

August 19, 2006 – Retreat Notes on Boards -

DOWNTOWN

* represents number of times idea mentioned

What goals will inspire your commitment?

City Cleanliness*
Litter Control **
Clean up sex clubs for good *
Flower boxes on bldgs *
Better restaurant area for downtown
Boutique hotel
Restaurant center at Carnegie
Restaurant close to Carnegie
Bookstore
Improved public transportation
Public arts
Trolley system-light rail
Town square
Grocery Stores ***
Small retail stores *
Ice cream
Professional – People- offices
Cross-training- arts, bridal, etc. *
More downtown living **
Infrastructure Maintenance – Riverfront
Underground Railroad connection
Utility Projects done after bus. Hours
No pawn shopping *
Keep up riverside area
Boulevard-lighting – up- lighting *
Underground utilities
Green Space increased *
Dog Park *
Rid of dilapidated bldgs/through rehab& property ownership
Good directions to parking *
Convenient surface parking
Unique restaurants
Self contained living (needs met) *
Return city to former vibrant shopping
Inclusive diversity
Diversity in Economic Development
Crafts products
Kentucky Identity
Places to congregate – benches
Bring families together- not like Newport
Theater in downtown
Critical Mass- of entertainment- retail *
River Heritage Museum*
More planned events *

River front- W. Pond- frozen in winter fountain
Improved schools
Dog Park
Walk ability
Gym
Whole foods anchor store boutique
Improve image
Marketing downtown living
Downtown neighborhood association
Incentive for people who work in Covington to move here
Repair streets and sidewalks
Inviting atmosphere beautification
Bike trails

What patterns insights and deeper questions are emerging?

What is downtown?
Communication needs to improve
Downtown advocacy group *
CBC-type group for residents*
Appearance
Central place
More aggressive retail/appeal
Volunteer's involvement
Civic involvement
Diversity in volunteers
Actions – how to leader support to help increase minority participation
Provide maps to all retail shops, hotels, & restaurants *
Focus on downtown living *
Critical mass *
Accountability to property owners
Network of visual attractions
Marketing cultural and historic areas
Ec. Dev. Capacity to help small-scale businesses succeed
Newsletter *
Better Communication about businesses (special offers)
Map of downtown- shops, restaurants, galleries, etc.
Fostering Civic Pride & Entire Community
Changing Covington's image to its current (residents?)

How could we achieve these goals?

Limited space to develop
Perception-Covington is safe
Diminishing City resources
More money on publicity PR
Revitalize public landing
Effective marketing
Physical improvement to Pike/Russell underpass

City sponsored radio broadcast
Advertisements in Convention Center. Etc. (Businesses)
Rework I75 entrance into City
Provide casted city tours
Advertise as group
Aggressively pursue retailers
Foster existing market
Get large developer for nat'l stores
Locate & attract small retailers
Inventory available retail space
Distinct districts – need to communicate
Attract outsiders
Invite friends to visit
Removal of window advertising
Sidewalk cafés
Improved way finding signs
Move social service agencies out of downtown area *
Include retail city website
Help expand existing businesses
City ambassadors *
City walking tours
More residents downtown*
Parties to show off livability
Architect
Audio walking tours
Visitor's info center
Activities that get people outside
More bed & breakfasts
Improve walk ability for pedestrians- maps. Signs, clean environment
Uniqueness
Housing- decrease rental units
Visiting other cities models of positive change in downtown markets – using their proven methods
More open access to riverfronts
Architectural tours
Catalytic Development Corp
Busy Saturdays
Events to draw people
Destination for arts foundry
Add lighting
Street guide
Way finding system lighting
Consider 2 way streets

PEOPLE

Our people

High tech jobs that require training or college

Access to professional quality health care

Recreation complex, i.e. YMCA – something that would require membership

One stop entry point for people to become engaged in their community

Covington Create image of being tolerant & progressive

Celebrate Diversity

More recreation opportunities for youth, young adults, families **

Our city would be environmentally safe & clean, homes are taken care of in regards to lead etc. **

Educate people about lead etc. thru places like health depts. – city

Reward people for being “green”

Friendly, pedestrian connection to other neighborhoods

More accessible higher end stores & general merchandise stores - better grocery stores **

Enforcing housing codes

More engaged citizens

Citizens are resources rather than just being served

People in high positions live in the city- also city employees etc.

More incentives for public employees to live in city- ex. Tax incentives no property taxes

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCAL POINTS

Goals

Empty stores could become coffee shops & ice cream parlors, etc. **
Improve existing gathering spaces by adding chairs, tables, benches *
Expand use of existing gathering spots *
Possibility of connecting such spots – bike trails
Change traffic patterns so they are not in neighborhoods
Each neighborhood have gathering spots such as park, halls
Bigger improved library
Cultural enter in Randolph Park
Mixed Housing & officers & business *
Neighborhood Identity Celebrate Differences
Develop landmarks

How could we achieve these goals?

Need to get other groups involved
Need to get other groups involved – Boy Scouts, etc.
Promotion of Covington as easy access place to live – access to greater downtown area
Promotion of activities – family – cultural
Promote family activities and family life
Advertising to help more people “discover” our neighborhoods
If it is to be it is up to me
Citizens have to come up with resources and work with City
Champions- someone has to make it happen
Streetscape
Mosaic signs & signage
Assistance to neighborhood objectives – Focal points should help neighborhoods achieve their goals
Connectivity between neighborhoods
Cross – neighborhood participation
More integrated neighborhoods
Share & commit to whole City of Covington
Common idea steps measurement
A unique destination promote creativity attract artists
Identify gathering spots –positive
Comfort quality of space inviting
Pedestrian friendly
Focal should be FUN
More small cultural events – neighborhood – music
Look at other communities who have connections i.e., Northside
Synergy with residents, government, churches, schools **
Join & work within your neighborhood association
We need all age groups to participate
More availability of business- open later, easy access
Incentive support of small “niche” business

Patterns, insights, themes that emerged....

Need pride in neighborhood and whole community
Communication between cultures (focal points/gathering places provide opportunities for this)
Citizens lead in partnership with City
It's all about relationships

Social & physical issues (focal/gathering places promote social connection & improve physical environment)
Understanding that it is a social issue not just city issue
Attention to age diversity (gathering places should appeal to all ages)
Creative in developing focal points
Promote neighborhood image
Pride (focal points help demonstrate neighborhood pride)
Marketing the pride *
Low-cost improvements – born from within
Don't wait for city help

TRANSPORTATION

How?

Adequate resources & staff (city) *
City initiate GIS map of City illustrating city/public owned land *
Elected officials see transportation as a priority *
Make sure you have a ramp system that is compatible with land use
Lobby legislature for funding of 4th St. Bridge
Column in paper to refresh people on traffic rules, signs, etc.
City sponsored events educational opportunities – seminars- schools- lunches- road rally
Request assistance - KTC, OKI, NKPC, Southbank *
Give authority to committees *

Goals:

Better coordination with other jurisdiction KY T.C. OKI Southbank *
2 ways in 400 block of Scott (Traffic)- farmer's market access
Light rail, buses, trolleys, trams, to help visitors find out attractions easier
Park and Ride for tourists
Turn lane (U Turn) parallel parte with bridge to put motorist back on 3rd.
Implement the Madison Avenue Redevelopment Plan **
Eliminate/Reduce sign pollution *
Educate public to traffic regulations in community including signage
Improved enforcement existing traffic noise and safety *
Prepare an updated transportation plan for Covington *
Unlock commissioner's minds regarding new ideas *
State highway removal from Greenup & Scott and place on Madison Ave. **
Reduce fare to promote public transportation
Implement St. Rt. 9 extension to relieve N-S traffic in Covington
Active participation in I71-75 planning
Re-do 4th St. Bridge – convert to lane of 4th St. to one way to Greenup
Educate public to bike regulations
Alternative enforcement (traffic) involve citizens *
Widen Altamont Rd. – from highway Ave. to Devou: Entrance – John St. to Elizabeth St. to Devou Park Rd.
traffic has quadrupled & street is too narrow.
Widening hands Pike with sidewalks
Traffic light at end of Hands Pike on Taylor Mill Road
Cooperation between cities
Committees Resources Working together
Bike lane on streets
Bike parking
Community Education **
Walkable (North & South) city plan
Merging bike paths with street bike lanes
Connect Ohio E.W. Bike path with N.S. Licking river park
Transportation Committee with community involvement **
Create walk/bike way along licking river **
Sidewalks along Taylor Mill Road – in So. Covington area
Signage & maps to communicate bike paths, historical routes, shopping, parking
Support public transportation *
Regional bike plan
Better access to bridge structures entering Covington

Patterns:

Southbank Shuttle from Covington to Newport easier

Develop alternate transportation system – light rail, bus ways with shelters **

GREEN SPACE

Re-awakening of late 1800's arts/parks era
By connecting the green space we connect the people
Green space that can & will be used as gathering spaces
Mobilizing etc. volunteers with incentives *
Community involvements
Education
Pattern- missing political green representation at development table
Everything is "doable" *

Patterns:

Encouraging diversity
Broaden citizen engagement in a variety of ways
Buy in from city to encourage people live in city- also financial buy in
Celebrating living in Covington
Change negative perception of Covington
Safety concerns
To be able to live work shop and play in Covington
Wanting Covington to be a place where other people want to live

What patterns, insights and deeper questions are emerging?

Pet latrines with running water*
Pet parks urban
Green space at corridor entry to City
Licking River (e.g. Austinburg) trails & walk ways **
Riverwest (by IRS) more green space *
Vacant lots like 20th & Garrard turned to green space and identify other spots to convert
Reduction of paving
Mountain bike trail to connect multiuse trails to Devou & parks etc. **
Inspired by more actual green spaces
Preserve natural riverfront (i.e. not concrete) **
Reclaim riverfront as green space *
The original 1900's development plan for green space in downtown come to life.
To have a visible green space for everyone visiting Covington.
Green space throughout the Covington Areas *
Pocket parks in Covington
Green space that promotes pedestrian traffic
Water run-off to feed green space
Linking of bike trails with pocket parks larger parks etc.
Pocket parks more
Functional environmentally useful green space **
Garden clubs available in various Covington areas *
More slides in park & facilities plan ground equipment
Green space expansion by Roebling murals
Historical signs on trail
Eagle scout route markers
Update 1900 plan
Integrate elements e.g. Bike, pocket parks, walkways, larger parks, development projects etc.
Identify map current green spaces
Target easily changes ones that don't require property acquisition

Green space group with authority to act
Covington employees get paid time off to work on community projects
Permeate parking lots with trees & gardens
Mobilize existing community groups
City development & projects must include green space
Connect local gardeners to each other
Incentive for green space development (e.g. pay fines by donating land) **
Tax breaks “for owners” to city for green space- vacant lots becoming bike racks – more of them **
Laws need to promote green space not pavement
Funding mechanism for neighborhood groups to acquire property
Advertise interest for garden club *
Master plan for green space
Landscape architects to help plan green spaces
Use library renovation for green space possibilities
Top local residents with interest already visible passion
Place matters be a demonstration project
“Adopt a park” programs
Inner city community gardens – (expand)
Senior Citizens Involvement *
Green space business- employing necessary people
Establish way of communicating goals *

ARTS

What patterns, insights and deeper questions are emerging?

Preservation of culture and arts of KY
Covington will be the arts darling of the nation
I envision Covington as a destination
Covington is a unique culture center
Preservation of uniqueness
Marketing cultural & historical areas
Get rid of dilapidated empty buildings
Neighborhood focuses all communities on arts, etc.
Arts communities all work together
Every body can do art
Culture and preservation should be priority in all underling principles *
Covington is a piece of art*
Plan of action mission formal plan planning
Education & awareness *
Culture preservation arts and priority for the City
Funding (everyone – not just the city)
Speaker's bureau
Mission vision values
Picture of a bridge
\$\$\$\$\$\$ *
Marketing *
More public art ***
Arts supply cooperative *
Umbrella organization for the arts & artists **
Artistic savvy realtor- welcome wagon
Smarter preservation without fossilization
Balance Development w/ preservation
Balance b/t artistic expression and Gov't regulation

How could we achieve these goals?

Representation of all arts & artists
Covington Business Council (as a lender coordinator)
Effort to engage families in arts
All community to support preservation & arts
Marketing plan & Brand website, newspaper, newsletter, etc.
Youth involvement in the arts - outreach programs for disadvantaged
Policy primacy
Neighborhoods connected by art
Cityscape of varied size, restored historic bldgs filled with/unusual shops, galleries, performance interesting
restaurants, unusual food, varied ethnicity, w/people walking
To be the "Paris" of N.KY & Greater Cincinnati **
Art is fundamental to everything we do
Philosophy to preserve and not destroy
Expended historic preservation area
Design review for all communities
Covington Arts & Technology Zone for Tall Stacks (like pigs in Ciny)

Arts & culture as the Raison D'etra for all other areas – the point of community pride

Corporations and community make an art a priority

Bigger, better library

Increasing more arts in schools*

Marketing Program

Accountability of current programs (i.e. reports)

ID potential locations for public art

Creative re-use of historic bldgs.

Update and modernize design code

Carneige school of performing arts*

EDUCATION

What goals will inspire your commitment?

Reward good teachers
Accountability at all levels
Raise quality and accountability
Raise money for our schools
Money is important
New audible school for 6-8
Uniforms at school
Fail students who don't achieve
Retain good teachers
More boys and girls clubs
Reduce emphasis on organized sports more curriculum
Change the school calendar
Community college in downtown Covington *
Positive reinforcement for education excellence
Nurture intrinsic motivation inspire!
More alignment between grade schools & high schools
Help adults "reinvent" themselves
Apply proven models
Make it a crime not to go to school
Changes in leadership
Find ways to attract and keep the best teachers
Every child that starts school graduates
Better teacher pay to retain good teacher
Incentives home purchase in Covington for school employees *

What patterns, insights and deeper questions are emerging?

Partnerships can provide new resources without new \$\$
Business partnerships- technology, skills, resources
Business internships
Partner with local colleges
Strive partnerships; volunteers contact the program, set into action
Technology- partner with business to ID needs
Neighborhood schools partner with neighborhood associations
Programs to educate adults to provide a competent work force
Getting business input
Provide a competent work force
Shave resources
Collaborate with chamber of commerce and businesses
Business partner with bad schools to provide opportunities
Partnership with new
Strive partnership
Program to educate students about good in community
Develop student leaders in schools to lead students to improve school
Involve students in discussion about what to do
Change the way people evaluate themselves, free selves from early failures
Preparation for participation in global society

Specific evaluation of education system to excel and compete in global society
Multi-language courses in elementary schools
Flexible programs to address each child's special needs
Full complete of extra circulars
More arts, humanities, positive values
Motivate students to try different things
Multi- modal ways of educating children – different learning styles
Different models of instruction/philosophy need to be explored
Create world class education system in urban core
Provide schools with the money they need to excel
Lifelong education opportunities, children and adults
Get the word out about what's good
Schools that are a source of pride
Schools that are so good that families will move to Covington so their kids can go there
Community that values education
Every graduating senior is prepared for college
Encourage students to look at wider values of choices for college
Educate every child to his/her potential
Pre-school focus
Programs to prepare kids to start school
Every child who begins school is ready to learn
Educate families on how to get their kids ready for school
Parental involvement with contracts for parents
Get 100 volunteers in every school from all sectors
Community out-reach to involve parents & families
Parents involved & supportive of education
Change educational expectations for kids & parents
Mentors

HOME OWNERSHIP

Upgrade rental property
Long-range condo plans?
Increase home ownership to at least 65% *
Increase property values
Housing will be safe – lead free *
Increase home ownership
Balance preservation & new development
Mix of quality rental and owner/occupied *
More efficient & quicker code enforcement
Interior/exterior home inspections *
Proactive code enforcement *
Penalize “slum” lords
More code enforcement officers
Code enforcement strike force
Code Enforcement volunteers
Establish administration court/magistrate for landlord/tenant (remove from district ct.)**
Law enforcement and undesirables will leave
Tougher law enforcement
More code enforcement
Shorter code enforcement process
Volunteer to assist code enforcement
Customize codes to better enforce codes, more code enforcers
Planned approach to boarded up property being returned to use & timely process
More systematic planned approach to code enforcement
Increase code enforcement budget
Increase penalties for code violations *
Code enforcement is key
Code enforcement follow-up accountability
Higher expectations
Responsibility of ownership
Landlords more responsible
Emphasize city encouraging loans, low interest, to builders
Incentives for good landlords
Support those buying homes
Help folks to be able to buy if you can rent you can buy
Encourage in-fill housing or productive use e.g. Green space
Develop incentive program for city/school employees
Home ownership zones
Treat home ownership the same way we treat business incentives
Payroll Tax rebate for Covington residents who own home *
Vacant property has tax rate increase even when vacant for x- years
Legislative changes
Parking – better for residents dealt with in a better way
Special taxing zones for development with citizen/city working together
More interaction with city staff, officials, “lobby them”
City holding property - sell them to bring in more property owners
Property home loan program first time homeowners target neighborhoods with less than 50% home ownership
Encourage incentive programs
Cap number of rental units in bldgs. Moratorium on rental property
Cap # of rental units per building

More mixed income – affordable – housing *
Quality housing for low-income residents
More neighbors that know each other
Residents help take care of City
More citizen involvement is critical
Knowing neighbors better
Block parties- get to know your neighbors
Support group for “habitat” homeowners
Families want to stay in Covington ***
More stable family homes to encourage families to stay in Covington
Improve on perception of quality of public schools
School system with quality reputation *
Cleaner city
Trees
Improve sidewalks-pavers & streets
Be known for something/something unique (gas lights; pavers)
Improve streets (pavement)
Neighborhood beautification
Major north and south blvds.
Attractive city- less crime*
A walking city
Route traffic better through (around) neighborhoods
Covington has a positive image
Improve perception of inner city as a good place to live
Empty nesters in certain neighborhoods to build ranch style homes
Increase home ownership- advertise the positives
Educate public RE: home ownership
“How to” home ownership seminar
Educate renters about their rights – legal aide
Connectivity between crime/home ownership
Inconsistent treatment of neighborhoods
Basic living skills – class in school?
Neighborhood development corp.
Closely monitor over-marketed property purchases
Job creation – good wages
Increase taxes if necessary

RIVERS

What patterns, insights and deeper questions are emerging?

Making it all fit & tie together- arts, public square, education, cultures, recreation, and economic development
View riverfront as regional asset and require regional support
Use river as a unique place to work & live for all of Covington*
River will improve quality of life
City Government commitment to river as a resource
River as an Icon from Covington
Set river as city propriety
City identity focused on river
Rivers our big part of Covington's identity *
Rivers natural heritage of Covington *
Create access to the river
Citywide connectivity on the river
Connect community to river *
Link neighborhoods to the river **
Work with schools to educate river import *
Take advantage of entire riverfront "West Covington"

How?

Port authority or legal entity to be coed. Riverfront – taxing authority
Identify & locate & leverage federal conservation & green space experts
Federal & state grants
Land & water conservation grants
Lobby politicians to improve river
Connect with existing organizations create dialogue with business community
Develop model of possibilities
Review existing regulations regarding river
Riverfront history as tourist component
Pull out Angelo report by Tri-Ed
Programs & presentations on value of river
Guideline for protection of river views *
Create river development plan – Ohio licking Banklick
Encourage major developments
History book on Covington's riverfront heritage
Obtain right-of-ways from private entities
Bank stabilization work w/USCOE
Better licking sanitation
Promote the history of Covington via history of River
Connect the economic expansion of Newport & Cincy
Promote the improvement quality of rivers and recreation
Ped river walk
Best land use practices
Create river development zones- protection
Support other cities that border river
Collaborate w/other river Cities and organizations

What goals?

Best management practices for national res. Management
Beautify the earthen levy
Create an intimate human environment

Unique public/natural space
More green space – open space
More natural non-commercial
River & stream buffers for protection
Connect – link from Ohio River to south west city *
Change “dirty” image
River access for boating swimming, etc.
Improve adopt a river- clean banks
Engage river education history & biology
Raise appreciation of our rivers
Icon image to relate to river (major one)
River heritage
River branding for Covington
PR around river events
Connections to many parts of the City
Plan special events to celebrate river
Gathering places along river
Maintain long distance views of river
Connect parks with bike path
As much access public to rivers *
16th East major park 11 acres
Canoe livery
Clean water and banks
Connect to Devou park
Rosedale major park licking
Include west Covington as River Development
Restroom facilities *
Bike & walk paths
Marina on licking
Marinas
Along licking & Banklick
Restoration river banks
Create people places along river
No pay for public access
Restaurants
Smaller unique restaurants
Concentrate focus on West Covington Riverfront development
Open urban core to river access
Water shuttles Covington to Cincinnati
Clean water act enforcement in licking
Cord. Plan w/KYTC to assure access to River areas*
Erosion control
Need boat dock and public ramp **
Support Cincinnati economic development
Retail & entertainment
Consideration of Private property ownership
Use river as economic \$\$ driver
Conservation & Development o hand –n- hand
Balance economic development w/ home ownership rights & public spaces
Create balance

SAFETY

Over all themes- Neighborhood Community, Key Players, Police, Parent/youth education

Police – increased relationships *

Increase resident-police interaction *

Communications- Police-community

Mutual Respect *

Better communication b/t neighbors, community, police

More bike patrols

Police working with neighborhood associations, communities on safety issues **

Horse patrols (more) especial weekends *

Increased Police motivation thru leadership

Police Ride a-long

Ombudsman for community dispute resolution

Encourage friendly relations between police and citizens

Perfect community oriented policing

Diversity on police force to reflect community & fire dept.

Encourage police residency *

Encourage police officers to live in Covington

Increased neighborhood involvement ***

Citizens respond to & protect one another

Community participation/involvement

Resident's visibility

Neighborhoods engaged in maintaining their neighborhoods**

Citizen's police academy

Neighborhood welcoming committees

More substations in neighborhoods

More faith groups involved in community

Know your neighbors

Citizen's police academy

Neighborhood foot traffic

Respect your neighbors and your/other property- Whole culture change

Increased connections among neighbors

Improved ways for citizens involvement for reporting crime

Workshops related to safety & security

Education of citizens on police systems/process

Know your neighbors

Safety education – not just police issue

Education of all levels *

Minimize petty crime

Clean streets*

Traffic pattern impact “speeding” *

Physical neighborhood appearance

Nuisance crime enforcement

Address the little things “broken window theory”

Zero tolerance on petty crime

Graffiti eliminations

Noise ordinance *

No loud stereos

Actual vs. perceived crime *

Partner w/media to change perceptions

Change perception of Covington- positively!
Marketing – tell the good news
Hire more police *
Other sources of revenue than tax payers
Police allocation of resources*
Home ownership- increase it
Home ownership incentives
Home ownership**
Home ownership and landlord’s responsibility
Covington – specific handbook for home-buyers
Youth have a hopeful outlook
Increased youth involvement*
Parent involvement*
Youth
Improved schools
Schools- get them involved*
Safe place for our youth – youth center *
Youth employment program to engage other youths
Youth with engaged parents
Light parks & playing fields
Lighting – porch & street
Well lit areas*
Porch lighting
Encourages responsible landlords*
Home ownership and responsible landowners*
Encouraging responsible renters
Better code enforcement *
Comprehensive approach to prevent/reduce violence – acknowledge race as an issue
Increase connections across race/culture
Racial Relations
Panhandler control*
Need for regional focus on public safety
Safety for cyclists
Homeless matter of concern?
Police – prosecutors should target violent criminals and lock them up
Don’t ID people who call the police as “snitches”
Safety for pedestrians on walkways
Bedroom community
Gang Activity – graffiti, drug activity, cruising *
Safe Utilize parks *
Citywide free wi-fi access
Surveillance cameras
Targeted anti-violence campaign
Enforcement – police, judges, etc.
Police Presence *
Employment opportunities
Fire safety education
Regional cooperation
Crime prevention through environmental design
Reduction of street corner impacts
Faster response by police *