

Aspire Johnson County
Greenwood Community Center
January 15, 2015

Larry Heydon welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the day. He thanked Ron West and the county commissioners for the contribution of 5,000. A round robin was held.

Team Reports:

Infrastructure: Jody Veldkamp

Eric Vermillion has agreed to be co-chair of the team. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Johnson County Services building. Sara Reuben from INDOT met with the team at the last meeting to go over the I-69 discussion. No matter what happens to the interstate, state road 37 will be impacted. There are several routes under consideration and all of them will impact the county. The team is not supporting any one particular route, but will work with any route that is picked. The focus is on the county and the improvements to the infrastructure. They feel very good about the process of selecting the best route. Their biggest project right now is the Community Conversation to be held on April 23. He gave an overview of the plan for that evening including a panel discussion about the potential routes, managing growth as the infrastructure grows, and finally how is the work paid for. There will be an opportunity for public questions to be collected which will be addressed through the Aspire website.

Larry asked Jody to give a quick update on where I-69 is right now. It is completed to Bloomington now and bids have been let and construction will begin soon from there to Martinsville. Completion date is tentative for fall of 2016. There are several routes suggested for section 6 which is the section that will impact Johnson County. There will be new interchanges with 465.

Quality of Life: Joe Moore

Last meeting focused on the community conversation which will be June 4 at the National Guard Armory. The team is expecting a large crowd for this with a world cafe style roundtable discussion. Lisa Fears explained this is a fast moving roundtable conversation with 8 tables devoted to one of each of the indicators of quality of life. There may be multiple tables for each indicator. Every 15 minutes the participants will move to another table. This will last for approximately an hour and a half. There will also be other resources there. The team will invite local businesses and organizations relating to the indicators and introduce the participants with them and what they offer Johnson County. There will be time before and after the cafe to look at their booths. This is a continuation of the process of gathering information about the quality of life in Johnson County. The survey is also continuing to be sent and the work will be included with the conversation.

Talent: Bev Martin

The team held a healthcare roundtable and discussed the education needed, skills gap, and what the sector is struggling with from a workforce perspective. The team will have a community and education forum based on this similar to the manufacturing one that was held last year. They are continuing to gather data from HR folks and what their needs and challenges are. They are still working on their plans for the community conversation but will probably focus on the different types of education and what skills they deliver and how those skills work in the business world today. They are participating with the state on the college readiness program.

Tina Gross gave an overview of the healthcare roundtable. There were representatives from hospitals, private care, and bio tech. There are many other careers besides just nurse and doctor that many do

not understand. The need for another community education forum was named as a priority for the participants at the roundtable. There is a plan to make these an annual event. Forrest said there is the concept of education being cradle to grave, is this the focus of the team? Tina said this was discussed at the roundtable and career guidance counseling. This is an area that is lacking in the state.

Branding: Jeff Owen

Jeff has a co-captain in Cindy Cook. The team has the tools of social media and the website to tell the story of Aspire. Now the time is here to plan the stories to tell using these tools and a subgroup is working on a marketing plan for this. There is also a need to tell the story of Johnson County. Right now the biggest issue is that there is no reputation and people don't know what is there. The work is continuing with many others on creating a non-profit for destination marketing. Journey Johnson County is continuing to be run by a few volunteers and they are requesting Aspire branding team to take this over. To create a solid, robust website would take about a year so there is a need in the interim until this is complete. A new system would be the work of the destination marketing bureau. Right now the site will be worked with by branding volunteers but the plan still needs to be vetted by the steering team. Their next meeting will focus on the plans for the community conversation.

Larry said as co-chair the steering team is looking at the structure, a budget, and staffing issues. The hope is to have repeat donors and new donors as well. It is a great start with the support of the commissioners.

Dana Monson gave an update on the Community Conversations. Each team will have one event beginning in April with infrastructure and concluding at the end of June with branding. The support is continuing from the Indiana Humanities in the form of speakers, panelists, and a communications plan to promote the events. Aspire was chosen because it is the only county wide organization they have ever had the opportunity to work with and we are basically a pilot program for them. There will be more announcements about the conversations as they get closer.

Dana then presented the concept of Johnson County Ambassadors. She explained that we see many negative stories about Johnson County that reflect badly on the county. However, we can counter those stories with positive stories of our own through social media. She gave the example of the naming of Greenwood and Franklin to Nerdwallet's best cities for young families in Indiana list. She tweeted that out, it was re-tweeted and seen by numerous folks. The key is to use #aspirejohnsonco with these tweets and Facebook posts to create a message and continuity. This is a simple thing that we all can do. Jeff reminded everyone that good things happen in your organization and that can be added to Aspire to help share the good things and bring attention to the county in a positive way. Cheryl reminded everyone that the positive message is noted by companies, encourages them to look here, and helps companies attract top talent. The tools can help move the metric of Johnson County and spread the word about the county. Lisa gave an example of sharing the story on her own Facebook about the year - end celebration and got quite a bit of feedback from former Franklin College alumni. Bev shared that there is a Franklin College grad that is in the running for a Doritos commercial at the Super Bowl. This is a great story about him and someone from Franklin being recognized nationally. This is a great story about Johnson County that can be promoted.

Molly Laut shared the information about Fox 59 Your Town story about Greenwood. Their Facebook page received over 7500 hits. This was a great story about Greenwood and is out nationally. Heather Tallman shared the Southern Living story about antiquing in Johnson County. This is free and great advertising. She shared some simple tips about sharing pages with your friends and how to do this correctly. Katie Cavaleri shared a posting about an organization seeking historic theaters and how she shared the Artcraft and how it blew up on social media. Larry shared that Marty Umbarger was on the field as retiring from the guard during the Colts game. Erin Smith shared that Eli Lilly has given a million dollar matching grant to the foundation. Gail Richards said if the match is met there is about 80,000 going back to the organizations they support. The grant cycle is changing to big grants in the spring and small grants in the fall. It has been 14 years since they received a Lilly grant.

The teams then met for a short networking session.

Cheryl gave an update regarding facilitation. Lee's contract has ended and she is now meeting with other facilitators to find the best fit for Aspire. Lisa's contract has also ended and she is meeting with her to discuss her work on special projects for Aspire. The meeting notes will now be on the website. Cheryl is working with JCCF again for an internship for Aspire similar to the one we had last year. She and Gail will have more information about that soon.

The next meeting is February 19 at the Johnson County REMC in Franklin, 8:30 to 10:30. A meeting reminder will be sent the first of February.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Monson

[illegible]

[illegible]

Brett	Richards																		
Gail	Richards	X																	
Scott	Richardson																		
John	Rondot	X																	
Betsy	Schmidt																		
Pat	Sherman																		
Tandy	Shuck	X																	
Katherine	Simons																		
Erin	Smith	X																	
Loren	Snyder																		
Denise	Speer																		
Steve	Spencer																		
Patrick	Spray																		
James	Stockman																		
Rob	Taggart	x																	
Heather	Tallman	X																	
Greg	Taylor																		
Peggy	Thompson	X																	
Brent	Tilson																		
Jody	Veldkamp	X																	
Eric	Vermillion																		
Pat	Watkins																		
Brandi	Weddle																		
Jane	Weisenbach																		
Ron	West	X																	
Heather	White	X																	
Karen	Wilkerson																		
Cynthia	Williams	X																	
Rick	Wilson																		
Brooke	Worland																		
Courtney	Zaugg																		

TOTAL	ATTENDANCE																		
GUESTS																			

Aspire Johnson County
Johnson County REMC
February 19, 2015

Larry Heydon welcomed everyone this morning. He gave an overview of the morning and reviewed the agenda. A round robin was held and written role call obtained.

Larry reported to the large group that the JCDC board approved the two year budget for Aspire. This budget is a commitment from JCDC and allows infrastructure to be formed, including a professional position to lead the organization. The budget is set at \$82,000. There will need to be a fundraising program for this. There is a strong commitment to make sure Aspire is not competing with the Chambers and JCDC for donors.

Tandy Shuck shared that Leadership Johnson County and JCDC are working on the Leaders in Motion series, with the next session to be held April 28. The speaker will be General Tooley from Camp Atterbury. There are two options for the session. One is a half day at Camp Atterbury beginning with the General and learning about his leadership style and the work at Camp Atterbury. The other option is a full day beginning at Camp Atterbury with the General then lunch and a drive to Muscatatuck for a tour of that facility. There will be no charge for the half day but a nominal charge to pay for lunch and travel to the facility for the full day. The majority want to do the full day experience.

Cheryl then introduced Bonnie Pribush. The large group is now in a transition period with the end of the contract with Lee. Bonnie will facilitate the discussion on next steps for the large group meetings.

Bonnie began by stating that this model is very similar to the Leadership Johnson County model in its beginning. Both groups are setting goals to improve the county, bring collaboration to the work, and begin the projects necessary to meet the goals. As the work grows, the needs grow for the organization as well. This transition is a perfect time to plan for sustainability and the identity of the group. This is the first conversation on these issues. There will be no binding decisions made today but the comments are needed in order to get to those decisions.

First question: What is the best use of the time in these large group meetings? The value around this table in human resources is very large and we want to make the best use of this value. Mike Crumbo likes the ability to hear from the sub committees and the work going on which gives continuity to the work. Lisa Fears agrees and likes to hear where the subcommittees intersect. We need to improve this opportunity to intersect. Don Kinsey would like a standard format in reporting to help with continuity in the goals. Jody Veldkamp wants to hear how often the goals are changed. John Rhondot wants to see an end game. He wants to see what the goal is and at what point the goal could be considered achieved. Bonnie said it is a balance between structure and an open atmosphere to accommodate all the personalities in the room. Gail Richards likes the reports because she doesn't have time to be in a sub group herself. She also likes the ways the groups are free to evolve as they progress. Bev Martin likes the speakers and the varied topics that present new ideas which can be brought back to the teams. Cheryl Dobbs likes the outside experts that have been brought in such as Cheryl Rogers. Jeff Owen likes the speakers, not necessarily team leadership topics but specific topics for education and facilitators that can walk us through to bigger issues that come along. This is also the forum for facilitated discussions of large issues. Forrest Whittaker liked the celebration at the end of last year. Taking time to review the successes is important as we move forward. Tina Gross likes coming together every month and working on the overarching goals as we look at the big picture. Pat Sherman feels we need

to do a better job of recording how much time we spend on the work. We really don't know the amount of time each person and team spends so we really don't have a true appreciation of the work. Having an idea of the time, the x number of hours spent, will be needed when we go before the various funding groups and government officials as part of our request. Mike Crumbo said he does this with other organizations as well, it is important to have an idea of the actual time spent. Lisa said the networking time is also important and valuable. Bea Northcott said the large group creates an energy that everyone can feed off. It helps us realize we are making change. Mike said it took two meetings for him to determine where he wanted to be in the meeting and some type of orientation would be helpful. Don suggested a beginner packet. Tandy Shuck said the new people keep the energy going as well. Pat Enoch said the website is very informational and helpful and gives them place to sign up. Jeff would like to see each team give an "ask" from the large group as part of their reports so each person knows what they need from us. Janet Alexander said she didn't know it was an open group and maybe that should be stressed more. Gail agreed there is a perception that this is a closed group and that needs to be addressed. Don appreciates that we move the meeting locations which allows the group to see the different venues and learn more about the county. Linda Gibson said the cooperation among the different government entities is important and is a great thing to see here. Cheryl Morphew asked if some of these points are more important than others? Everyone received two dots to place on the large papers that show the items most important to them.

Second question: When there are hard questions to answer, it is important to make sure everyone knows they have a voice in the discussion. The final decision may be made by a small group such as the JCDC executive committee, or the steering committee. Now we want to know what this group sees as the big issues through this next year. Jeff said the innkeepers issue brings up an important topic. We need to discuss whether Aspire becomes an education or advocacy group or both. I-69 is another example of this issue. Jody agrees and said involvement many times forces you to become an advocacy group or step out of the conversation. Mike Heffner says another issue is the structure of the organization, does it create its own board, by-laws, etc. Janet asked how we measure success. Will we know when this occurs? Jody wants to know the specific metrics for the success. Tandy said the specific success metrics will be critical for fundraising. Peggy Thompson wants to know how much we will get into the fundraising portion. Scott Smith said the metrics would be of interest to him as well. Bev said the sustainability issue is important to her. John Martin said someone directing the meetings, keeping everyone on task, and updating on the progress at each meeting would be important. Rick Resener said more people need to be involved in the quality of life team. This team will be the heart of the projects, without the quality of life there is not progress. David Pfeiffer said he is working with branding team but has thoughts that would overlap to other teams; he can't do all of them but having a time to share with other teams would be good. Tina said it is important to keep people engaged in the small teams. Some come in and some go but the momentum needs to be sustained. Cheryl said one issue found working at the higher level on the community conversations is the responsibility of the follow up work. There will be a tremendous sense of responsibility after these meetings are done and a new wave of work come from the information received at these events. Gail asked if the list of the community conversations dates can be sent out. Larry said the engagement and end goal of the elected officials needs to be addressed. Paige Banos would like to see a definite plan for this. Tom Weartz said the education and advocacy issue is the heart of this. We need to be proactive and involved in the issues and show up at the government meetings to support needed improvements and change.

Bonnie said the steering team will now look at these issues and comments and sort them through and look at the issues brought forward.

Team updates:

Infrastructure: Jody explained the house bill removing the restriction of I-69 running through Perry Township has passed out of committee and is now going to the full house. There was a strong support for this bill at the committee hearing. Liz Irwin spoke to the team at their last meeting and gave an update on the progress. She emphasized it is very important to listen closely to the information given out by INDOT to understand the true intent of the work. They are reviewing the studies that have already been done but are not saying they are re-opening the studies. The team's official position is to see it completed, not to promote one route over another. There will be a public information meeting from INDOT in Center Grove next Monday to present more information and hopefully help dispel some of the concerns. The Community Conversation date is April 23 from 6:30 to 7:45 at Southland Community Church. It will be an opportunity to educate and discuss the infrastructure needs in the county. Mayor Goodknight from Kokomo will speak on his efforts there with regards to the infrastructure improvements that city has recently experienced. Larry DeBoar will speak on financing these projects. Sarah Rubin from INDOT will give a presentation on the I-69 update. There will be maps displayed to inform residents.

Talent: Bev informed everyone that their community conversation is tentatively set for May 7 at Greenwood High School. The theme is cradle to career, multi-educational paths to success. We are working on a national speaker right now but have confirmation that David Dresslar will speak from a regional perspective. The audience focus will be middle school students and parents, guidance counselors, etc. Mike has finished the survey so it is ready to go out to local HR folks to help the team understand the challenges they face. Tina reported the health care roundtable was very successful and good information was received. There are plans now to have an education forum for this sector like the manufacturing forum. There is continuing work with the college success coalition. The direction is changing more to career success than just college success. It is broadening to include community college and specialized training as opposed to just a four year focus. The team has lost a few members but there have also been some new members added including k-12 representatives.

Quality of Life: Dana informed everyone that the team will have their community conversation on June 4 at the National Guard Armory in Franklin. This will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 and be open to any resident in the county. There will be Johnson County Marketplace for local businesses and organizations to have a booth to showcase their services and goods to the community. Attendees will also participate in a world café round table discussion where they will self-select a table, discuss a specific topic for 15 minutes then move to another table until time is completed. This information will be used along with a survey to benchmark the county's quality of life and then develop strategies to meet the areas that are found lacking.

Branding: Jeff reported the team is working on an Aspire marketing plan. The website is fully functional and social media going as well. We have 191 followers so far and growing every day. You can invite your friends to like this as well. We are also re-tweeting the announcements and notices from other groups. the team is working on having a ghost blogger to write great things about Johnson county and the team will be posting that out.

The branding of Johnson County is also continuing. The sub team is continuing to work with the Johnson County Council on the framework for a destination marketing and being a soft advocate with the council

for this. The Journey Johnson County website became a mission critical project. The two volunteers who have been running this and their Facebook page are not able to continue this work. In addition, the site framework is antiquated and not able to be supported. They have asked the branding team to take this work on. The team will work on this project but with funding being an issue, the team will meet to determine the best way to do this right and determine the best way to fund this. This is not in the Aspire budget so this will be separate funding. Cindy reported the community conversation will be the wrap up conversation held June 23 at the Johnson county Museum, time not determined but early evening. The team will be sharing information gathered from the other conversations. It may be an invitation only event so that the stakeholders will be there from all the conversation. Destination marketing will be a part of this discussion. The plan right now is to have two speakers, one focused on advantages of marketing and the other facilitating a discussion on next steps. Jeff noted that we have spent over a year on the importance of destination marketing and the economic development connection. The issue routinely comes back to funding and how important the county feels this is.

Cheryl thanked Jill Curry from OCRA for being here today. The discussion of the celebration earlier was important and is a continuing focus. Social media is becoming a valuable tool and is a success we did not have earlier. It is also important to note that the Journey Johnson County folks recognized the branding team as a strong team that can help with this important mission. This is another success for the organization. The support the organization gave to Rep Price for his bill is another success. We need to continue to pay attention to the successes each month. The next meeting will be March 19 at White River Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Monson

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[illegible]

Courtney Zaugg

TOTAL	ATTENDANCE	43	38
Gues		1	

Aspire Johnson County
March 19, 2015

Larry Heydon welcomed everyone and thanked Bev Martin and the Johnson County White River Library for hosting today. A Round robin and written role call was obtained.

Dana Monson introduced Sally Jo Vasicko with the Ball State Bowen Center for Government Affairs and Kristen Wells with Indiana Humanities to discuss the community conversations.

Kristen began by presenting the history of the conversations. They had received 14 applications for this year and four were chosen, including Aspire. There are a number of statewide partners with this organization to assist these conversations including OCRA.

Kristen detailed the process that the conversations follow, beginning with the application, going through the planning and finally the event. The grant is customized to each community's event. They have worked with large and small events, however, this is the first time they have worked county wide and the first time they have done a series like this. Brandyn asked how the next steps are created. Sally Jo explained that after the meetings are concluded, there will be a post meeting with the stakeholders to review the data obtained and to work out the next steps for the organization. For Aspire, we are already set up with structure which many other communities do not have, so our next steps will go very quickly. Cheryl noted that there is possibility of having a facilitator for the teams to help process the information and assist with the next steps planning.

Sally Jo then explained how Ball State and the Bowen Center work with the Community Conversations. These organizations provide resources customized to the community's needs.

Sally Jo gave a synopsis of the success story from Orange County and the events that happened after their conversation. This team in French Lick discovered that the look of their community was a hindrance to them and they instituted a clean-up day. This went on to the creation of ordinances that worked to keep the community clean.

Elkhart County had a group in place dealing with certain issues in the community. They were struggling with sustainability of the group and the work. Through their conversation, they found a way to bring in the next team to continue with the education focus of the group. The Horizon Education Alliance was formed in the county hardest hit from the recession, during the height of the recession. This team is business and education leaders coming together to work on the education improvements needed in their community. The organization received a large funding start from a dedicated volunteer in the community. She gave a success story from one person who benefited from the work of the organization. Their biggest bumps were from leadership changes which hindered some of the projects that were planned. It is important to have a backup person to keep the work continuing.

Kosciusko County created a community action council as a result of their conversation. Their focus was to break down the many silos that were in the organization, based on a structure learned from Columbus Indiana. This group set up a rotating chairmanship and has monthly meetings similar to Aspire. The benefit was in the communication between the groups which had not happened in the past. Conflicts with events were greatly reduced.

Greensburg also worked with consolidation and collaboration. They previously had two downtown groups that were basically fighting against each other. This conversation brought them together and they eventually merged and are now moving projects forward.

Community conversations are catalysts, collaborative, and connectors. They bring in facilitators and education on issues. They are not there to tell the community what to do, but to facilitate the conversation and assist the community in their discussion. These conversations are not full blown strategic plans or stand-alone events. The community has the responsibility to move the next steps forward and keep the progress continuing. The follow through is vital to the results. If a community does not have volunteers and organizations the work eventually stops.

The four conversations are State Road 37 Preparing for Growth: Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Impacts, Cradle to Career, Showcase of Johnson County life, fun and Our Story in Johnson County. Dana explained the target audiences for each are different, beginning with elected officials and planners for the first one, guidance counselors for the second, and tourism and county officials for the fourth. The third is for all county residents. In addition to the target audience, the general public is encouraged to attend and is considered just as important. This will be promoted through social media, print media, the website and distribution lists with our community partners.

Kristen then gave a handout with five ways each person can become involved. Among these are attending, inviting friends, sharing on social media, helping to reach a diverse audience, and making a commitment to Aspire.

There will be a feedback form or survey after each event to help with the follow up from the event both for the event and for data information about the information given during the event. The follow up will be built from this as well.

Dana introduced Heather Tallman to discuss the use of social media and some best practices. Aspire has a facebook page and on that there will be a contest with photos. Heather explained this Spring Fling contest and the use. The contest will help to encourage residents to share their photos of Johnson County and Aspire will use them to promote the county as well. The best way to consolidate the information and send out a consistent message is to use a hashtag. #aspirejohnsonco. Remember we are our best advertising for the county. This opportunity can bring in more folks in the county and involve those who may not make the meetings.

Team Updates:

Talent: Bev began by stating the monthly meetings for the team are continuing. The survey of large employers is ready to go. This will focus on areas of training and skills needs, what problems they have with hiring. They are continuing to work on their conversation. The career success coalition plans are continuing as well..

Infrastructure: Jody Veldkamp gave an update on the panel for the conversation. The focus is infrastructure planning, funding, and best practices. There is a need for people to be involved in the plans for the county and assistance. One area that has been discussed is the continuity of signage in the county to help visitors know they are in Johnson County and still know the various towns.

Quality of life: Joe said the team will need help with the conversation, this has been the primary focus of the team and will be invaluable in the planning for the projects for the team. Our goal is to capture opinions and information. The team is finalizing the list for the marketplace. These folks will need to participate and ask their contacts to participate as well.

Branding: Jeff said progress is continuing on their two charges. The work is continuing both to promote Aspire and the plans for promotion of the county. Social media is becoming a strong component for Aspire and getting lots of traction. Aspire helped to create a list for Franklin schools for the Google conference, a list of places to stay eat and play in the county for the visitors. He then gave an overview of the team's plans for their conversation, hoping to use this time to promote the branding of the county.

Larry gave an update on the funding planning. There is preparation for staffing for JCDC to sustain the work. The budget has been made for this year and a funding team has been formed. The plan is to find funders in four major categories including two title sponsors. JMH and the Community Foundation are continuing their support. Brandyn asked if this would be multi-year commitments. Larry explained that is part of the focus. Brent will work with Cheryl to create a promotional packet to bring to volunteers. Larry gave a short recap of the relationship with Aspire and JCDC, noting that Aspire is a program of JCDC.

Ron West shared support for the idea of a promotional sign for the county and could lend to a contest for the signs, having multiple messages on the signs. He noted that social media a growing use for many people, both for positive and negative reasons. There is support for promotion of the county.

Cheryl reminded everyone that there are small business cards on the table today that can be used to hand out about Aspire. These were created for the pay it forward golf outing and will be updated and continued to be used.

Janice announced next Wednesday is the Johnson county Ag breakfast. This is a great opportunity for aspire to support agribusiness and agritourism. Franklin has been chosen for the Your Town Friday on Fox 59 next Friday. They will be doing live broadcast that day. The museum, Artcraft and the Willard have taped segments that day as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Monson
Johnson County Development Corp.

Aspire Johnson County
Johnson County Museum, Franklin
April 16, 2015

Larry Heydon welcomed everyone to the meeting. A written role call was sent around and a round robin was taken.

Larry went over the agenda for today. He introduced David Pfeiffer with the Johnson County Museum. He gave a brief history of the museum from its days as the Masonic Temple to the museum. There are a number of permanent exhibits along with feature exhibits that change regularly. One of their most popular exhibits has been on video games. The current feature exhibit is on the history of proms and prom dresses. As part of this the museum hosted a successful adult prom. The museum has many other special events scheduled for the spring and summer, including storytellers, artists, and activities for all ages.

Bill Barrett gave an update on HB 1036. Bill and representatives from JCDC, Aspire, The Greenwood Chamber, Franklin Chamber, County Council, Franklin, Greenwood, Whiteland, and Bargersville came together to support this bill. The purpose of the bill is to repeal legislation that stated I-69 could not go through Perry Township. The bill does not mandate that 69 has to go there, it simply says that there is no prohibition stopping it from going there. This bill passed in spite of opposition. It is currently on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature. INDOT will now consider SR 37 as a route for 69. The department will perform tier 2 environmental studies to determine the most viable, practical, and reasonable route. The route from Bloomington to Martinsville, section 5, is being built now. There are other routes for section 6 being considered as well. One goes through Morgan County and one goes across Johnson County. Cheryl stated that the position of JCDC is to let INDOT do their study to determine the best route and support that path. There is no position on one particular route. Bill explained that INDOT will begin those studies very soon and anyone supporting the SR 37 route should expect vigorous opposition from Perry Township. Some of those who spoke at the hearing were a school representative and a restaurant owner.

Heather Tallman then updated the group on the Aspire Facebook page. She began by discussing the results of the first photo contest. We had 26 entries. There was a great variety of photos which will remain in a photo album on the website and grow. We are encouraging all the residents of the county to submit photos to this via our Facebook page, Instagram, and email. Jessica Strange won the contest with a photo from Mallow Run Winery. Heather gave the handles for twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. She encourages everyone to like the page and share the page as well as invite their friends to like this page. Heather then showed the attendees how to invite someone to like a page. When a person is on the Aspire page, on left side there is a section that says Invite your friends. Click on those friends who you wish to invite. The Instagram account is under aspirejohnsonco.

Jeff Owen gave an update on the website. A year ago when you googled Johnson County you would get police reports, courts, negative news etc. Through the Aspire website we have become the branding site for the county. The website is the basis for the online presence of Aspire and the county. Through collaboration with the Franklin Chamber and Franklin schools, there was a Google Conference page on the website which gave a list of local places to go while here for that event. This was used heavily this weekend. While this was a simple, passive way to present the county, it was effective. This list will be expanded and renamed to include other businesses in the county and promoted as a growing list to visitors in the county. This site is also being used for the community conversations. As each event is

concluded, there will be a page just for that topic, including answers to questions, links to resources, synopsis of speakers, next steps, etc. Jeff also showed the Johnson County Public Library Bright Ideas for Business page, which is a collaboration among JCDC, the Chambers, Discover Downtown Franklin, and the City of Franklin. This is an example of promotion of the county, information that assists our residents, and collaboration among partners. Together we do more than we can alone.

Larry recognized the Franklin Schools and Dr. Clendening for the great response from the Google Conference.

Team Updates:

Infrastructure: Jody Veldkamp. One week from today is the Community Conversation. The church has received quite a bit of interest as well as JCDC. There should be a large attendance. This will begin with Sarah Rubin from INDOT giving an update on the status of I69 and other local projects. This will also show the importance of good planning. Larry DeBoer will then discuss funding for infrastructure. Larry is a great resource who can help make a difficult to understand topic very clear. Mayor Greg Goodnight from Kokomo will give examples of his experiences with growth in his community and how he enabled community support for these projects. Chris Hamm from HWC will be the moderator for this event. Questions will be taken from the audience using their smart phones or by writing those questions on cards to be handed in. These questions will be grouped together and post the answers on the Aspire website. Some of the next steps will be to work on the land use plans for the area and also any other topics that may come up through the conversation. As the sections under construction now are completed we know there will be an increase in traffic on 37 and this needs to be planned for now.

Talent: Tina Gross. College Success Coalition is goal 4 for the team. They are working through the process to get the grant money the organization gives. The team is using data from this to create a list of target concerns. They are also working on a year plan for the organization. The team will work with the Franklin Chamber as part of the internship planning. The team is working on providing information for certification for skills as well as four year colleges that can meet the needs of all students. Bev Martin. Their focus is career success more than college success. It is important to include all students and not all students are interested in college. She then gave an update on their conversation, and listed the two speakers. The conversation will be May 7 at the Greenwood High School David Dressler and Jeanna Keller Berdel from the Lumina Foundation. The focus audience will be guidance counselors.

Quality of Life: Dana Monson. Joe Moore was unable to be here this morning. The team is continuing to invite a sampling of locally owned businesses in the county for the marketplace. They anticipate having about 30 vendors for this. Lisa Fears explained that the interactive portion of the evening will be the world café. Everyone who is attending will self-select a table based on the question for that table, spend 15 minutes discussing the topic, then move to another table. This information will be used to develop the strategies for the team. The team will need a number of volunteers to help with facilitating the questions and recording the answers. We have a sign-up sheet available for anyone who can help that evening. It will be June 4 at the National Guard Armory from 5:30 to 8:30.

Branding: The branding team will have Our Stories: Johnson County held June 23 at the Museum. We will be discussing the stories we have to tell in Johnson county and how best to promote the county.

Community Conversation sign up: Dana Monson. Everyone who plans to attend the events needs to sign up on the website, even if you are volunteering that night. There will be name tags made and it will help to have those ready.

Funding update: Larry Heydon said the work is continuing on the JCCF grant and there is a fundraising committee working on the continuing funding of the program.

Cheryl turned in the community grant with a group interview scheduled. We are one of 10 applicants for this grant. Any of the new members are welcome to join a team after for networking or can meet with Cheryl and Dana with more questions. Bev then announced information about the JCCN. This group was formed almost 20 years ago to help bring web network into the county. One of their goals was to create a county wide website and promote the county. That work was never completed and now the group is dissolving and wishes to give their remaining funds to Aspire Johnson County for the Journey Johnson County website to update it and grow the site.

Brent Tilson thanked the museum for hosting us today. Brent has been unable to participate as fully as he would like lately due to work commitments, but he has kept up with the work of Aspire. He has noticed quite often that Johnson County is being mentioned more and more in the media and with other networks. There is a definite buzz in the region about the county and the activity going on here. He will be connecting with businesses and individuals to assist with the funding for the work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Monson
Johnson County Development Corp.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Brandi	Weddle														
Glen	Weil			X											
Jane	Weisenbach														
Ron	West	X		X	X										
Heather	White	X													
Karen	Wilkerson														
Cynthia	Williams	X	X	X	X										
Rick	Wilson														
Brooke	Worland														
Courtney	Zaugg														

TOTAL	ATTENDANCE	43	38	38	48
Guest			1	2	1
Final Total			39	40	49

Aspire Johnson County
May 21, 2015
Stones Crossing Health Pavilion, Greenwood

Cheryl Morphew welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded everyone of the connection between Aspire and JCDC. Aspire is an economic and community development initiative. The first two community conversations have been completed with resounding success. Those teams are beginning the debriefing process to determine what their next steps will be. There are two more conversations to be completed. She thanked Tina Gross for speaking about Aspire at the LJC Power of Innovation workshop.

Cheryl gave an update on the fundraising committee. They have developed a strategy and goals for the initiative. They are also considering having another major event similar to the one last year. Aspire applied for a JCCF grant in the Bigs cycle. Gail Richards gave the update for that. JCCF came in as one of the first underwriters for Aspire. She then explained her work as a non-profit manager. She is a firm believer in the process of shoring up the economic and community development initiatives because as those become successes they, in theory, lessen the need for the traditional charities. The strategic plan for JCCF includes economic development initiatives but they are still under the constraints of the IRS which has very specific rules on granting funds to a non 501 c3 organization. These rules are more stringent than the typical grants. Aspire is very similar to the Hometown competitiveness initiative that was started in 2010. While this initiative was not able to be completed, Aspire has developed many ideas that Hometown would have had. The JCCF board has difficulty understanding the proper place for Aspire. The original \$30,000 grant for the Bigs was applied for, however, this is instead going to be a grant for \$10,000 for two years in the form of a matching grant. This is a transition period for the board and this is a new project for them. Erin Smith agreed that this has been an incredible journey and an exciting one. She is excited to see Johnson County as a leader in community development. Steve Spencer said he would like to see the focus continue on the website and on the innkeeper's tax. Cheryl thanked Gail and the JCCF board for the funding. Aspire has always considered JCCF to be a partner in the work.

One question from the interview for the JCCF grant was the level of commitment financially from the Aspire members. She encouraged everyone to consider the matching grant opportunity just announced. Aspire does acknowledge the many volunteer hours the members are contributing, without which the work would not be completed. This is a great opportunity for everyone to consider a contribution in addition to the work.

Bonnie Pribush began with a round robin introduction with everyone. She will be facilitating a conversation about the previous community conversations. These events provide a connection with the larger community in the county and provide information for the work. This is best completed when an opportunity for in-depth reflection on the events are held.

She began with a series of questions for the group about the content of each conversation. She asked that the team listen to the responses from everyone else as opposed to discussing this now.

1. What did you learn?

All the new projects coming up in the county and how many people who want to be involved was a huge eye opening moment. I-69 is starting with a request for input from the residents and they have a strong leader in place for the public meetings. Another learned about all the funding possibilities for the work of infrastructure. Others learned about the timeline, which seems very long especially compared to

some of the other sections. Still others learned that some people are very passionate about this topic so it was a very timely message of education, not advocating a route. One comment was that some statistics about road miles specific to our county were new and no one else is talking about it. There was a lot of misinformation out in the public. Cheryl noted that the most recent public meeting INDOT held showed the level of misinformation that is out there. Bonnie noted that this is an important part of communication, how to communicate with those not at the table. There was a lot of chatter out there about the process, how some don't understand that there is no route picked or why it is not yet picked. Lots of discussion taking place on social media. The in-depth planning that the infrastructure team put in and the time that took made the event successful. There was a way for people to participate without conflict. One anecdotal message that was heard; someone came that thought they would be an island when it is built but when they left they felt someone was looking out for them and listening to their concerns. This was attributed to the set-up of the meeting and the information given.

2. What do you want to learn more about? What expectations were created? What can we do with what we learned?

Passion and misinformation seem to be the strongest words expressed, it needs to be more open and out of the government hands. Expectations were that some thought they knew what was going to be said and it wasn't said, instead they learned the process that they didn't really know. S.R. 37 will still be there regardless so there needs to be focus on the growth no matter what happened. There will still need to be access roads if it becomes an interstate and we need to encourage the state to make a decision so these plans can be made. The expectation is there that the community needs to stay on top and in front of these conversations. Need to get more residents involved in the public meetings. The preconceived notion is a huge issue for the team and education is needed in this regard. Keep giving out the information. Need to harness the passion in a positive way. Change the conversation to be proactive and make this a positive step for the county, not that someone is losing something.

Process:

1. What went well? The collection of questions was very helpful and the team got the questions answered right away. This was also done in a positive way and gave them a sense of ownership. Collection was excellent because it showed on the screen and others saw that more than one had the same question. This kept the conversation from being confrontational and no yelling was involved. This also made it more educational. This kept a few individuals from controlling the conversation also. We need to help others think broader than themselves and look at the benefit of the community. The mayor spoke more about an urban area than the rural area and so the next speakers need to be more tuned into the audience and coach the presenter.

Cradle to Career:

Content

1. What did you learn? What do you want to know more about? What expectations were created? What can we do with what we learned?

The gap in silos between education and work sectors was very apparent. Employer and colleges are not talking. Every kid needs to go to college more than looking at the child as an individual is the current thinking. The way we measure a school's success needs to change. Defining college more broadly is needed as opposed to just 4 year, adding in 2 year and certificates. There is difficulty in finding employability skills for employers. Disconnect between what businesses say they need in employees versus what the schools are teaching them. Need a better job in creating pathways for students and what they want to do versus what jobs are really out there. Need to improve respect for associate degrees and certificate work. Make them as important and relevant to students. Standardized testing makes it difficult to do this. The team could make videos to help inform students as well as teachers on

the jobs out there and the education required. Kids with associates degrees and hands on experience seem to develop in the work sector more quickly than the bachelor's degree students. More hands on skills should be included in high school and even middle school. The schools hear from legislators that kids are not ready for college and that became the focus. Now suddenly the state wants to tout being number one in manufacturing so there is a disconnection in the process. The conversation is twenty years old and suddenly they want to change the direction. Education system doesn't move that fast because of the number of decision makers involved. There needs to be a strong consistent ongoing message that it is ok for a student to get an associate's degree. Career day needs to be instituted in more schools and have business sectors brought in just like colleges are brought in. Parents and educators alike need to be brought in to the conversation as this message is totally different than what that age group was brought up with and what they consider important to respect. It will take everyone together and we must include the legislators as well as they are creating policy. There is a need to bring in the kids as well and help them understand what the options really are. it was very good to see kids there as well as their parents and it was important to see them with their parents. Need to show what you can realistically make with the various degrees. What you want to have in life which determines what salary you really require.

Process: What went well? What did we learn and how can we apply it?

Speakers were excellent and brought an independent opinion to the conversation offered lots of research. Selection of speakers is critical.

Dana gave an update on the community conversations that are coming up, the registration is up for the next one and it is a great opportunity for anyone and everyone to come and give their thoughts.

Infrastructure: Peggy Rutledge. They have been going through a debriefing of the event and they do have the questions answered on the website. The land use plan is a very important topic. They are meeting with county planning directors and commissioners to see how they best can assist in the process. They also had someone come asking for their input on a road issue he is dealing with

Talent: Bev Martin. She passed out the top five things they learned. Their questions are online with answers from Dr. Dresslar and they are working on getting the video online. They are continuing to work on their ongoing career fairs. They are also continuing the CSC process. The employer survey has been sent out as well and they have received 13 responses so far. They are continuing to work on the list for certifications that are most needed and the careers there

Quality of life: Joe Moore. They are working hard on the conversation. There will be a few organizations and businesses set up to learn more about the amenities in the county. We will have roundtable discussions that will work around a central set of questions. The attendees will have an opportunity to speak to a broader set of participants. The team needs volunteers to help with facilitating the tables from Aspire members. The team really needs everyone to invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers, use social media and support in the work. One goal is to help bring in the underserved areas of the county and have a true cross section of the county represented.

Branding: Cindy Cook, Jeff Owen. Jeff reviewed the Explore Johnson county page that is now on the website. It was a Leadership Johnson County project. This is a great tool to promote the amenities of the county. The number of likes on Facebook is growing every week. Cindy reviewed the plans for the conversation. There will be time for roundtables discussions to begin the evening followed by a keynote speaker who will bring together all the work of Aspire and how and why it is so important. This

conversation is for any resident as well and it is so important to get the public to understand their value. It is important to have a good mix of ages and locations as well.

The team met to network.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Monson

Johnson County Development Corp.

Aspire Johnson County
Franklin College
June 18, 2015

Brent Tilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and conducted a round robin roll call. A written roll call was also obtained.

Fundraising Update: Brent reported that the team is continuing to meet with potential funders for the program. JCCF has given us a \$10,000 matching grant. Any money donated to Aspire through the foundation will be matched dollar for dollar. This is available for individuals as well as businesses. He encouraged everyone to consider donating through this grant. Gail Richards explained that the check should be made out to the Foundation with Aspire in the memo line. The funds are placed in the Aspire account and the matching dollars are added. The Foundation will also connect with local businesses that members have connections with. This matching money comes from the Director's fund. Donations can be made online as well.

Dana Monson introduced Sharon Canady, Project Manager for Ball State Building Better Communities.

Sharon gave a definition of community development, which is a process for the whole community to create conditions of economic and social progress. It is important for a community to capture its own authenticity. There is a difference between unique and authentic. Space needs to become place.

The thinking for economic development in the past has been luring investment and jobs to the community and assumed the people would move to new jobs. Incentives were given based on this assumption. The paradigm has shifted to the realization that the attraction is to the people and the jobs will follow them. The focus has gone from local to regional. Quality of services, amenities and connectors all have become the strong economic drivers. Education, wealth creation, workforce development, and entrepreneurs are the primary focuses. Talent is the single most important element in local economic development. Quality of place is the primary driver for attracting and retaining talent.

People choose where they want to live for a variety of reasons that allow them to develop passion and loyalty to their community. The City of Fishers is an example of a community that has worked to develop an identity that cultivates this philosophy. There has been development through infrastructure that helps to create this identity.

Community design, well-being, municipal governance and readiness for change are some of the key pillars for building a better community. Arts Integration is the creation of cultural flavor and a sense of place. This can be done through public art, signage, entertainment and tourism. The goal is to increase attractiveness and allure of a community and is an economic driver for the community.

Community design is the physical component of place and how things are arranged. An efficient or inefficient design has an impact on the local economy. This further defines the character of the community with streetscapes and the public realm. The design can create a sense of vibrancy, sustainability and safety or it can diminish these feelings.

There should be collaboration between the community and the educational institutions. A quality education that parents can be involved in is a strong factor in choosing a community to live. The ability

to have strong ties between the community and educational institutions attracts businesses seeking talent and also fosters entrepreneurship.

Community well-being improves places where people live, work and play. The municipal governance influences the community attractiveness. A community must be ready for change and have a willingness to create a vision for the community. This involves collaboration between public, private, and non-profit sectors to reach a consensus on the goals for the vision. The leadership should foster the collaboration and inclusiveness of the vision. Ultimately, the vision must be sustainable. Placemaking is the result from weaving the community's assets together to bring the vision to life.

The process should include integration of local and regional approaches. The community must decide the need and appropriateness of quality of life projects. Local decisions must be made to create attractive and livable communities. A lack of institutional continuity and commitment is a risk to the goal.

A community begins with an assessment of where they are, and then create the vision for where they want to be. The assets will define the authenticity. Determine where your community fits in the county and region. The community must know the resources they have and how best to use them. It is important to look for ways to scale some of the achievements. While formal community leadership should be out in front, the entire community must engage and act.

Some ways to involve communities in identifying their authenticity is gateway and street signage that brands the neighborhood and also fits in with the community as a whole. Landscaping is another way to improve the community and neighborhood. Ask the community what would brand them, what is the historical knowledge, and involve them in the process. Creations of play areas and pocket parks are another small way that can have a big impact.

A community needs to determine their role in the region. Where does Johnson County fit? Are we a good bedroom community? Are we a small community with our own amenities and our own sense of identity but utilizes the resources of the large city?

Connectivity between amenities and resources is vital. For example, walking trails connecting the college to the downtown area provides connectivity between two Franklin assets.

Infrastructure: Jody Veldkamp. Team is very pleased with the response from new people interested in being involved in the process of developing infrastructure. The team is working with David Hittle about creating a land use plan for the Center Grove area. There will be a presentation to the county commissioners in July to start the discussion with the county. They want to be a resource to the county.

Talent: Bev Martin. The team has had very good follow up with their community conversation. The video from the conversation is now available on the Aspire website. The message continues to be higher education, not just a college degree. We need to assess the need in the community. Skills talent survey has been completed and the results are being evaluated now. There are also two career and education events are being planned, one at Endress+Hauser for manufacturing and one with JMH and St. Francis. There are more connections being made with the local counselors as well.

Quality of Life: Joe Moore. Conversation event was wrapped up this month with 15 marketplace participants and 68 attendees. The process for the evening was gathering the data from residents, their

thoughts and determining what our assets are and what we need. The team will be meeting with Lisa to review the data and develop a plan for the team. The volunteers were a huge asset for the evening.

Branding: Cindy Cook. The team is in the final stages of planning for the community conversation next week. The first speaker will be Bruce Hetrick discussing the importance of storytelling. The keynote will be Dr. Katherine Loflin discussing placemaking and creating the image of the county. There will be roundtable discussions on the information learned that will help determine what our next steps will be. It is not too late to register to attend the event.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Monson
Johnson County Development Corp.

Aspire Johnson County Notes July 16, 2015

Stones Crossing Health Pavilion

Welcoming comments and Introductions - Larry Heydon

Round robin and written role call obtained

Fundraising Update - Larry Heydon

Goal \$80,000

4 areas of focus

- Major underwriters (\$25,000 may have to lower)
- A group of donors totaling \$25,000
- Private donations from smaller companies and individuals
- The public sector

Johnson Memorial \$10,000; \$5,000 County Commissioners; \$2,000 First Merchants

Johnson Community Foundation Matching Grant is open now.

Larry reported many companies are willing to talk. There may be a need to change focus to a more project based request.

Aspire can approach this year with a complete staff and not have to pull so much on JCDC.

Infrastructure Team - top 5 things learned from Community Conversation, top 5 challenges, community reaction

Top 5 things learned

- Conversation was informative and educational about best ways to develop area.
- Speakers stressed that good planning begins with planning ahead.
- Continuing to provide information is absolutely necessary

- Johnson County's debt is less than average. 24th in state, 5th in the doughnut counties surrounding Marion County (use of TIF)
- Kokomo has raised \$2 billion in private investments since 2009.

Top 5 challenges

- Continuing ongoing community engagement
- Education and understanding for committee members and community
- Encouraging and assisting local governments as they work on infrastructure plans
- Connection of 4 teams - How do we work together?
- Volunteers time commitment

THE outcome is planning for future land use. If community has overlay zones and plans in place, the state will acknowledge these and give county a chance to have a say.

Map of White River Township is not as up-to-date as it should be.

The team went to County Commissioners meeting to support the director of planning as he continues to work on mapping 37/69 corridor trail system.

Comments from group

Ron - Aspire is a coordinated effort. It helps elected officials with the big picture. This is not the typical kind of help received. Usually individual concerns are presented to the commissioner's not big picture awareness.

Mike - We need to establish a way to communicate information in an almost continuous flow. We, as Aspire, need to be responsive in a very timely manner.

Forest - We need to promise to get back to the community to obtain a better visibility.

Cheryl - What is happening here is a prime example of how Aspire can be a

resource to the community. This seed is planted and beginning to grow. Aspire is NEUTRAL. The group has no axe to grind. As a group, it can bring people together, listen to concerns and solutions, educate, and transfer information.

Talent Team - top 5 things learned from Community Conversation, top 5 challenges, community reaction

- Parents and students cannot start too early in planning for future career and success.
- Talking about high-quality education and training after high school completion in the form of any degree, certificate or credential is essential.
- There are key 21st Century Employability Skills that employers are looking for in their new hires.
- **Employability 21st Century Skills Dr. David Dresslar**

Strong Work Ethic

Acting as a Team Player

Positive Attitude

Self-Confidence

Good Communication Skills

Ability to Accept & Learn From Criticism

Time Management Abilities

Flexibility/Adaptability

Problem Solving Skills

Working Well Under Pressure

- Internships are critical to finding a right fit for one's chosen career. Never too early to start!
- It's not what college/school you attend, but it's the major/program in which you enroll. It's not just what you know, but it's also what you can do. Passion for what you do is the key for success.
- Assisting educators and counselors in working with students and parents
- Producing videos for counselors to use in working with students and parents (schools, Work One, C9)

- Manufacturing and Healthcare forums
- County employer, H R and plant managers Best Practices Symposium on recruiting and educating prospective employees rather than waiting for someone to show up with the proper skills to fill a job opening
- Using \$6,000 received from Career Success Coalition to produce videos pertinent to the needs of county employers.

Comments from group

Samantha - Daughter suggested that more classes should be offered in life skills and self-defense.

Quality of Life - Top 5 things learned from Community Conversation, top 5 challenges, community reaction, top 5 things learned

- People like to have opportunity to talk to one another.
- The community conversation fit a need to help collect information. Now must decide actions to take to respond to information gathered.
- The language of what Aspire is trying to do has changed. The group is really talking about authentic placemaking rather than quality of life.
- The survey Aspire did last year (2014) and the Community Conversation (2015) confirm that there are different personalities for different parts of our county.
- People see the assets that are right in front of them but not necessarily all of the assets available within their own county. This Community Conversation encouraged people to make connections within their community.

Top 5 challenges

- Continuing to offer opportunities for citizens of the county to convene and discuss different topics
- Many assets are not recognized from one section of the county to another.
- This team needs to continue discovering, cataloguing, and connecting information, events, and opportunities within the county AND work with other teams to disseminate the information.
- How to strengthen/leverage assets that exist in various areas of the county
- In the last 10 years, the opportunities and possibilities in Johnson County have increased. How do we continue the progress? It is essential that we continue to maintain a strong connection among our 4 Aspire teams.

Comments from the group

- Do we really support local?? We need to understand travel patterns

Branding - top 5 things learned from Community Conversation, top 5 challenges, community reaction

Top 5 things learned

- Speakers confirmed that people look at community first and then go find a job.
- People find out about a community through friends, social media, and internet.
- Placemaking is critical to economic development. It is not about tourism - this is just a small part of the whole.
- Communication is critical to what we are trying to do.

- This team with the help of the other teams has an opportunity to approach our assignment in a manner different from any other county.

Top 5 challenges

- Group must move beyond thinking website and brochures.
- We have created the tools, but we must stay focused at 30,000 feet. Work with the big picture.
- Need to look at the next steps in this big picture process
- Find funding
- Start with blank white board and build from there. We very likely will not come up with a traditional visitor's bureau.

Comments from the group

- Be authentic - own and appreciate the make-up of our county.
- Local has a different feel.
- Inside out marketing
- Perhaps hire a professional for marketing

Reflections from Indiana Humanities and Ball State Bowen Center—Sally Jo Vasicko

The teams have done a wonderful job. However, what has been done is just the beginning. Aspire has the leadership to continue to move forward with the process.

h) Wrap up - Cheryl Morpew and Dana Manson

NEXT ASPIRE LARGE GROUP MEETING

August 20, 2015

Ivy Tech Franklin Campus, 8:30 AM

Aspire Johnson County Notes August 20, 2015

Ivy Tech Franklin Campus

A) Welcoming Comments and Introductions - Dana Monson

Infrastructure - utilities, trails, roads, connectivity ...

What are infrastructure barriers to economic development?

How does Aspire fit in as a resource?

B) Funding Update -

No report at this time.

C) Panel discussion of infrastructure challenges

Infrastructure goals and challenges in Johnson County

County - Luke Mastin, Highway Director

County Highway Department encompasses all roads outside city and town levels. The county is responsible for 600 miles of roads.

Challenges and Updates

Road reconstruction and improvements are challenges

Funding primary problem

Balancing road maintenance with capital improvements - Using same funding for both keeps the department behind the curve

Right now the department manages to do about 9 1/2 miles per year

Comments from group - Hendricks County uses EDIT. Johnson County does not have EDIT. At the present time, there are not many parameters on the use of these dollars. This tax is usually 1/4%. Distribution is based on population. The County Council would have to pass this tax for it to be levied in Johnson County. In 2012, 74 of 92 counties had EDIT tax.

County - David Hittle, Director of Planning and Zoning

Challenges and Updates

Emergency stormwater management - particularly in the NW corner of the county

Homeowner's associations are to manage stormwater infrastructure, and they do not.

Decades old management system

There is no system in place to manage existing subdivisions

2 ways to solve this - 1) Reactivate homeowners associations

2) Develop a storm water utility tax .

Comments from group -

Cheryl - Do other counties bond for progress? Does Johnson?

Luke - Johnson County has bonded for Whiteland Road. The down side of this is that it takes 8 years to pay back money. The pay back comes out of the same fund for road improvements.

Cheryl - Do we pay as we go or bond?

Luke - Mentioned EDIT tax

East/West transportation improvement - Shelby County is knocking on our door, 4 miles of road need improvement

Final decision on location of I69 could have a major impact on 144. Some intersection could disappear.

Don - Without bonding, the people who live here now pay for improvements. With bond, people who move here in the future would help pay.

Bargersville - Julie Young, Director of Development

Challenges and Updates

The first thing developers ask when they come into her office, "Where are my nearest connections for utilities?"

Bargersville - Kevin McGinnis, Town Manager

Challenges and Updates

Past time for preparing for growth

Bargersville gained a huge land mass by volunteer annexation.

Infrastructure

Electric

- a) 7 electric utilities in Johnson County Most growth REMC
- b) Electric ready

Water

a) 2 water production plants, capacity 12 million gallons per day,
Current use average 4 million gallons per day

- b) Problem getting water lines out

With 2 plants need to split lines to provide water to areas that need it

Wastewater Treatment

- a) Capacity 1.5 MGD Current use 1/2 of that
- b) Developer is required to pay for the lines and many are reluctant to do so if they are very far away from the plant or lift station
- c) Many lift stations in Bargersville. Lift stations are a maintenance nightmare - flow a problem. Bargersville has spent \$600,000 to deal with odor issues.
- d) If I69 comes through, there is a major issue because there is no means to treat wastewater.
- e) Electricity, water, wastewater treatment, and roads are the epitome of opportunity. We just need to get amenities to areas to be developed.

Comments from group -

Lisa - Are there services that are redundant when doing highway construction that would intersect with other utilities, municipalities, and towns?

There is not much connection with electricity.

Luke - The county maintains old rural roads in Bargersville town limits.

When you build and improve highways you acquire right-of-way for everyone. If it is only a utility, they must acquire own right-of-way.

Edinburgh - Scott Finley, Clerk Treasurer

Challenges and Updates

Encompasses 3 counties

Own all utilities

Water

- a) Goal - Try to expand for new industry
- b) Need iron removal filtration plant
- c) Working to connect to Bartholomew County lines for emergencies
- d) 2 of 4 wells working under capacity Nothing is wrong right now but need new wells.
- e) 5/8" change out meters
- f) Challenges - Funding

Stormwater

- a) Infrastructure improved after 2008 flood
- b) Have a master plan with 6 phases, working on a grant to fund Phase 1
- c) Have implemented a stormwater fee - not too popular

Streets

a) Internal issue so not much done recently. This is being worked out.

b) Goal - Mill down major streets. Town does not have cash balance for work.

c) Challenges - Time and funding. Equipment is deteriorating and needs to be repaired or replaced. Need place to store equipment..

Electric

a) Maintaining and have capacity for growth

b) Challenges - Funding

Wastewater

a) Maintaining, rate increases are happening gradually

Comments from group -

Dana - Sewer lines are old. Structures are built on top of some of them. Planning and education are key.

- What industries would Edinburgh like to attract for growth?

Scott - Whatever comes

Franklin - Travis Underhill, City Engineer

Challenges and Updates

How do we get ahead of the curve?

Franklin has 192 miles of roads

In reality, need \$2 million a year for just maintenance

Franklin has been aggressive with a 5 year plan. Last 2 years averaged 1 million per year. This year 1.3 or .4 million.

A funding source a city has that the county does not have is TIF. TIF is used as a way to leverage for federal dollars.

Franklin is competing with every city and county in the doughnut area for

the Federal dollars.

Franklin does not charge a convenience fee for developers to come in.

Have bonded with TIF with focus on infrastructure and economic development

Next year much road and area development on East side

Comments from group -

Cheryl - People need to take time to see conceptual drawing of East side plans. It is going to be incredible.

Bev - Question on local option income tax. How do we move in direction of having to pay to have the kind of community we want? i.e. increase taxes

Franklin - Krista Linke, Director of Community Development

Challenges and Updates

Franklin did not have major approach to road improvement, gateway, and greenways.

Cash reserves are there now. But the City must plan for future. There are \$56 million worth of projects that need to be done.

Must try to keep dialogue going with the community.

Franklin - Joanna Meyers, Senior Planner

Updates and Challenges

Need to plan so that current needs are met and also have potential for future development

Past requirements have changed. Current requirements provide for planning for the future

Comments from group -

Tina - I am proud of what Franklin has accomplished, and the fact that the city is just now bonding.

Greenwood - Mark Richards, Director of Community Development and City Engineer

Challenges and Updates

No water utility, no wastewater treatment plant

Roads

Challenge - funding

- a) Do have TIF which is used on roads
- b) Greenwood bonded Worthsville Road with the Redevelopment Commission
- c) Have used Federal funding for roads

Must submit application for projects. Now there is 1 call per year for applications. October 2015 call is for 2020-21. City must plan ahead. Most of the dollars can't be used for land acquisition. There is competition with units of local government in doughnut counties. Technical and elected officials review the applications.

- d) Rural - INDOT

Challenges and Updates

- e) Mill and overlay work standards have changed.
- f) Traffic impact of development is an issue. Need impact fees in place
- g) Utility relocation continues to be an issue with road work.

Sanitary Sewers

- a) Develop Western region intersection for White River Township
- b) Will probably have to raise rates
- c) Will eliminate 15 to 16 lift stations and prepare for development
- d) Challenge - Aging infrastructure, Pearl Street 24" brick pipe

- e) Maintenance is a continuing challenge.

Homeowners need to be aware of zoning on neighboring land.

Homeowners need to know about easements, other obligations and responsibilities, and limitations.

Community involvement, engagement and education are key.

Whiteland - Nathan Bilger, Director of Planning and Zoning

Challenges and Updates

Receive water from American Cities

Electric from Bargersville and REMC

Aging infrastructure is a challenge. Often a hodgepodge because there were few regulations when installed.

Stormwater lines - some prior to 1900 with no clue where they go

- a) 1 regional project with schools to eliminate water on Front Street
- b) If you have a regional plan, it will reduce cost to development

Streets

- a) Standards have been in place so not as needy
- b) Subdivisions not maintained
- c) County roads are seeing more use.
- d) Must maintain and plan for growth
- e) East/West traffic, Whiteland Road - looking at more roundabouts, removing obstructions to accommodate growth and future use

Sanitary Sewers

- a) Not just management but planning for growth
- b) Approaching 3/4 capacity
- c) Reducing inflow

d) Have to deal with infiltration through maintenance

e) Have sewer but not water out to interstate Hope to have water by May 2016.

f) How can town extend? What capacity is needed for development?

Funding

a) Relatively self-sufficient on rate structure

b) Must manage for growth

Parks

a) Have no parks which is a deficiency

Have TIF area Most of the development area is TIF but must build up

Most infrastructure have bonds

Standards are set up to accommodate future growth.

Working with New Whiteland to see where there are overlaps to help

Wastewater treatment plant just renovated

Team Updates

No report at this time

Wrap up

Cheryl thanked all of the presenters. She pointed out that they were a great team to work with in planning for new development for Johnson County. Cheryl noted that Dana is the Aspire coordinator and will be handling the day to day operations and will be at all the team meetings.

Dana ask that Aspire members send thoughts and ideas to her on what Aspire's role might be in regard to infrastructure planning.

NEXT ASPIRE LARGE GROUP MEETING

September 17, 2015

8:30 AM Greenwood Community Center

Aspire Johnson County Notes September 17, 2015

Greenwood Community Center

A) Welcoming Comments – Brent Tilson

Aspire continues to grow. There is good momentum and support and we need to keep our focus going on the good work we are doing. Round robin introductions

B) Funding Update – Brent Tilson

\$7,000 that can be matched. Ideas are welcome for expansion.

Pat Sherman - Need everyone's support. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

C. Alternative Education to Adult Education Options-Dana Monson

The organization is good at convening and educational forums. Education and the talent requirements for our companies are a top priority for both Aspire and JCDC.

The Crossing Educational Center, high school alternative choice - Curt Melau

- State accredited alternative school, locations statewide
- Working with Greenwood, Clark Pleasant, and Center Grove at this time
- Funding - 80% public school tuition transfer, 10% vouchers, 10% private donations
- Do education very differently - education, job training, faith based (faith based part optional)
- Teach 10 soft skills
- Have work teams of 3-5 students who work one-half day for a business partner under the direction of a Crossing Job Coach
- Have individual internships where students work 10 to 15 hours per week at partnering business

- ACUIITY primary assessment tool
- 77% of students received a non-waiver regular high school diploma
- Communicate hope rather than failure

Comments from group -

Ron - How is The Crossing different from the alternative academies offered by local corporations? The academies are an option for students that come before The Crossing.

Forest - This is a very impressive program

Central 9 Career Center, dual high school and technical school degree, technical education, and adult education - Dr. David Edds

- Started in the 70s when the state legislature created centralized, co-op high school programs
- Participating schools - all Johnson County corporations except Edinburgh, and including Beech Grove, Franklin Township, and Perry Township
- 27 programs where students are engaged in learning
- Concentrate on the hard skills needed for students to go into profession via certification and or dual credit
- The above approach provides income rather than student debt after high school graduation
- Early College program in connection with Vincennes University is new this year. At the present time, Center Grove is participating. Next Year this will be expanded to include Perry Township students.
- It was not mentioned, but a wide variety of adult education classes are offered through C9. Contact Michelle Davis at C9 if you need specific information.

Comments from group -

Dr. Kent DeKoninck - Parent awareness needs to be expanded

Lisa - What can Aspire do to convene and educate ? What do school systems and employers need?

Cheryl - How do we lift up the awareness of the possibilities that exist at C9

Don - It is a mistake to see 2 paths (comprehensive high school and C9) If a student knows what they want to do, this (C9 class) enhances your high school education.

Mike - Small business makes economy go. How does it fit into the whole economy?

Regina - Daughters not allowed to attend C9 by high school counselor due to high grade point average.

Paige - Parent or student can call C9 directly and ask for assistance in enrolling.

Tina - Peer pressure is an immense influence. We need to work on this.

Ron - (In response to Dr. Edds' comment about C9 offering classes in aviation & also aluminum welding) Son in aviation studies at Vincennes University. There is a shortage predicted of 436,000 pilots for the future.

Mike- This whole area is open for Johnson County.

Work One, adult work assistance and training options - Mari Phillips

- Work with population that is too old for high school
- Unemployment is just a part of what they do
- Start with assessment - Work Keys and survey on Indiana Career Explores.com are 2 of the assessment tools used
- Do training for hard and soft skills. This is eligibility based. However, they try to include as many as possible.
- Offer up to 2 years training in areas that are in demand
- Offer short term training
- Offer on the job training(OJT)

- Work Keys are part of the program
- Can pay up to \$4,500 per year on training
- Provide short term training for High School Equivalent (HSE) exam - old GED
- Have jobs that are above entry level pay
- Have a bonding program
- If you register with one office, you can go to other counties for training.
- If a person receives assistance, they must come to Work One.
- If a person is 18 and breathing, Work One can help.

Comments from group -

Peggy - Had opportunity to participate in the Employ Up program in Marion County. It is a wonderful program. Thank you.

Dana - people do not know about services offered.

Regina - Complements to Work One for small business.

D. Team Updates -

Talent Team - Tina Gross

Working on a restart with updated goals to keep the momentum going on educating and retaining talent. Starting to plan strategies.

E. Wrap Up

- Cheryl reminded the group that Dana is the primary point person for Aspire.
- Fourth public hearing for I69 is coming up.
- Next month is going to be ASPIRE 101 - goals, website, etc...

NEXT ASPIRE LARGE GROUP MEETING

October 15, 2015

8:30 AM Johnson County REMC Franklin

Aspire Johnson County Notes October 15, 2015

Johnson County REMC, Franklin

A) Welcoming Comments - Dana Monson

Aspire has come a long way with a large group of volunteers. Aspire, along with groups in Greensburg and Richmond, was showcased at a conference in Carmel, Indiana on 10/14/15. Aspire is unique in that it encompasses community and government groups from the entire county. At the end of the conference, several people sought out Dana for more information.

Round robin introductions

B) Funding Update -

No report at this time

C) Aspire 2016 Team Goals and Strategies - Lisa Fears

- A timeline of where Aspire has been and where it is going was presented.
- Aspire is distinctive in the way the group has embraced collaboration with a large group of volunteers.
- In 2015, there were many goals and strategies.
- In July 2015, Dana and Cheryl asked Lisa to return and help determine what to continue and how to wisely use the group's time.

Lisa sifted through existing information and found:

- Each group agreed on the vision - TO PROMOTE JOHNSON COUNTY AS THE DESTINATION TO LIVE WORK AND PLAY
- Considered - How do we do this from different perspectives?

What makes people want to do this?

Is the group trying to take on more than is suitable?

- **RESULTS! 2016 TEAM GOALS and STRATEGIES**

D) Discussion:

Don - Communication is Important.

Ray-

- Agrees with Don. The branding and story of Aspire must be communicated.
- Assets need to be defined by audiences.
- Cataloguing of amenities needs to be continued and ways of accessing this information needs to be communicated. How do we cross pollinate?

Janice - Input on marketing of the county. How can Aspire support this and vice versa?

Paige - Reminded the group of Tandy Shuck's suggestion of adding LEARN to mission

Ron W. -

- Aspire has helped to bring a sense of community to the county.
- It is important to recognize what is important to each individual's life.
- Aspire is focused on assets rather than negatives.
- Innkeeper's Tax has passed and Aspire was a strong support and help for the council. Will be checking with Aspire for suggestions of what to do with the tax dollars collected. One suggestion may be to hire an ad agency. Tax starts 1/2016. The money will be collected for a year before determining how it is to be spent.

Dana - Aspire grateful to be a part of the collaboration on the Innkeeper's Tax.

Aspire Website

- Gave history of Journey Johnson County funding being transferred to

Aspire

- Website should be completed by end of 2015
- Working with SpinWeb
- Aspire website has a tab for each team and each large group meeting
- Encouraged members to use website and give input

Heather -

- Works with every county in Indiana
- Social media is a free way to market. IT WORKS!
- Social media is the language of many citizens. A great way to interest even more people in Aspire
- Share your stories. Use a # to be consistent.

Dana -

Explanation of Steering Team

- Structure consists of 2 JCDC executive members, co-chairs of teams, Cheryl, and Dana
- Role is to look at big picture to assure all are kept aware of progress.
- Establish a set of guiding principles
- Promote Aspire

Lisa -

- Feel free to attend the meetings of other teams
- Infrastructure members are selecting a municipality to adopt.

Jody - You are welcome to attend the Infrastructure Team meetings at any time.

Forest - LEARN is a key part of Aspire's mission. I propose it be considered for being included in the mission statement.

Ray - Agree LEARN should be included. Use the familiar and trick it up to catch attention.

Rebecca - As far as the website is concerned, have we looked at what already exists? Ex. RoadTripper.com , what sites and assets the Johnson County Museum has listed on its website

Jody - Museum does not come up in a search.

Bea - Check out Trip Advisor

Time of Meetings and Topics

The full Aspire group will be surveyed to determine the best meeting time for the large groups. From the survey this morning, the best time is either Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Dana - Need find ways to connect with people who are interested but can't make meetings

Ray - Is there a way to connect in the evening with some people in smaller groups across teams?

Katie - Different times on different months? Shorten length?

Janice - Chamber has used different meeting times. Luncheons proved to be better.

Peggy - Early evening time for those who work outside of the county?

Lisa - Late afternoon, early evening?

Ron - Community Conversations are good.

Kathleen - Find a way to collect information on meeting time at November open house.

E) Wrap up - Dana

There will be no large group meeting in December.

NEXT ASPIRE LARGE GROUP MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Johnny Carinos

Greenwood, IN 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Open House