

Community Building Partnership of Stark County



# City of Canton Comprehensive Plan Community Discussion Meeting Summary

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Ward 8

Gervasi Vineyard

9/16/2014

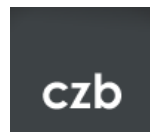


**We're planning on a Better Canton. Come join us –  
be part of making Canton a Better Community**

# **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 8 Council Member Edmond Mack 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**

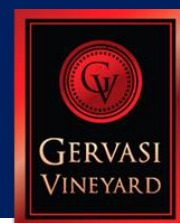
**601 Cleveland Ave. NW, Canton, Oh 44709 / (330) 458 – 0962**

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

**Ward 8 Community  
Discussion Will  
Take Place On  
Sept. 16 @  
6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held  
at  
Gervasi Vineyard  
in the Villa Grande  
Ballroom  
2700 55<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Canton, Oh 44721**

**Accommodations and  
Light Refreshments  
Donated By:**



Date: 9.16.14

Ward: 8

Meeting Location: Villa Gervasi Vineyard

## 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: 72

Number of sign-ins: 54

From Completed

Worksheet(s):

Resident	Business Owner	Other
38	3	7

**Question #1: What**

**stood**

**out for you from the data overview?** (Total # of Responses = 71)

- 26 Poverty
- 15 Housing
- 2 Population loss/decline
- 3 Jobs/Business
- 5 City/County Comparison(s)
- 5 Overall negative
- 8 Overall positive
- 2 Nothing/already familiar
- 5 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 = 83)

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

What’s not working? (Total # of Responses = 79)

- 24 Poor/ineffective community/economic development
- 33 City government/city services/land bank
- 1 Social service organizations/institutions/nonprofits
- 14 People/community participation/neighborhood associations
- 6 Housing/real estate/homeownership/rentals
- 1 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 = 53)

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

## LEAST important

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

## Write-In Responses:

Making downtown special

Public investment in arts, culture, downtown revitalization

More stable neighborhoods

Involvement in public schools

Remove parking meters!

Reduce crime in inner city: gangs, drugs, prostitution

Develop high speed data network to attract new business development, schools, universities

Politicians should get over petty squabbles and get united on positive effort for Canton

Less rental houses

Parks should be preserved and used more by residents

Significant need for REAL leadership; probably most significant reason for Canton's decline

**Please Tell Us What's Special About Canton** (Total # of Responses = 126)

7	Architecture	5	Hospitals
21	Arts & Culture	0	Nonprofits
15	Attractions	7	Parks
23	Businesses	13	People
0	Churches	0	Personal
2	City Services	7	Physical Space
17	City Strengths	1	Places
4	Education	0	Sports
4	Government		

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

Affordable housing (2)	Great national locations
Akron/Canton Airport (2)	Great Parks
Arts (2)	Great teachers
Arts community	Greenspace
Arts district (5)	Greg Hawk
Beautiful charming houses	Groups respond to the needs of people
Bill Smuckler	Growing arts scene
Canton special: family friendly & welcoming	Gurskey's Aluminum
Close access to Cleveland	Hall of Fame (9)
Colleges	Heggy's (2)
Community pride	History (5)
Cost of living	History and architecture
Courthouse (2)	Hospitals (3)
Cultural center	Improving infrastructure
Culture	Lake Cable
Downtown (2)	Large amounts of public participation
Downtown architecture	Large number of private golf courses
Easy commute	Libraries
Easy road system	Location, small but close to Cleveland
Edmond Mack (2)	Lots of amenities
Family owned businesses	Love for the city
Farmers market	Low cost of living (3)
Fireworks concert in the park	Low utility rates (2)
First Friday (2)	Malone University
Football heritage	Marc's (2)
Friendly neighbors	McKinley Monument (3)
Gervasi Vineyard (3)	Medical access
Good health facilities	Meyers Lake
Good people (2)	Muggswigz Coffee & Tea
	Museums

National First Ladies' Library  
Neighborhood organizations are strong  
Palace Theater (2)  
Parks (4)  
People  
People are friendly and giving  
People are friendly and giving  
Players Guild  
Quality built, older neighborhoods  
Recycling program  
Refuge of Hope

Restaurants (3)  
Richard Hart  
Small town, big city ideas  
Taggarts Ice Cream Parlor (3)  
Theater  
Timken Co. (3)  
Ward 8  
Water  
Wonderful neighbors  
Wonderful, well built, old homes