

Community Building Partnership of Stark County



City of Canton Comprehensive Plan Community Discussion Meeting Summary

Ward 3

Zion Lutheran Church

9/30/2014



**We're planning on a Better Canton. Come join us –
be part of making Canton a Better Community**

CANTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City of Canton is embarking on developing a new Comprehensive Plan to guide it into the future. The last one in Canton was 50 years ago. YOUR input and participation are key to creating a Plan we can ALL support. Join your neighbors at one of the scheduled Ward – based meetings this fall and hear the initial findings of the consultant team hired to help our community craft its Plan. These meetings will focus on data, demographics, and analysis from our consultants and YOUR feedback regarding this information.

Please join your Ward 3 Council Member James E. Griffin and your neighbors as we discuss the “State of Canton” with czb consultants. These meetings will be designed to convey important baseline information, give participants a chance to ask questions to better understand the information and its importance, and give participants a chance to convey information and ideas to planning consultants about what they feel needs to be included in the plan.



czb

These Community meetings are sponsored by

Community Building Partnership

601 Cleveland Ave. NW, Canton, Oh 44709 / (330) 458 – 0962

**SAVE THIS DATE
All are welcome –
Attend a meeting
convenient to you**

**Ward 3 Community
Discussion Will
Take Place On
Sept. 30 @
6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held
at
Zion Lutheran
Church
702 Raff Rd. SW
Canton, Oh 44710**



Date: 9.30.14

Ward: 3

Meeting Location: Zion Lutheran Church

City of Canton Comprehensive Plan Community Discussion Meeting Summary

Program Summary

The Canton Comprehensive Plan is a community-driven process where the Canton Steering Committee leads the community's effort to set priorities, support local values, and provide the general direction of the Plan. In an effort to support this approach, Community Building Partnership (CBP) was contracted to sponsor a series of community meetings to solicit input, feedback, and advice from community residents from all walks of life. Utilizing the City's ward system to ensure geographic coverage of the entire City, nine community meetings were conducted during the months of September and October 2014. All meetings were open to all residents regardless of location.

Joining CBP in conducting these meetings was David Boehlke and Stephanie Barnes-Simms from the czb consulting group. Each meeting was organized in a similar manner and with a uniform agenda including:

- Introductions and Welcome by the Ward council member and Mayor, when present;
- A presentation on Comprehensive Planning and Comprehensive Plans, presented by Stephanie Barnes-Simms, focused on the 3 major traits of Comp Plans: a) being community-driven; b) based upon current reality; and c) built-in flexibility to deal with changes in the future.
- A significant presentation on the current reality in Canton by reviewing the initial data as gathered by the czb consulting group team since mid-summer was presented by David Boehlke.
- Three group exercises to solicit feedback, input, priority-setting recommendations, and "specialness" of Canton allowed for uniform/consistent participation at each meeting and provided written, direct community content for consideration by the Steering Committee.

The czb/Canton website <http://czb.org/city-of-canton-ohio/> (password: canton5) contains video recordings of each meeting for public review, the PowerPoint presentation on Comprehensive Planning and the Initial Data as presented at each meeting, and the group exercise responses, which are tabulated below.

Participants

Number in attendance: 61

Number of sign-ins: 60

From Completed

Worksheet(s):

Resident	Business Owner	Other
31	10	8

Question #1: What

stood

out for you from the data overview? (Total # of Responses = 66)

- 11 Poverty
- 15 Housing
- 12 Population loss/decline
- 8 Jobs/Business
- 1 City/County Comparison(s)
- 8 Overall negative
- 1 Overall positive
- 3 Nothing/already familiar
- 7 Misc/Other

Question #2

The planning process begins with an assessment of what’s working, what’s not working, who’s moving in, who’s moving out, what are properties worth, how are businesses doing and what kind of physical and financial shape is the city in. Statistical data can help with that assessment but it cannot tell the entire story. E.g. student teacher ratios won’t tell us if parents feel that students are getting a good education. Data on downtown retail sale won’t tell us if residents feel that the downtown is making a comeback. **Based on your experience, what would you add to the story of the City of Canton’s current reality? What part of the story of what’s working and not working are we missing?**

What’s working? (Total # of Responses = 72)

- 37 Community/economic development
(e.g.,HOF, downtown restaurants, cultural events, etc.)
- 15 City government/city services/land bank
- 5 Social service organizations/institutions/nonprofits
- 11 People/community participation/neighborhood associations
- 3 Housing/real estate/homeownership/rentals
- 1 Misc/other

What’s not working? (Total # of Responses = 99)

- 21 Poor/ineffective community/economic development
- 40 City government/city services/land bank
- 2 Social service organizations/institutions/nonprofits
- 9 People/community participation/neighborhood associations
- 19 Housing/real estate/homeownership/rentals
- 8 Misc/other

Question #3

One of the goals of the comprehensive plan is to set Canton on the course of being a livable city, with a viable economy and the ability to pay its bills. Given limited resources, the Steering Committee will need to set some priorities.

Circle the five (5) factors that you think are the **MOST important** to focus on in making Canton a livable city in the future. Not seeing something that you think is important? Add it to the list!

Cross through the five (5) factors that you think are **LEAST IMPORTANT** to focus on in making Canton a livable city in the future.

MOST important (Total # of Completed Worksheets = 44)

- 3 Better open space (parks and other public spaces)
- 7 Expanded arts, culture, and entertainment
- 25 Well-maintained streets and infrastructure
- 25 Better access to good employment
- 3 More sports and recreation facilities
- 6 Broader range of housing choices
- 0 Access to good restaurants
- 1 Strong library system
- 9 Improved shopping options in Canton
- 8 More marketing of Canton's attractions
- 12 Good access to health services
- 23 Excellent school performance
- 29 Removal of vacant and blighted houses
- 2 Fewer one-way streets
- 9 More code enforcement and better zoning
- 4 Better downtown parking
- 13 Improved rental properties
- 7 Better relations between residents and the police
- 7 Improved fire/emergency services
- 10 Stronger neighborhood associations
- 1 Cleaner air and lower levels of pollution
- 6 Better socioeconomic mixing of people
- 7 More involvement with local colleges/universities
- 2 Expanded public transportation

LEAST important

- 9 Better open space (parks and other public spaces)
- 6 Expanded arts, culture, and entertainment
- 1 Well-maintained streets and infrastructure
- 0 Better access to good employment
- 15 More sports and recreation facilities
- 7 Broader range of housing choices
- 22 Access to good restaurants
- 16 Strong library system
- 7 Improved shopping options in Canton
- 2 More marketing of Canton's attractions
- 8 Good access to health services
- 0 Excellent school performance
- 0 Removal of vacant and blighted houses
- 21 Fewer one-way streets
- 7 More code enforcement and better zoning
- 14 Better downtown parking
- 3 Improved rental properties
- 5 Better relations between residents and the police
- 1 Improved fire/emergency services
- 5 Stronger neighborhood associations
- 15 Cleaner air and lower levels of pollution
- 10 Better socioeconomic mixing of people
- 6 More involvement with local colleges/universities
- 13 Expanded public transportation

Write-In Responses:

- Stop drug trafficking & gangs
- Renters who take care of their rental property
- Preserve the history of the city
- Stronger sense of community & belonging for everyone
- Fewer crimes

Please Tell Us What's Special About Canton (Total # of Responses = 76)

6	Architecture	3	Government
10	Arts & Culture	1	Hospitals
10	Attractions	0	Nonprofits
12	Businesses	6	Parks
1	Churches	4	People
6	City Services	0	Personal
1	City Strengths	6	Physical Space
3	Education	3	Places

4 Sports

Detailed listing of items; multiple mentions are tallied in parentheses.

Accessible to transportation	Historic buildings (2)
Arts in Stark	J. Babe Stearn Center (2)
Aultman hospitals	Location (2)
Ben Heggy's (2)	Massillon V. McKinley Game
Bender's Tavern (2)	McKinley Bulldogs
Bitner	McKinley Monument (2)
Brick streets (2)	McKinley Museum
Bring baseball back	Milk and Honey
Canton Art Museum	Monument Park
Canton Classic Car Museum (2)	My Councilman
Canton Downtown Skyline	Old houses
Canton Symphony Orchestra (3)	Parks System
Churches	Pizza Oven (2)
City parks	Players Guild (2)
Cost of Living	Police (2)
Courthouse Angels	Pro Football HOF (4)
Cultural Center	Recycling program (2)
Early College High School and Academy	Sarah
Family (3)	Schools
Fawcett Stadium	Shopping
Fire (2)	St. Joseph School
Football	Stadium Park
Geographic location	The HOF Festival
Gervasi Vineyard	The Mayor (2)
Good interstate access	Trees
Grocery Stores	Types of Restaurant
Harter Heights	Walking trails
Ben Heggy's Vanilla Coke	