

Community Building Partnership of Stark County



City of Canton Comprehensive Plan Community Discussion Meeting Summary

Ward 1

The Canton Garden Center

9/17/2014



**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 1 Council Member Greg Hawk 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.



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
that is convenient
to you**

**Ward 1 Community
Discussion Will
Take Place On
Sept. 17 @
6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held
at the
Canton Garden
Center
1615 Stadium Park
Dr. NW
Canton, Oh 44718**



Date: 9.17.14

Ward: 1

Meeting Location: The Canton Garden Center

**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: 40

Number of sign-ins: 25

From Completed

Worksheet(s):

Resident	Business Owner	Other
23	4	5

Question #1: What out for you from the data overview? (Total # of Responses = 24) stood

- 3 Poverty
- 7 Housing
- 2 Population loss/decline
- 1 Overall negative
- 7 Nothing/already familiar
- 4 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 = 41)

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

What’s not working? (Total # of Responses = 49)

- 5 Poor/ineffective community/economic development
- 25 City government/city services/land bank
- 2 Social service organizations/institutions/nonprofits
- 2 People/community participation/neighborhood associations
- 13 Housing/real estate/homeownership/rentals
- 2 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 = 27)

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

LEAST important

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

- Crime, drugs, prostitution
- A priority needs to be better utilization of downtown, its streetscape
- Increase number of police (most important)
- Concentrate on improving neighborhood attractions
- Develop standards, trash patrols w/offenders
- The morale of the residents is very low!
- Need to start making neighborhoods w/limited ways in & out; no drivethroughs
- Go back to brick streets in 'old' neighborhood
- Build on the nice house structures in one other neighborhood
- How about a \$25,000-\$40,000 neighborhood
- Trader Joe's, Whole Foods – something to draw people
- Civic Center sucks! No concerts – SMG also owns Covelli Center; city should sell!
- Make vacant lots flat and nice (after demolition)

Please Tell Us What's Special About Canton (Total # of Responses = 49)

4	Architecture	0	Hospitals
5	Arts & Culture	1	Nonprofits
10	Attractions	7	Parks
4	Businesses	5	People
1	Churches	1	Personal
3	City Services	3	Physical Space
2	City Strengths	0	Places
2	Education	0	Sports
1	Government		

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

Access to everything in the city	History of the city
Affordable	Library system
Architecture	Mayor
Arts movement	McKinley Monument (3)
Bender's Tavern	My old brick house
Brick streets	National First Ladies' Library
Canton Art Museum	Nostalgic street lights
Canton Garden Center	Old homes and restoration
Canton Symphony Orchestra	Parks (5)
Charitable community	Parks and gardens
Churches	Parks within walking distance
Culturally located	Police (2)
Downtown	Schools
Downtown Arts District	Size of the city
Friendly people	Spring House
Great people	St. John Basilica
Hall of Fame (2)	Taggarts Ice Cream Parlor (2)
Hall of Fame stadium	The people
Harmons Pub	Timken family
Health department	Youth