

Washington County Comprehensive Plan

Steering Committee Notes: Meeting #4

Date/Time: Tuesday, July 6, 2010 @ 7:00pm
Location: Salem City Hall
Attendees: Eric Rusby, Kerry Lewis, John Mishler, Jeff Souder, Lane Freiberger, Shenan Campbell, Terry McNeely, James Day, Travis Elliot, Brad Shelton, Donnie Hacker, David Hoar, Laura Bishop, Rhonda Green (Videotaping)
Planning Consultants: Scott Burgins, Michael Krosschell

Projects Completed since Steering Committee #3

Scott began the meeting with a review of what has happened since the last meeting:

- Posted online minutes from Steering Committee Meeting 3
- Assisted with research about Indiana code and implementing zoning
- Completed phone interviews of community leaders
- Completed draft: History & Culture
- Completed and distributed draft: Making the Case for Planning
- Completed draft: Land Use
- Completed and distributed draft: Economic Development Chapter
- Completed and distributed draft: Housing Chapter

General Concerns/Issues

The group discussed the possibility of an additional meeting of only steering committee members to discuss the draft chapters of the comprehensive plan. There was also a conflict with the final steering committee meeting date; a new date will be set for the August 23rd meeting.

Making the Case for Planning

SDG explained the benefits of planning for the future using comprehensive plans and zoning. Planning would allow Washington County to preserve what surveys have found to be the number one asset to the community, the natural resources and beauty.

There was general agreement amongst the group that the county's natural beauty needed protecting while still allowing the community to grow.

Development Principles & Goals Discussion

The group discussed more narrowly defining terms used in the development principles. For example, what and who will define "prime farmland."

The committee also reviewed the overall goals of the plan:

- Goal 1: Indicate areas of the county most suitable for specific types of development, such as residential, commercial or industrial uses.
- Goal 2: Maintain the county's rural way of life.
- Goal 3: Protect the most fragile parts of the county's environment, particularly the lakes and water systems.
- Goal 4: Discourage incompatible land uses from creating conflicts with property owners.
- Goal 5: Prevent private development practices that result in additional costs to county taxpayers.

In regard to the goals outlined this section, the steering committee discussed a parks master plan, including guidelines for confined feeding operations and farming practices in karst topography. The group also discussed refining the goals to account for circumstances that may result in a net gain for the area.

Land Use

Group discussions of land use centered around the types of subdivisions, the costs of septic/sewer that would be required for each and the main goals for building requirements.

The group was also able to view and give input on a draft of a land use map. The group discussed where, if anywhere, industrial sites might be located in addition to the two that already exist. Committee members agreed it should be given consideration because the ample water supply and proximity to the interstate would likely attract industries.

Since agriculture is a major economic growth factor for the county, comments were made in favor of sustainable farming practices, such as cloth overlays in karst areas that would still allow farmers to be profitable.

Review Teams

Near the end of the meeting, steering committee members were assigned to teams to review drafts of chapters for the comprehensive plan. These review teams will be line editing and content editing to ensure that the comprehensive plan reflects the views of Washington County. The review teams are as follows:

- Housing:
 - Eric Rusby
 - Ervin Day
 - Travis Elliot
- Economic Development:
 - Lana Sullivan
 - Donnie Hacker

- Kerri Lewis
- Lane Freiburger
- Land Use:
 - David Hoar
 - Brad Shelton
 - Jeff Souder

Next Meeting

The public meeting to inform residents and gain feedback about the planning process has been publicized in three local papers and is set for **Thursday, July 29, 2010 from 6:30-8:00** at the Salem City Hall.

The next steering committee meeting is **August 2 at 7 p.m.** at Salem City Hall. The group will review the draft transportation, utilities and natural resources chapters.

Contact Information

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