

Owen County Economic Comprehensive Plan

Steering Committee Meeting 2 • Jan. 12, 2022 • Owen County Family YMCA

Note

Full details of this meeting – including the PowerPoint presentation - and other components of this planning process can be found at <https://owencountycompplan.com/>. The site is regularly updated.

Catching Up

The meeting was facilitated by Scott Burgins, of SB Planning & Research and Rachel Christenson, of HWC Engineering. The committee started by listing their 2022 New Year's wishes and resolutions for Owen County.

Review of SC Meeting 1

The committee reviewed the basics of the comprehensive plan, its schedule and their role in the planning process. Details can be found in the PowerPoint presentation "Owen County SC 2 1-12-22" on the project website.

Steering Committee Survey

Christenson reviewed the steering committee survey that was taken. Eleven responses were received. [Full survey results](#) are available on the project website and summarized in the meeting [PowerPoint presentation](#).

In summary, the terms that were emphasized the most in responses include "Growth" and "Revitalization."

Steering Committee Exercises

The Steering Committee broke off into three groups and were asked to discuss the following topics for 7 minutes each and then report back to the group:

1. Liabilities to the county
2. Assets to the county
3. Dreams (Owen County in 12 years)

Items with an * mean they received multiple mentions.

Liabilities		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
*Unplanned growth	*Lack of understanding	*Enforcement of policy and ordinances through reverse thinking
*Taking local businesses for granted (like Boston Scientific)	*Fear of growth	Property improvement/clean-up
*Entry-level housing and rentals	Disagreeable people, no two-way communication	Age of community (we must increase tax base)
Stagnant and aging population	Town-county not working together	
No workforce housing	Flood areas	
Lack of quality of life amenities (amenities for middle-aged, restaurants)		
Lack of broadband (AT&T in Spencer is problematic)		

Assets		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
*Parks and recreation (McCormick's Creek)	*Downtown entrepreneurial opportunities	State park (compare volume to Clifty Falls)
*Cost of living	There is a set of doers in the community	Canoe rental (Gosport)
*The river (underused asset; may be eligible for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program Funding; attractive to visitors)	Natural resources	Space on river for festivals (already in a plan)
Lack of congestion	Land development	Possible water trail
Downtowns are attractive	Cost of living	Multiple county parks?
Connection of MYPATH Trail System to the park	Location	

Dreams		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
*Improvements to infrastructure to incentivize housing (like water, sewer, broadband; how do we leverage state and federal funds?)	*A nice housing addition	10,000 population growth
*More diversity in housing	*Apartments	Pre-retirement entertainment
*To be fiscally sound; Have the ability to do creative projects	Bike lanes (connectivity)	Broadband
Paved path from park to town with transit (like bikes and golf carts)	Bar, bowling	Blight turnover
Upgrades/enhancements to State Road 43	Young people hangout	More industry
Capitalize on Clay Township location (proximity to Bloomington/I-69; Owen County taxes; Beautiful area)	HS to Casey's bridge on 46 (MyPath)	
Diversity in population (demographics)	Job growth	

Public Engagement

Christenson reviewed the public engagement strategy, which includes the following:

1. Stakeholder meetings
2. Online public input survey
3. Community open house (online and in-person)
4. Draft Plan presentation (online and in-person)
5. Final Plan presentation (online and in-person)

Public input opportunities will be posted on the project website (www.owencountycompplan.com). The team will be mindful of how COVID may affect public input opportunities will include an online opportunity in addition.

Next Steps

- For more information or if you have questions, contact Scott Burgins, SBP&R, scott@sbresearchandplanning.com.
- Steering Committee Meeting #3 to be held Wednesday, **Feb. 9th at 6 p.m.** at the YMCA.