✓ Proposed reservoir at Xena’s
    - Might not hold water
    - But good location since there isn’t much there

### Residential

- Put west of town
- Needs ER access
- Not fit for agriculture anyway

### Agriculture

- Be sensitive to 4 large farms to north of town vs. industrial growth
- N & E of Xena’s is really only area for ag

### Commercial

- Protect South State area
- Grow North on Hwy 7 or in that area
- Or grow on Hwy 50 towards Muscatatuck
- Chicken farm in that area has halted growth out on Hwy 50
- Need better access b/w 50 and airport for businesses
- Maintain downtown in spite of by-pass
  - ✓ Make it a destination
  - ✓ Have a truck route to keep big trucks out of downtown
  - ✓ Allow for small traffic through downtown
  - ✓ No place for trucks to stop anyway
  - ✓ Let streets be closed for festivals

## **Government**

- Bring government back downtown
  - ✓ Carnegie Building to house all gov't operations
  - ✓ Show commitment to downtown by government
- Bold Statements
  - ✓ Development principles
    - i.e. aesthetics

## **Economic development**

- Key driver of the development of the community but needs good guidance
- Don't have the jobs that college-educated people want
- ED is not what it was 20 years ago – don't chase smokestacks
- Need good paying jobs that are enduring
- Investing in ED
  - ✓ TIFs are biggest investment
  - ✓ Tax abatements as part of incentive package
  - ✓ Develop quality of life

## **Parks**

- Expand the system
- More greenspace in new development
- Sidewalks in new development
- Turn RRs into walking trails
- Bike paths & hiking trails

## **Residential**

- Maintaining older homes – not made into rental slums
- Invest in old neighborhoods
- Balance of old & new
- Plats for new developments instead of homes off roads
- Quality apartment living needed for military
  - ✓ Mostly subsidized apartments here
  - ✓ People going to Seymour

## **Planning & Zoning**

- Like for P&Z to have enough teeth
- Have good ordinance
- Have good enforcement
- Need monetary backup for enforcement
- Need to be able to keep up older neighborhoods
- Fewer exceptions

## North Vernon "Brand"

- Good healthy environment
- "Home-y" and comfortable
- You can talk to your neighbors
- It's a natural location
- Little crime
- 20 year change
  - ✓ CLEAN
  - ✓ Eco/green
  - ✓ Developed downtown w/ loft apartments
  - ✓ Farmers markets & nice places to eat
  - ✓ Jobs so people don't have to turn to meth

The committee determined that the public visioning workshop will be held at the ECT building on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm. EGT will run focus groups with stakeholders over the next month.

The next steering committee will be held on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am at the North Vernon Education and Training Center.