

Community Gathering
June 21, 2006
American Legion Hall

Introduction from Jeff

Citizen driven – partnership with the city – contract with the city- going to be an ongoing dialog with the city- people need to participate with the city and have ongoing energy. You are accountable to making the change. Citizens and residents have to take charge in making their own future. Own the results. Here to grow relationships- need to talk about different ideas. We have to be together in this entire process.

1. Share who you are and why you care about the future of Covington.
Why are you concern about building Covington's future? Scale of 1-7 how participative you plan on being today.

Everyone came up with something different. Everyone here for a different reason. I am confused, we only talked.

2. What crossroads do you personally face when it comes to your participation in a citizen-city planning partnership under the scope of review as set by the Covington stewards? Personal investment in this process...

Answer: we have lost green space – take city parks and have not replaced, Covington has lost the activities – nothing is here anymore- we miss each other, payroll tax is the reason people are leaving, City is cutting up the city with roads and we are forgetting people here – there is no YMCA, feel a loss of the community- parks system- Austinburg park- use to have all kinds of things down there, but it is gone, western side was never replaced. The swimming place is gone, we don't have it – you are driving business people out of Covington and we are moving people out of the city due to the payroll tax

Housing enforcement of code seems to be an issue here. Seems like we are seeing more and more rental and less home ownership. There is affordable housing here in Latonia especially getting started. We should be pushing home ownership. What involvement is, doesn't know where it is going. Can I commit to it and what am I committing to. Preservation is key and keeping the homes preserved.

Lack of city follow through. Don't want to waist my time or my money. Time is money.

People don't have time to wait for Pike street to come back. Follow Jay's lead, we must focus on the finish, no matter what the process. Don't let the plan go up on the shelf.

Starts the arts community and you will see the plan.

We are optimistic, phases we understand need the time limit plan. We want to know how long, we always want clean safe and pretty tangible concrete goals, not a city government, we are losing young home owners we need something to report.

There are a lot of avid arts fans. Just walking my dog, I have met many different people and need to meet more, we need to connect more, arts is a community builder.

3. What doubts and reservations do you have about this process?

I met some people that I would never have met before. Working together, meeting people that I would have never met that before.

It sounds good, but it's not going to happen. Talking the talk, but not walking the walk. Great ideas, but who is going to follow up. Skate park wasn't built correctly. The city is talking, but not walking. We must have the backing from the city. A lot of people have the same skepticism about the city helping. We can always do better. We may be at this level, but we can do better. Covington has come a long way. We can still do better. We can do better.

Many of us have been through this kind of things; many times this has been done, but then put on the shelf. We need to have reassurance. There is a lot of deep skepticism, but willing to give it another try. Scheper report, nothing was done, we need to get the decision makers on board.

Are there people that actually talk to the city leaders? Are their groups that actually talk to the people with the purse strings?

There is a lot of communication within the city. There are a lot of citizens groups. We have not had enough people involved. These are the same people that I have seen daily.

Latonia is very much an older neighborhood and many people were at church tonight. I think more people would have been here tonight had it not been for church.

4. What "gift" has someone given to you tonight?

I think it was good. It was nice to know that everyone has the same goals in mind. We cannot say something and let everyone else do it.

Different types of people and different kinds of ideas and the way they have expressed their ideas.

It is supposed to be different. This is not supposed to be the same old same process.

It is different that we are out here and participating. Being here is everything. Ongoing citizen dialog. Always a more open input process.

Wants the city to be here more. Wants city employees/staff here at the meetings.