

Community conversation team

April 4, 2019

JMH

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Eileen said our next meeting will be at the White River Library. June's meeting will be at the Elevator.

Danielle- design and logo creation for the app. Asked Sarabeth to advise. Sat with Forest and Danielle to review ideas. Use similar color palette as Festival Country for logo. Forest will create 3 options incorporating Indiana, 1 with a food component. Should be done by next week. Danielle will email out for a vote. Forest will be done in May with school; pretty much done with formatting.

Visitor as well as resident likes locally grown resource in their visitor guide. Want to make sure people know about it. Would it make sense for Aspire or Festival Country to host the site? Ken will give Danielle a guide. Did he get his list from Purdue? Just found his list from google search and Indiana Grown. Ken said that he struggles that places don't have a store front- when are they open? Or least have a Facebook page? Hamilton County group- their development corp. and tourism have similar look. Reach out to Ken when we have details finalized.

Community conversation

Ideal is 8-15 people per discussion

10 main questions with some sub questions.

Will aggregate the responses and look for common themes of issues and topics as to what is on the community's mind (public knowledge).

No names will be attached to note.

What kind of community do you want?

Supportive, inclusive, active, involved, happy, clean, healthy, small town feeling, but with all the amenities of a bigger town. Safe walkable, accessible, vibrant and fun, green, wide open spaces, mental health, financially secure, thriving. Cool. Educated., opportunity, open minded.

How is that different from the way things are now?

Not areas are very walkable. Access to care places are an issue. Financial struggles now- big divide. Seeing hopelessness keep people down. We may not have the most diverse community, not the most unwelcoming, but just not happening. Hesitation to try new things, conservative, not necessarily in politics. Bring concept of thought to other communities to spend money. More vision.

Given those responses, what are 2 or 3 most important issues that relate to those? Affordable housing, access to care, behavior health needs (mental). See our population is aging faster than surrounding counties- affects health, perception outside the community, conservatism, etc. Education in general, about health, what's available, what we have to offer. Cost of child care. Hearing that people don't want to come here because of concerns of contamination. Causing collateral damage. Affordability and connectiveness of the county. If there are diverse communities here, we aren't aware of the issues for them. Cultural connectiveness. How do we connect communities? Do we know what's

going on in other towns/ cities? Whiteland H.S. has amazing diversity. Unincorporated Johnson County not very effective in getting things done and feeling like you are part of one thing.

Whatever your background is what you find important. We want to lift the county- some through tourism, some through health, etc. Is there one topic that that connects? Transportation, health, community, education. You have a taxi only, people on the outskirts trying to come in. Tourism how you're going to get in and out. Ties into I-69.

What concerns do you have about this issue? Transportation

Who are the decision makers when it comes to that process? Completely blind to that – don't know where to start. Funding- how will it be funded? How will it impact traffic patterns? Where do people want to go? What are the most useful changes that would help all of the issues? How would it help people in the country or suburbs to get here? What types of transportation are we looking at? Could it be scooters or bike? Like the bikes! Not only who is paying for, but do people have the funds to take that transportation? Under resourced people have a major transportation issue to get to work. Access closes at 5pm. Not everyone works first shift. What if you get off work and you want to go to the grocery after work? A community like ours that is so spread out, a bus could work in Greenwood/Franklin, but for seniors and those in the country, the on-demand buses seem to work better. Access does some of that, but they had such a big funding cut. It always loses money, so it's hard for the government to justify. Teens/ kids too- if both parents work, once they get home from school, they can't come to the library, go to the mall, leave their town. Anybody that writes a grant including transportation, Becky at Access can get that amount doubled or tripled. Saw patron at the library getting out of an Uber. From food access, if they don't have transportation and they are limited to a gas station that affects their health.

Does it seem like things are getting better or worse? How did this come about?

How does this affect you personally?

With health education, opportunities to get to appointments, including maternal health, healthcare in general. Live a mile from work and have to drive. Used to live in Bloomington and walked home for lunch, would walk or bike. Did put in a cross walk and curb cuts, but terrified to cross 135 and smith valley. Safety- kid crossing 31, 135, being able to bike safely, no sidewalks. Increase traffic flow from growing and prospering. When school gets out and you see all the kids walking along 31. Understands why they are walking? There is a bus stop every 2 seconds because there is no way for them to walk safely. Lived across from Elem. School, but school didn't allow them to walk across the street to school. Bus comes at 6am to get to elementary school, so they are on the bus for over an hour. Have a person living on their farm, has a job paving, couldn't get to work because he has lost his license for life. In Nineveh, told him about Access, but they don't come to Nineveh anymore. There is that population that has limited opportunities. Medical- can't see well, or seizures, can't drive. Increased transportation- potholes, road funding.

How do you feel about what is going on? Is progress being made? Are you feeling optimistic?

Talking about it is very positive. Mayor was talking about it at a hospital presentation. Trails, bike paths have come along way. Long way to go still. At least we're having the dialogue. Think she sees more people walking and biking whether the infrastructure is there or not. See people out may help you notice that sidewalk is missing or changes need to happen. Becky Allen from Access is very open to creative ideas. Need communication and people from the community to help. We could solve them all today if we got \$3 billion from the government today. We need to prioritize what we fund first. Get overwhelmed and can't do it all but could try to make incremental progress.

What do you think is keeping us from making the progress we want?

You have siloed areas. Who do I reach out to pool our money our vision and make something happen rather than floundering, saying I wish. Who is trying to find ways to improve transportation? Where do we go next? Collaborative leadership. Can feel overwhelming, but have many pockets of people that are passionate. Need key decision makers at the table. Some issues are just sexier- walkability, bike trails. Unlike getting people to work that lost their drivers' license. Income divide, people that make the decisions don't see the problems. Or think it's your own fault and need to figure it out. Also, employers that don't have enough workers. Think conversations are good that brings to light things that need studied.

When you think about what we've talked about, what are the kinds of things that could make a difference?

More funding for ACCESS. Routes are 135, 31, need to also get to Bargersville, Trafalgar, Nineveh. Add on-demand buses for places that don't have routes. Maybe would be surprised if they surveyed or advertised services. Communication is an issue. Would it be less expensive to have small vehicles if you're just picking up a few people- a smaller van? Prioritization is key. Bring Becky and decision makers to the table. Want to be a cool place with electric car- car share or bike share. Business could sponsor the cars to decrease costs. Bring it back full of gas, like a rental car. Doesn't help Becky's people, probably don't have a credit card. Amber from Franciscan could break down by zip code transportation needs. Know in some cities, they have their own Uber pool. More workers if you have more transportation. Just started bike share at JMH. Bought 5 bikes for campus. Looking at how many more they can purchase? Could the city buy bikes or library to merge together? Have JMH logo on the bike-marketing thing and help people get around. Will be useful when trails are complete.

What are types of things people like us can do to make a difference?

Car share, if we identify an issue, we could go and show our support and put together the messaging about why. No one goes to community meetings, so when they show up, it makes a big impact. Through Aspire, could we try for a grant? No way that shouldn't be done. Talking about communities that we may not be a part of, keep educating people in the county that there are people that can't get to work or to the grocery store. People could be next door to us. Where are the highest needs? Study from Amber can show us. Find other groups and how we join forces. Senior services- seniors getting to places. Volunteer opportunities. Otterbein has a bus- is there a way to subsidize buses for others to access? Church buses. The vehicles are there and sitting- can we use those with out purchasing new ones? How would insurance work? Could they sign a waiver? Also, statewide- ICAT- Indiana Citizens Alliance of Transportation- could give us guidance on how to move forward. Reach out to others and what did they do, barriers did they hit?

What groups or individuals would you trust to take action on these things?

Access, Partnership for a healthier JoCo could create a transportation team to focus on that, Aspire Johnson County- Growth and Planning. Businesses need a seat at the table. Ultimately have to get government involved. Valparaiso had a bus to take people from apartments to jobs locally and also to Chicago. Talk to government to see if we could do one or both. Maybe a bus that goes to Indy instead? Stop doing something that's never going to work. What about those drinking bikes? Pick up six or 7 people like a bike taxi. Pedicab for small distances- one option that's cool.

If we came back together in 6 months or a year, what might you see that would be an indication that things we talked about were starting to happen?

Suggests we all give Access a try to see what it's like.

We'd have to meet one of our goals. If there is no change, then we haven't made any progress. Franklin has been awarded to create a master plan for biking and pedestrian plan. Will meet in the fall. Should make a difference for sidewalks, access, love to add community bike program. Could there be people that experience transportation barriers involved? In 6 months, engage those that are actually experiencing those barriers. They are anxious to be involved. Are the trails just for recreation? Whiteland trail- could it go by a school or by doctor's offices to make it easier? Part of it is who is going to sell you the land to make the trail. When we have the needs assessment, it will really help to pinpoint. If we have applied, or received a grant in 1 year, that would be positive. When I was on the rezoning committee 2 years ago, we were talking about unincorporated the complete streets model when improvements are made, to add a bike lane and sidewalks. Identify if it's feasible for Columbus to come up here and meet buses that would go to Indy. It's only 15 miles! Can tax dollars cross the lines? Look at Edinburgh, Columbus, etc. Want to hear other's responses from other groups. Can help us make decisions to move it forward.

Now that we've talked about this issue a bit, what questions do you have about it? What don't we know?

Where are people needing to go? Needs assessment might answer- work? Where are they starting and going? Final decision makers, grants? Can money cross county lines? What are other communities doing? Don't have to reinvent the wheel? What are the future needs? Where are people moving? What are need of new people? How much of an impact does this have on the county and the person that has transportation issues? Are we losing people or aren't coming here? Economic impact of people that have transportation issues- what could be the net benefit. Back up one step- substance abuse, lost license, do we put resources into that? Low paying job? Do we start a policy that we doesn't give tax abatements to those companies? Maybe they are too infirm to drive? Maybe if we ask those questions- disabled, don't make enough money, college student, family has one car? Need to show the decision makers the why. Companies need to be at the table too. They need to see the people and hear their stories? Do we want everyone to have a car or do we want public transportation? Is that an issue with pollutants in our county? When Dad was growing up, towns were more compact, suburban sprawl has had unintended consequences. Will they use our solution maybe mopeds for all?