



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE **MINUTES**

Committee Date: January 11, 2017
Present: Ald. Peter Jakab, Vickie Irwin, Patty Jalowiec, Marge Kalva, Barb McCauley, Mike Plumb, Rick Pokorny, Tim Roucka, Sam Sciortino, Dave Shimanek, Mitch Tau, George Vant, Lynn Zaremba
Absent: Ald. Tony Catalano, Ald. Mike Susmarski, Ald. Art Woods, Sal Lombardi
Also Present: Mayor Pulice, Ald. Eugene Wesley, Ed Cage, Kelley Chrisse, Mo Khan, Chief Greg Vesta, Brad Wilson, Matt York, Consultant Team – Michael Blue (Teska), Katie McLaughlin (Teska), Bridget Lane (Business Districts, Inc), Carl Wohlt (Wohlt Group), Lynn Means (Gewalt Hamilton)
Meeting Convened at: 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The Mayor welcomed the Steering Committee and thanked them for their willingness to participate. Mr. Cage provided a brief overview of “how we got here” and introduced the consultants. Mr. Blue introduced the project team and then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS:

Mr. Blue gave a brief presentation about what a Comprehensive Plan includes and that it is really about connecting the various parts of a community with the help of extensive public participation. The components of this Comprehensive Plan include Land Use/Development, Market Analysis/Economic Development, Community Branding and Regional Positioning and Transportation. Mr. Blue explained the project scope and the anticipated timeline for project completion.

WORKSHOP:

The Consultant Team split the committee and attendees into three groups to discuss issues and opportunities related to Land Use, Community Identity and Transportation. The workshop summary is included in these minutes for reference.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



**City of Wood Dale - Comprehensive Plan
Issues and Opportunities Workshop
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
January 11th, 2017, 7:00 pm**

Important land use elements of Wood Dale

- **The industrial areas** are important as they are in high demand and are highly occupied. However, the areas have many small, obsolete buildings. Increasing development here/in the TIF would improve the tax base.
- Wood Dale has many **parks** throughout the community. Salt Creek could include a River Walk.
- The **small town atmosphere** is an asset of the City.
- **Future development** could include a variety of restaurants with less chains, a variety of housing areas regarding type and price, retaining local ownership. However, it was noted that land for future development in Wood Dale is limited.
- **Wood Dale's location** is an asset, including the connections via the Metra station.
- A **Downtown** could provide identity, a place to hang out, a destination, and shopping (like Roselle). Placing it north on Wood Dale Road was suggested.
- The City is a **mix of uses** that lacks a focal point. Often times it's hard to tell you're in Wood Dale. It was noted that commercial development around Potter and Ash is obsolete.
- Wood Dale needs to be **easier to get around** for healthy living, which could include additional bike paths and/or a Pace route.
- The **Metra station** could be improved with Pace and traffic calming.
- **Irving Park Road's appearance** could be improved (with trees).
- **Flooding** needs to be addressed.

Important community identity elements of Wood Dale

How people perceive Wood Dale

- A City with a great location and access to other areas via major roads, the airport, and Metra.
- A prominent industrial area.
- A small, middle class, blue collar community that is diverse and older.
- A City lacking identity, a focus point, a "there there," a gathering place/attractions or downtown.
- Storefronts in poor condition or empty on Irving Park Road.
- A City with not enough diverse restaurants, needing a Starbucks.
- A City with traffic and noise issues.
- High taxes but low values; having lower housing prices north of Irving Park Road.
- Known for Bensenville schools.
- Library outdated.

Important community identity elements of Wood Dale (continued)

What should the personality of Wood Dale be perceived?

- Family oriented.
- Active, walkable downtown atmosphere.
- Location.
- Welcoming and activity focused.
- More restaurants would make it more active.
- Welcoming.
- Progressive.
- Friendly.
- Outgoing.
- Quaint.
- Small town atmosphere.
- Close knit community and friendly.
- Shopping (Georgetown).

Important transportation elements affecting travel in Wood Dale

- **The Metra line** is an asset for the community, connecting the City to many places. However, the train line can cause increased traffic issues near Irving Park Road and Wood Dale Road and it is seen as splitting the City. Improvements to the Metra station area could include better access with new wayfinding.
- The City has good, quick **access to major roads** (like 290, 83, and 355).
- **Wood Dale feels separated** as the neighborhoods and destinations are not well connected and it can be difficult to get across town. It's hard to walk and drive between everything.
- **Elgin/O'Hare Expressway** will be an asset when completed.
- **Irving Park Road** has good accessibility to shopping.
- Getting around Wood Dale on **bike or as a pedestrian** is hard. The City lacks much access and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. The industrial areas and many side streets lack sidewalks. Crossing Irving Park Road either by bike or walking is hard without designated crossings due to high traffic speeds. The City lacks connections to bike trails in the area and would benefit from an improved bike system within the City with good north/south and east/west connectivity.
- Wood Dale **lacks bus service**. This would be especially helpful for those traveling from the Metra station to the industrial areas (HSBC formerly owned and operated a shuttle on that route) and/or on Irving Park Road.
- **The traffic at the Irving Park Road and Wood Dale Road intersection** is especially bad during rush hour and train crossings, and results in people using side streets at high speeds to get around it. Traffic tends to back up onto Irving Park Road. This can also cause issues for emergency vehicles.
- **O'Hare's proximity** is a plus, except for the noise.
- **A regional transportation link**, like shuttle service, could connect to places like Elk Grove's shopping areas.