

Bowling Green/Warren County 2030 Comprehensive Plan

Task Force Kickoff Meeting

“Ice Breaker” Exercise

10.23.07

At their initial meeting, the members of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Task Force were asked the following two questions regarding their expectations for the planning process and for the plan itself. The task members provided their answers in round robin fashion, one idea at a time. The answers were recorded on a flip chart, and are transcribed below:

1. What do we envision as the ideal outcomes of the planning process – what do we see to be accomplished in 20 years by developing this comprehensive plan?

- A balanced community
- To see people come to Bowling Green and Warren County, and stay here, because of our high quality of life
- A plan that allows for progress and growth but that at the same time preserves our environment
- Efficient infrastructure and the protection of our environment
- One hundred percent (100%) buy-in
- A planned process to manage growth in a manner that protects quality of life equitably in all our communities
- Greater emphasis on aesthetics - higher quality landscaping, design, etc.
- Effective tools (to accomplish what we need to do once the plan is complete).
- To raise expectations – and “broaden the dream”
- To balance growth in a manner that achieves both economic prosperity and an aesthetically pleasing community
- To maintain the community’s rural vision
- For agriculture to flourish
- A sense of continuity about the plan – and a positive attitude about growth
- To raise expectations about quality and excellence everywhere in the County

- To identify effective mechanisms for the implementation of the plan over time
- A clear, broad based plan that is strong enough to stand up to legal and political challenge – so that it can truly serve as an effective decision-making guide for the Planning Commission and elected officials
- Emphasis on quality of life as a catalyst for economic prosperity (high quality of life will attract employees, and employers will follow)
- In the short term, a workable plan document; in the long term, to build on the community's positive image
- An inclusive process that digs deeply into the community to draw out those who do not often voice their opinions

2. What impediments do we anticipate that could delay or even prevent us from attaining those outcomes?

- The difficulty in achieving inclusiveness
- Small thinking and parochial agendas
- The possibility that the plan could turn out to be overly idealistic, not grounded in reality, or overly restrictive/bureaucratic to some segments of the community
- Not getting financial buy-in (e.g., from the development industry)
- Difficulty in articulating/communicating to the community what the plan is or does
- Difficulty in overcoming the chronic “us versus them” mentality (every facet of it: e.g., developers vs. environmentalists, City versus County, etc., etc., etc.)
- Inability to see (or keep thinking about) the long term
- Lack of leadership or political will to act and stay the course
- Low confidence in leadership
- Fear of change (establish continuity with old plan that people are comfortable and happy with)
- The possibility that goals and objectives could be set too low... (do not allow the process to be “dumbed down”)

- People feeling threatened by the Plan
- Lack of commitment from the leadership to stick with the Plan in the face of calamity
- Lack of fortitude to not cave in to special interest groups
- Not being able to make people understand the importance of planning for the future of this community
- Inability to embrace the “big picture” and get past our individual agendas
- Inability to strike the right balance between a plan that is sufficiently flexible and sufficiently rigid – not understanding the difference between “dreaming big” and “being reasonable”
- Unpredictability of leadership and inability to consider/anticipate the impact of external factors
- The challenge of getting buy-in
- Inability to overcome FEAR
- Cynicism of our government.