

Aspire Johnson County
Large group meeting
Greenwood City Center, Greenwood
June 28, 2017

Welcome

Kent DeKoninck welcomed everyone and spoke about how this was the beginning of a new 6 meeting series about Johnson County, today being all about Greenwood. Round robin was held.

Melissa from Financial Center First Credit Union, our meeting sponsor, gave an update on the activities that FCFCU is involved in.

Dana passed around a sign up sheet to work 2 hour shifts at the ASPIRE table at the Johnson County Fair.

Krista- City of Greenwood Corporation Counsel- Welcome to everyone on behalf of the city. Krista works with 2 other attorneys in her office. One different thing about Greenwood is that as of Jan 1, 2012, Greenwood became a second class city. Indianapolis is the only first class city. You can become a second class city if you have a population of 50,000 or more and choose to be one. This impacts your structure of government- we have a 9 person council with a council president. 3 councillors are elected at large, and then elected representatives from 6 districts. The Mayor is not on the council, but in the audience. Also mayor is not on Board of Public Works. Second class city has a controller and a corporation counsel. The elected clerk is clerk to the council and city court, but the controller is a hired position to work on finances rather than an elected treasurer. Krista has worked for the city of Greenwood since 2012 when Mayor Myers took office.

Executive Branch- variety of boards and commissions. Board of public works- 3 member board than handles the majority of contracts, sewer. Also do health insurance and benefits for the city of Greenwood. Meets 1st and 3rd Monday at 5:30pm.

Redevelopment Commission- meets the council chambers, has 5 members. 3 are appointed by the Mayor, 2 appointed by the city council with 1 school board member. The RDC is in charge of the funds that come from TIF districts. The RDC identifies areas that need development or redevelopment that wouldn't happen otherwise- like the downtown revitalization. Assessors calculate the assessed value, which becomes the base. Any new value is captured goes into the TIF fund to be used to redevelop other areas. Some project that used TIF funds were purchasing the new city building (had been in bankruptcy); this allowed all city offices to be under one roof. City Center Park- used public and private funds to create splash pad and fully accessible playground. Façade improvements in downtown were possible with TIF funds. The RDC also works closely with Dana and JCDC to create abatements, infrastructure and training for businesses.

Other boards are the Parks and Recreation, Stormwater, Airport, Fire and Police merit boards and others. The have 13 departments in the city of Greenwood.

Legislative branch is the city council- they make the budget and the laws. The clerk takes minutes for the council and maintains city records.

Judicial branch- Honorable Lewis Gregory- handles traffic violations and limited civil jurisdiction. Clerk also serves the court and helps keep their records.

Jennifer Hollingshead – JCDC employee and founder of Restore Old Town Greenwood, Inc. presented on the history of Greenwood starting with a treaty with the Delaware Indians in 1818. Jacob Whetzel then came to Indiana and created a trace for oxen 60 miles long. This formed the first east/west road in Indiana. The Smock brothers were the first to settle in what is now known as Greenwood. For a time, the area was known as Smocktown. Greenfield was the name decided on in 1825, but then the name was changed to Greenwood in 1833 to avoid confusion with the Hancock County town. Greenwood incorporated in 1864. Jennifer gave an overview on the first school buildings in Greenwood and talked about some of the first businesses in Greenwood, including James Parker- general store, George Noble- inn which housed the post office and J.T. Polk- Polk cannery and Polk's Best Dairy. The Greenwood sanitarium was discussed and how mineral water was sold to people throughout the midwest to cure ailments. 3 buildings in the commercial district were highlighted for their past and current uses- Grafton Peek building, Revery (299 W. Main St.) and 332 W. Main Street, a former livery around 1895 and in 1920 a Ford sales office/ 30 car garage. Jennifer closed with how excited Restore Old Town Greenwood was for the future investment on Madison Ave with the road diet, wider sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as the new National Register Listed residential historic district they completed with the help of the City of Greenwood, Completion of the Cornerstore Autism revitalization of the Polk Community House and new small businesses like Sugar Threads boutique and One Tenth boutique that just opened in June in Old Town Greenwood.

Christian Maslowski-President and CEO Greenwood Chamber of Commerce- The Chamber is focuses on the local economy. Handed out an economic profile of Greenwood. Population of Greenwood approximately 55,000+ Center Grove at 30,000 with total Johnson County residents at 153,000. Businesses look at communities from a different perspective. The Chamber provides them with consumer market information based on a 7 mile radius, centered in Old Town Greenwood. Local economy is strong with the average household earning \$71,000. The Greenwood area has a 5.5 billion dollar local economy. Health and social services are are largest employment sector with retail being #2, food and beverage being #5- \$340 million are spent on food and drink in Greenwood averaging out to \$1400 per person per year. Christian mentioned they now have a Greater Greenwood Chamber app called Southside Tastebuds that will find restaurants close by.

Chambers formed a long time ago because cities didn't have Economic Development boards our Tourism bureaus. They are a 501c6 business league with a professional staff. They have over 700 members, with 30% of their members located on the southside of Indianapolis. The work to maximize business potential by connecting peers, providing a forum for business leaders to come together, hold forums for elected officials. They are also engaged in the public transit discussion, business education and workshops. They work with SCORE to help manage growth, provide marketing advice and coach businesses. Business Ownership Initiative also has partnered with the Chamber to offer more business coaching capacity for those who have an existing business or would like to start one.

Dr. Kent DeKoninck- Superintendent Greenwood School Corporation: Johnson county features 5 public school districts with a wide variety of environments- suburban, urban and rural. Education, business and city government should all work together to thrive and that's what we have in Greenwood. This is

the beginning of Kent's 5th year as Greenwood Superintendent and they have 3900 students enrolled at Greenwood- highest number of the last 10 year. Greenwood is challenged because the school district is 7 square miles- second smallest in the state geographically. Started taking out of district students, now currently have 480 that don't live in the district, about 12-13% of the enrollment. Demographics have changed over the years was 10% minority now 20%. Free and reduced lunches have gone from 25% to now 46%. Special Ed students have gone from 11-15% over 10 years.

Kent spoke about training staff on cultural competency- which includes poverty, minorities, etc....how you view people with different lenses and your ability to form authentic relationships across differences.

Changes to the school district are a new middle school opening July 2018, a new activity complex at the high school and facility upgrades to each school done with in the last 4-5 years. The school system has a healthy cash balance and rainy day fund. RDC paid \$1million in TIF funds to purchase the old middle school which needed a ton of work, paving the way for downtown redevelopment.

School accountability- state grading system based on ISTEP score- Greenwood got an A as a district- one out of 23.

Challenges: Greenwood started a public preschool because early education is so important, but it doesn't make money. Funding is also a hot button issue. Teacher shortage is real- French, Spanish, Math, Physics, and Special Ed are all hard to fill. Tax caps- the schools need dollars. Behavioral concerns coming from Kindergarten through Third grade are growing. More kids are living with grandparents or have lost parents due to drug overdoses. Over the last 7-8 years, he is seeing mental health and family issues more and more.

Questions- do you have to be a resident to serve on the RDC or council? Depends on the board per Krista. Some you can be a business owner or live in the county. Some you must be a city resident. If you are interested in helping there are also non-profit boards such as the Greenwood Development Corporation you can get involved with.

Lisa Linter is new to Johnson County and wondered where all of the Health Service jobs were located. Christian said that we have Johnson Memorial Health, St. Francis, Community South, also Greenwood residents are commuters into Marion County. There is a new Franciscan micro hospital and Johnson County Memorial health pavilion in Bargersville.

Placemaking- Katy Cavaleri encouraged members to volunteer for the Johnson County fair. Team is working on the activity book.

Growth and Planning- Theresa said that the QuickBooks workshop was a success, over 40 attendees. They are having a meeting to brainstorm what's next today

Trails- Carmen said that they would like increased connectivity with walking and biking paths, working on a plan.

69- Jody- talked with INDOT on what Johnson County should plan. The county is a little behind, but are deciding what they want to do and where do they want to go with 69.

Steve Jarosinski closed the meeting at 9:30am and encouraged everyone to attend next month's meeting where the topic will be Whiteland.