

Comprehensive Plan Meeting #2

Quick recap

The meeting focused on updating the comprehensive plan for the Town and Village of Liberty, with discussions centered on the structure and progress of advisory committees, the review of the 2008 plan, and strategies for community engagement. Participants reviewed the status of various committees and identified gaps, such as the need for representation in areas like technology, arts, and tourism. They discussed how to integrate feedback from special interest groups into the planning process and emphasized the importance of actionable steps and realistic goals. The group also explored methods to increase community involvement, including leveraging local media and existing organizations. The conversation ended with plans to hold the next session on Tuesday, May 14, to allow for further preparation and presentation of advisory group topics.

Next steps

- Peter Manning: Review and correct misclassified items in the strengths/weaknesses summary from the previous exercise (e.g., "lack of money" incorrectly listed as a strength).
- Peter Manning: Update and share the full list of 2008 Comprehensive Plan committee members for review at the next meeting.
- Peter Manning: To first acquire and then distribute maps from the county (showing ag districts, soils, etc.) to the individual advisory groups.
- Peter Manning: Add email addresses to the committee list and circulate to all members to facilitate direct communication.
- All advisory group leads: Recruit additional members for their respective topic groups and encourage broader participation.
- All advisory group leads: Begin collecting information and formulating recommendations for their assigned topics and prepare presentations for upcoming meetings (target: May meeting).
- All interested members: Submit written vision statements for the future of Liberty (10-15 years out) via email or at the next meeting.

- Peter Manning: Write and distribute press releases for each meeting to local media and post on relevant community platforms (e.g., Facebook, UDC, Liberty Rising, Parksville Priorities, eBlast, etc.).
- Peter Manning: Coordinate with the County Planning Department regarding the electronic survey launch and consider options for additional distribution (e.g., mailings).
- Peter Manning: Distribute the list of 2008 plan implementation entities and update group on which still exist and their current status.
- All members: Review the list of 2008 plan implementation entities and provide any additional information on current status or contact information for relevant groups.
- The group scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, April 14th.
- Peter Manning: Provide guidance and support to advisory groups as they prepare their topic presentations.
- All advisory group leads: Supply a written record/summary of their group's findings and recommendations at or before their presentation.
- Peter Manning: Add "Arts" and "Technology" as explicit topics/committees as discussed, and assign or recruit leads as appropriate.
- All members: Reach out to former 2008 plan committee members (once list is distributed) to gather information on previous plan implementation status.
- Peter Manning with Nick Rusin: Post all relevant documents, slides, and exercises on the Town of Liberty website under the appropriate section for public access.
- All members: Fill out the sign-in sheet and provide email addresses to be added to the project email list.
- Peter Manning: Follow up with the supervisor and others regarding filling empty topic boxes (e.g., recreation resources) and recruiting additional members.
- Joel to join the camp committee and participate in its work.
- Harriet volunteered for the schools committee.
- Frannie volunteered for Ferndale representation.
- Harry (?) Harriet (?) volunteer for the youth group.
- All advisory group leads: Consider presenting their topic at the May meeting (or as soon as possible thereafter), including a written summary.

Summary

Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting

The meeting began with introductions of committee members and participants, including Peter Manning as the planner coordinator and facilitator. Participants were reminded about

accessing comprehensive plan documents on the website and encouraged to engage in group conversations rather than/ or in addition to using PowerPoint presentations. The group discussed a previous exercise to identify 3-5 strengths and weaknesses of the town and village, with responses compiled and shared in the meeting packet. Zoom participants introduced themselves.

Town Comprehensive Plan Updates

The meeting focused on updates to the town's comprehensive plan process, including committee structure and survey planning. The steering committee was discussed, with several members volunteering for specific topics including recreation resources, schools, and camps. The group reviewed the 2008 Joint Comprehensive Plan implementation section and discussed the need to rewrite rather than update the existing plan. Key challenges identified included determining appropriate categories for topics like arts, technology, and AI, with the group deciding to place technology under infrastructure. The County Planning Department will assist with creating an electronic survey using SurveyMonkey, though a specific launch date was not set.

Advisory Groups and Committee Planning

The meeting focused on planning for advisory groups and steering committees, with discussions about how different interest groups should interact and provide feedback. Joel volunteered to help with summer camp planning and expressed interest in joining a relevant committee. The group discussed the process for advisory group presentations, with agreement that these should come first, followed by input from special interest groups. There was also discussion about agricultural initiatives, including agritourism opportunities and potential revenue streams from natural resources like swimming areas. The conversation ended with a question about business representation on highway signage, though the specific process was not fully explained in the transcript.

Liberty Economic Development Strategies

The meeting focused on economic development strategies for Liberty, with discussions about tourist-oriented directional signs and business requirements for highway signage. Participants explored ideas for improving the town's gateway appearance, including potential art installations and code enforcement measures. The group discussed organizational structure for committees and subcommittees, with agreement to shift to holding two meetings per month as the process advances over the 12-14 month timeline. The conversation highlighted the importance of balancing artistic and cultural development with practical considerations like business infrastructure and economic feasibility.

Community Development Planning Strategies

The group discussed strategies for community development and planning, with participants sharing experiences from previous successful initiatives. They agreed that the advisory groups should meet separately to develop ideas before bringing in special interest groups for further refinement. The discussion included proposals for youth engagement, such as creating under-21 nightclubs and monthly events at venues like Memories, as well as infrastructure improvements and housing initiatives. The group also addressed the need for better outreach to inform the community about the planning process, with plans to use press releases, radio shows, and social media to increase participation.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Review

The meeting then focused on reviewing the comprehensive plan from 2008 and eventually gleaning its still-relevant recommendations. The group discussed existing advisory committees, noting that while some entities like the Community Development Corporation and Liberty Chamber of Commerce still exist but are not fully active, others like the Environmental Conservation Commission no longer exist. The team agreed to focus on actionable steps rather than dwelling on past failures, with plans to form advisory groups for specific topics including parks and recreation, economic development, and tourism. They scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, April 14th, and discussed an upcoming Revolutionary War exhibit at the Liberty Museum planned for late May through August.

*Note, these notes were automatically generated by the Zoom program and revised by project leaders.