

**City of Carrollton
Community Listening Session
Minutes
February 16, 2012**

Mayor Gene McMurry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Carroll County Middle School. Those attending are identified in attachment A. The agenda is shown in Attachment B and reflects the purposes of the meeting which were:

- To report on the progress of Point Park developments
- To obtain public input on the Land and Water Grant for a splash park
- To report on the past accomplishments and current activities of the Main Street program
- To obtain citizen input on what residents would like to see for the downtown, going forward

Mayor McMurry asked residents to use the provided handout related to the land and water grant for the splash park to give feedback or comment. The handout is shown in Attachment C.

David Lose of Lose and Associates presented an overview of the Point Park activities and discussed upcoming phases. He also provided a handout that is shown as attachment D.

Sam Burgess presented an overview of past accomplishments of the Main Street program as well as an overview of current accomplishments. These details are included as attachment E.

Bobbie Bryant, community development advisor for the Kentucky League of Cities then facilitated the public input portion of the meeting. The results of the input are noted herein.

SWOT Analysis

Residents worked in small table groups to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the community.

Strengths:

We have the desire to improve our community

Small town charm

Close to Kentucky Speedway

Opportunity for expansion

River traffic

Hospital and urgent care clinic

Collaboration of partners in the community

Demonstration of community spirit shown through festivals, concerts, etc.

School system

New sidewalks

Great banks

Beauty of Point Park at sunset

Freedom from heavy-handed restrictions such as in Madison

Moderate climate seasons
Residential area is close to the downtown
Creative artistic talents and growing outlets
Willingness to work together
Library
Location – halfway between Louisville and Cincinnati
General Butler State Park
Carrollton Utilities
Main street program and other programs
2 restaurants
Strong industrial base
2 Rivers
Interstate
JCTCS
Police-Sherriff-law enforcement
Friendly people
welcoming community
friendly
historic setting
unique
multi-modal transit
varied recreational activity
Library
School in close proximity
Major retailers such as Wal-Mart and Kroger
Downtown sidewalk renovation
City revenues
Chamber
Momentum – our people
Existing businesses such as McNeals Toole Rese
Entertainment

Weaknesses

Lack of activities for children and youth
Narrowly defined, the “city” extends beyond the historic area
Nothing to do
Condition of the court house
Unfinished projects
Resistance to change
Illegal’s
No grocery downtown
Nothing available to people wanting to start a business because buildings are not ready
Merchants don’t participate with the events held by staying open later hours
Pride of ownership
Lack of community confidence

Vacant houses
Litter
Too many rental properties
Sidewalks and infrastructure
Lighting from Park Avenue to 5th Street
Road divider on 227 needs to be refinished
Low quality rentals
Need more options for dining
Need a fueling area for boats
Too much government housing
Not enough ownership
50% who work in Carroll County do not live in Carroll County
Population needs more job skills
Negligence of properties
Back side of town
Education is way below national average
Income levels are low
Lack of local media
Pedestrian issues – crosswalks
Disconnect between GBSRP and community
Absentee land and property owners
Poor use of land/real estate
Becoming part of this community can be difficult
Finding real estate in the downtown that is available at a reasonable price (empty but not for rent)
Parking
Outreach
Communication
Local people shopping elsewhere
Positive headlines
Lack of young leadership
Lack of long term planning
Lack of businesses within the downtown
Lack of follow through and funding for projects
Entrance to the community from I-71
Bar next to the library-blight hinders additional development
Poor signage
Be open as advertised/not open on Sunday's
Lack of broadband
Youth sports programs

Opportunities

Recreation center
Community center
Antique shops

Get our town on the national register of historic places
Use of vacant land and business locations
Convention center in downtown Carrollton with a mall
Vendors along the riverfront
Point Park
Develop as an art magnet
Small business mentoring program
Hunting attraction-people coming to the area to hunt
Music on the river
Appeal to the boating community
River walk – park to trails
Need a brand to become a destination
Camp KYSOC
More cultural arts activities
Promote the historical aspects of the city
More tourism
Cultural events like Chautauqua
Provide some activity every season such as portable ice skating rink, carriage rides, etc.
City should annex to the interstate
Marina, gas, repair, canoe/kayak rentals
Variety of shops
Cater to motorcycle crowd
Get more people who earn a living in Carrollton to live in Carrollton
Bus/rail/transportation options
Education
Magnet opportunity for science and math
10 story condo
expand technical community college offering
business growth and expansion
safe environment
state park
access of water ways
broadband/internet available
Main Street could become the Hot Spot
Restaurants with outdoor seating
Luxury apartments

Threats

Apathy
In-action
Understanding the benefits of new projects
Financing for new business
Lack of commitment
Merchants don't work together
Town needs to partner with General Butler and all businesses to create a better county
Lack of follow through

Cleanliness

Welfare- too much, too many

Lack of community pride and involvement

Education

Too many vandals, too many drugs, too many teen pregnancies

Lack of marketing campaign

Lack of resources to support drug intervention, etc.

Crime

Floods

Health and nutrition of the community

Lack of middle and upper job opportunities

Need to integrate minority population – ensure they're interested in the community and understand that they have a stake in its success

Lack of skilled workforce

Lack of coordination and communication

Low population growth

Lifelong residents-no home ownership

Loss of initial vision

Town “fathers”/elected officials are not interested/involved in our town

Loss of industry

Loss of businesses

Unemployment

Continuing decline of downtown buildings

Cost of rent or leased property

Drugs

No long term vision

Not enough handicap access, ramps, etc.

Lack of public phones

Lack of museum-we're losing our heritage

Not listening to the requests of the community at large, move theatre

To be successful, downtown Carrollton must_____. The following responses were noted:

Community bulletin board for events

Provide entertainment

Have a unified vision

Safe pedestrian flow

Incentives for downtown development

Clean up downtown

No loitering

Activities for youth and families

Overcome the “nothing to do” issue

Presentable downtown

Quality of life

Access to river

Invest in community center

Improve condition of buildings downtown- fix up existing structures

Develop affordable housing opportunities
City and county government work together
Technological advances downtown
Renovate court house
Improve sidewalks
A vision for us in 20 years
A museum in a vacant building
Dog park
High speed rail
Coordinate events so they don't occur at same time
One call now
Outside the box
Make sure all streets have signage, and improve the signs that welcome people to Carrollton
Court regional developers from market stud
Encourage select businesses to locate downtown
Businesses need to be more involved in community activities
Concentrate on being our own city – create an identity
Make downtown buildings more presentable
Create incentives for businesses to locate
Increase home ownership
Need public transportation for all
Community pride
Grocery store in town
The image of downtown starts at interstate, it needs to be cleaned up
5,10, and 20 year plan for education
Designated swimming area on river
Find a way for people at Butler to come into town
Show a positive attitude to visitors
Work together, make a plan and do it
Promote buying local
Treatment options for substance abuse
Just cleaning up in front of your residence or business
Annexing
Use of land that we already have
Extended hours for businesses
Zoning county wide
Adventure tourism such as zip lines

The most important thing that must be done now, and long term.

Be proactive, develop a common vision, create a plan for action, prioritize everything, and complete it (Do something!)
Finish projects already started
Work together
Address transportation concerns
Foster and encourage pride in the community

Buy local and support our events
Develop coordinated youth programs
City planner to coordinate civic groups
Buildings must be rehabbed front and back
Enforce building codes and sign ordinances
Ad campaign to encourage residents to take pride in our community
Utilize our 5 year plan
Update the land use plan
Zoning
Annexation
Attract businesses that bring locals and tourists downtown
Community college- work with Hanover College and Ivy Tech
Attract Tourists
Improve education levels of our citizens
Develop recreational activities
Recruit businesses to downtown (grocery)
Clean up the town-beautification- from the interstate all the way to downtown
Create incentive for development
Fine property owners for not keeping their property clean
Keep a positive attitude, be respectful, listen and learn, don't just talk about it, do it!
Cooperation among merchants and governmental entities
Utilize the riverfront
Provide entertainment
Address the drug problem
Focus growth on tourists and citizens
Broadband/internet access - WIFI
Create gathering spaces
Address youth loitering problems
Public transportation options
Fountain in the courthouse square
Develop affordable housing opportunities for home ownership
More police visibility downtown
Expand JCTC
Expand hours, no longer a 9 to 5 environment
Address the bus crash sign on the interstate-negative approach to the community
Community center
Put God at the center of everything
Museum
Expand definition of downtown
Ambassador of city

Each person in attendance was given the opportunity to provide their name and contact information if interested in volunteering on topics that were discussed.

In closing, Bryant stated that the information gathered at this meeting would be made available on the city and Main Street websites. If anyone has additional comment, please contact the Mayor or Sam Burgess, the Main Street manager.

Mayor McMurry thanked everyone for participating and assured the audience that their comments will be included as planning moves forward.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.