

VILLAGE + TOWN OF PALMYRA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

February 12, 2024; 6p
Town Hall

I. Review of Prior Meeting Notes

MRB Group

The Steering Committee received meeting notes as part of the agenda distribution. Members present confirmed that the notes were accurate, and Emma noted that the notes would be posted to the comprehensive plan website. Emma stated that she and Bill have been working to make sure the website stays up-to-date with information about the planning process.

II. Public Engagement Update

MRB Group

Emma noted that the MRB Group team has begun preparations for Public Workshop #1. She noted that the workshop will include information about the comprehensive planning process and provide interactive station boards to allow the public to submit feedback on strengths and weaknesses in the community. Emma stated that she incorporated the edits discussed at the last meeting into the latest survey draft. She noted that the survey will launch in the middle of February and be open until the end of March. Emma encouraged the Steering Committee to share the survey with their networks. She also noted that she's been in communication with the Town and Village Clerks regarding social media posts to advertise the survey and Public Workshop #1.

Emma also indicated that people are using the website to sign up for plan updates. She emphasized that the stakeholder database will be a good way to increase community engagement and information sharing about the plan.

III. Community Inventory Update

MRB Group

Emma noted that she has been working on the Community Inventory with help from Steve and Bonnie Hayes, and thanked the Steering Committee

for their input in the process. She noted that the latest draft includes more information about East Palmyra to ensure their history is represented in the plan. She noted that there may have to be edits and that not all information can be included as this section is intended to provide a high-level overview of multiple topic areas in the Village and Town.

IV. Review of Vision Statements, Planning Principles, and Priority Policy Areas MRB Group

Emma reviewed the edits to the vision statements with the Steering Committee. She noted that the major edits to the document were marked in red text. She stated that she tried to incorporate the feedback from the Steering Committee regarding the need to balance descriptive language for the Village and Town. She noted how the edits try to enhance language about historic preservation, innovation, revitalization, natural resource conservation, community inclusivity, etc. The Steering Committee engaged in discussion regarding preserving the agricultural and small-town feel of Palmyra. Emma noted that she would make final edits to the draft vision statements and send them to the Steering Committee for final review before Public Workshop #1. She noted that the public will be able to provide feedback on all three draft vision statements at the workshop.

V. Priority Policy Area Brainstorm

Emma led the Steering Committee through brainstorming exercises to determine threats and opportunities for each priority policy area.

Key Themes from the discussion included:

Downtown Revitalization & Tourism

- Bicycle tourism
- Porch Fest → church fest, school district music, winter music series
- Façade enhancement
- Airbnb regulations
- Opera House
- Canaltown Days
- Winter tourism → Winterfest
- Pedestrian avenue → Market St
- PILOTS

- Signage & wayfinding

Sustainability

- Watershed maintenance
- Maintain banks of the canal
- Preservation of agricultural land

Infrastructure

- Closed bridge → maintenance
- Wayne County Water & Sewer
- Hazard Mitigation → flooding fairgrounds, maintenance of post office
- Walkability → ADA Accessible
- Bike Infrastructure

Code Enforcement

- Demolition, removal, and renovation of blighted building
- Blighted building survey
- Run down look
- Absentee landlords
- North Creek Road

Parks & Recreation

- Canal Trail/Empire State Trail
- Community Center → greenspace
- County resources → Fairgrounds
- Village Park
- Maintain parks & trails → accessibility

Governance

- Village & Town political will
- Proactive leadership

VI. Other Business

VI. Activity Prior to Next Meeting

MRB Group

MRB Group will prepare for the community survey launch and Public Workshop #1. MRB Group will complete any necessary edits to the Community Conditions chapter and Planning Foundations chapter. MRB Group will begin scheduling stakeholder interviews.

VII. Next Meeting

Public Workshop #1 – March 6th, 4:00-8:00 pm, Palmyra Community Library

Next Steering Committee Meeting – April 15th, 2024 – Town Hall