

Community Building Partnership of Stark County



# City of Canton Comprehensive Plan Community Discussion Meeting Summary

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Ward 6

JRC Learning Center

10/15/2014



**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 6 Council Member David Dougherty 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 6 Community  
Discussion Will  
Take Place On  
Oct. 15 @  
6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held  
at the  
JRC Learning  
Center  
2213 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Canton, Oh 44705**



Date: 10.15.14

Ward: 6

Meeting Location: JRC Learning 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: 34

Number of sign-ins: 30

From Completed

Worksheet(s):

Resident	Business Owner	Other
19	3	7

**Question #1: What stood out for you from the data overview? (Total # of Responses = 35)**

- 9 Poverty
- 10 Housing
- 6 Population loss/decline
- 1 Jobs/Business
- 2 City/County Comparison(s)
- 1 Overall negative
- 0 Overall positive
- 1 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 = 46)

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

What's not working? (Total # of Responses = 46)

- 14 Poor/ineffective community/economic development
- 13 City government/city services/land bank
- 2 Social service organizations/institutions/nonprofits
- 6 People/community participation/neighborhood associations
- 11 Housing/real estate/homeownership/rentals
- 0 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 = 29)

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

**LEAST important**

- 6 Better open space (parks and other public spaces)
- 8 Expanded arts, culture, and entertainment
- 2 Well-maintained streets and infrastructure
- 0 Better access to good employment
- 11 More sports and recreation facilities
- 2 Broader range of housing choices
- 8 Access to good restaurants
- 8 Strong library system
- 1 Improved shopping options in Canton
- 5 More marketing of Canton's attractions
- 3 Good access to health services
- 2 Excellent school performance
- 1 Removal of vacant and blighted houses
- 15 Fewer one-way streets
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- 12 Better downtown parking
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- 1 Improved fire/emergency services
- 5 Stronger neighborhood associations
- 6 Cleaner air and lower levels of pollution
- 5 Better socioeconomic mixing of people
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Written responses added to the list:

- Regionalization of government and services
- More innovative business leaders, i.e., focus on small business development
- Race relationship
- Moving people from rental to home ownership
- Better race relations

**Please Tell Us What's Special About Canton** (Total # of Responses = 56)

2	Architecture	3	Education
5	Arts & Culture	0	Government
4	Attractions	0	Hospitals
11	Businesses	4	Nonprofits
1	Churches	1	Parks
1	City Services	12	People
8	City Strengths	3	Personal

1 Physical Space  
0 Places

0 Sports

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

2nd April	Library (2)
Arts District	Local Foundations
Bitner	McKinley Monument
Boulevard signs	Monument Park
Brick streets	Most People
Buzzbin	My backyard
Canton Brewery	My job
Canton Club	Park walkways
Canton history	People (4)
Church	People who believe in it
Clean water and air	Possibility for greatness
Close friends	Proximity to everything
Deli Ohio (2)	Quietness
Downtown development	Sarta
Excellent nonprofit groups	Sense of community
Family	Small city atmosphere (2)
First Friday (2)	Stark Fresh Farmers Market
Fisher's	Stark State
Friendly People	Thatsa Wrapp
Good neighbors	Tom Phillips
Heggy's	Volunteerism
HOF Parade (2)	What little architecture we have left
JRC	YMCA (2)
Julie Sparks	