

Public Participation

“Warren: Celebrating our History;
Creating our Future”

All successful community planning processes include a variety of opportunities for residents and businesses of the community to express their concerns and discuss issues.

Different methods are used because each method has inherent advantages and disadvantages. By using multiple approaches to reach out to residents and community leaders, it is hoped that this planning process provides a complete representation of community issues.

Various techniques utilized throughout this planning process included:

Steering Committee Input

Input from the Steering Committee representatives, who met numerous times throughout the process, and received a series of e-mails with information for their review and comments. Steering Committee members also assisted at various public input sessions.

Media Involvement

A **Press Conference** was held on April 16, 2009 to inform the public about the planning process and provide information about opportunities for public input.

A **second Press Conference** was held on June 4, 2009 to inform the public about the upcoming public event to review the recommendations of the Revitalization Strategy.

Meeting dates and draft documents were placed on the City's web site throughout the process, and the media were invited to most meetings and prepared articles for the newspapers. **The final document was placed on the City's web site.**

Public Participation Opportunities

A **Public Kick-Off Meeting**/Input session was held on April 28, 2008 at Lincoln Elementary School. A public presentation was made about the planning process that was about to begin. Stations were set up throughout the room, each with a specific topic, and participants were asked to visit each station and provide input to the Steering Committee or PDG personnel manning the stations. Station topics included:

Slogans (or tag lines)

- Four tag lines were provided for voting, and space was provided for additional suggestions. Eleven additional slogans were offered. The winning tag line was **“Warren: Celebrating our History; Creating our Future.”**

Strengths

- 46 assets were listed for voting and 47 additional assets were identified by participants.

Weaknesses

- 23 issues were provided and 42 were added.

Opportunities

- 28 issues were presented for voting and 66 were added by participants.

Threats

- 7 threats were provided and 34 new ones were added.



NEWNA

SESCA

NWNNA

SWNA

CCC2

Warren GROWS

DBA

TBTN

HPHNA

NEED

Main Street Warren

Key Issues

- Eleven key issues were provided on boards. About 70 comments were provided on sticky notes and added to the appropriate issue on the boards.

(It should be noted that misinformation was distributed prior to the meeting that this meeting was to voice concerns over the demolition of Harding High School, a very controversial issue within the City at the time. As a result, many participants were there to express their adamant disagreement with the proposed demolition. To prevent an uncontrollable event, measures were taken at the last minute to utilize stations as opposed to open discussion, in an effort to assure that the goals of the meeting were achieved. The efforts worked and the results were very positive.)

A **Visitors Survey** was conducted at a concert at the Amphitheater on August 16, 2008, to get an idea about how visitors to the City felt about the community. A person from almost every group of attendees participated in the survey. To encourage participation, local businesses and individuals provided gifts for randomly selected survey participants. These were announced during the performance from the stage. Results of the survey are included in **Appendix 2-2**.

Also at the concert at the Amphitheater, a **booth with boards** showing the existing land uses, neighborhood areas, and other general information was manned by PDG and Steering Committee members throughout the concert. Attendees stopped by, asked questions, filled out surveys if they did not get one when they entered, and provided any additional input they wanted.

A **final presentation to the public** was held on June 8, 2009 at Harding High School. Relevant comments from the public were incorporated as applicable into the document prior to presentation to City Council.

Interviews

16 Key Person interviews were conducted on August 11 and August 18, 2008. Steering Committee members and the Mayor's Office provided the names of the people to be interviewed. Those interviewed provided good information and different points of view on key issues. Results of the interviews are included in **Appendix 2-1**.

In preparing the **Market Study**, representatives from Boulevard Strategies **interviewed a number of additional key people** in the community during the summer of 2008.



Interviews and meetings

Held between September and November 2008

- City Police Personnel
- Wean Foundation Representatives
- DT Business Owners
- Trumbull County Planning Department
- City Department Heads
- Market Park Business Association
- Sunshine
- WRAP
- Local Home Builders
- Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority
- YSU professors and Staff who worked on the *Youngstown 2010 Plan*
- The Water Pollution Control Personnel

Council Sessions

A meeting was held on July 28, 2008 with members of **City Council** to review the summaries of previous studies, the status of recommendations, and their implications for this planning process. Unfortunately, not all Council members attended. A copy of the summaries is attached in **Appendix 1-1**.

Several City Council Caucus sessions were attended and status reports provided.

Neighborhood Meetings

Individual meetings were held with interested **neighborhood association leaders** on June 30, 2008, and individual meetings were also held with several smaller groups.

Guided tours of each of the neighborhoods were conducted with key people and volunteers from the neighborhood groups. These tours were followed by a **public meeting** in each neighborhood. These tours and meetings were held between September 15 and September 24, 2008.

Follow-up meetings with representatives and residents of the **five neighborhoods** were held in February, March, and April 2009 to review the individual draft neighborhood strategies page by page. Updated versions of these neighborhood strategies were posted on the City's website following each update.

In April and May 2009, PDG met with the **Steering Committee and representatives** from each neighborhood to review each of the Plan Chapters. Suggested revisions and additions were then incorporated prior to presentation of the Plan to the public.

Information from the above variety of sources was evaluated, reviewed, discussed with the Steering Committee and/or others, investigated further, verified when possible and necessary, and incorporated, as applicable, into the appropriate sections of the Plan.

