

Meeting Summary

Community Committee Meeting 1

February 25, 2025

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the community committee for Worthington's comprehensive planning process. Attached to this summary is the meeting attendance sheet, agenda, and presentation slides.

Introductions: One Word

During introductions, committee members each provided one word to capture what their feeling with respect to the project process they were about to undertake. The sentiments were notably positive. The following words are listed in the order in which they were contributed.

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|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| • Excited | • Appreciative | • Engaged |
| • Humbled | • Committed | • Curious |
| • Anticipation | • Grateful | • Proud |
| • Influential | • Happy | |
| • Driven | • Intrigued | |
| • Hopeful | • Optimistic | |
| • Interested | • Invested | |

Discussion: What are the most important outcomes that this process should address?

Committee members responded to a two-question poll prior to the meeting. During the discussion portion of the agenda, the team shared seven summary points from the poll's first question.

- A. **Community Engagement & Transparency** – Ensure broad-based and meaningful public input and strong communication about the process so residents feel heard, empowered to participate, and involved in shaping the plan.
- B. **Balanced Growth & Development** – Support both existing residential and commercial needs while fostering economic growth, increasing income tax revenue, and preventing stagnation.
- C. **Housing Diversity & Affordability** – Address housing shortages by protecting existing affordable units, allowing diverse housing types, and reconsidering zoning to support "missing middle" housing.

- D. **Clear Framework for Decision-Making** – Provide a strategic, actionable plan that guides leaders in decision-making, setting priorities, and tracking progress.
- E. **Revitalization of Existing Commercial Areas** – Reimagine and improve key commercial sites to generate revenue, encourage mixed-use development, and create more vibrant economic hubs.
- F. **Public Spaces & Connectivity** – Expand walkable areas, improve bike access, and use public art to activate spaces, encourage foot traffic, and support local businesses.
- G. **Alignment with Worthington Visioning Goals** – Ensure the plan reflects the city's long-term values, fostering a diverse, equitable, and forward-thinking community.

The committee agreed that these themes captured their sentiments, but added that sustainability should be woven into the plan.

- What does “sustainability” mean to Worthington?
 - The community uses the broadest definition of it (environment, quality of place, economics, etc.)
 - There is a 20-member sustainability group

Discussion: What messages must we convey to motivate people to participate in the process?

Committee members were asked to think about and share potential motivating messages for encouraging broad community participation in the process. The following themes were shared from the committee's pre-meeting poll.

- A. **A Rare Opportunity to Shape Worthington's Future** – It has been nearly 20 years since our last comprehensive plan. This is a unique chance to influence how Worthington grows and evolves for the next several decades.
- B. **Transparency & Inclusivity** – Worthington values community input. This will be an open, transparent process that reflects the full diversity of Worthington's residents and businesses. Everyone's ideas and feedback are welcome.
- C. **Your Voice Matters** – Change is always happening—if you love Worthington as it is today, this is your opportunity to ensure the things that make it special are preserved while we also plan for a stronger future.
- D. **Growth & Prosperity** – This plan will guide Worthington's future to remain a welcoming, thriving community for those who want to live, work, and do business here. It will help us protect what makes Worthington great while also addressing new opportunities to enhance our community.

- E. **Realistic & Actionable Change** – Worthington has a legacy of planning and following those plans. While no plan is a cure-all, this effort will lead to positive, tangible improvements that benefit the community in meaningful ways.
- F. **Clear & Accessible Information** – We will provide straightforward explanations of what’s at stake, how input will be used, and what specific feedback we need at different stages.
- G. **Multiple Ways to Engage** – We’re making it easy to participate through public meetings, online surveys, and outreach at community events like the farmers market, rec center, and local gatherings.

The committee then contributed to a brainstorm activity about naming the planning process. The raw responses are listed below in the order in which they were collected. The City will use this input in preparing a process identity and communication plan.

Potential process names

1. Worthington Together
2. Thrive Worthington
3. Plan Worthington
4. Worthington Forward
5. Worthington’s Future
6. Tomorrow/Next
7. Worthington is us
8. We are Worthington
9. Our Worthington
10. Embrace Worthington
11. Plan
12. Future
13. Coming back
14. Coming home
15. Sustainable
16. Action
17. Innovation
18. Welcome
19. Your Voice Worthington
20. Love Worthington

Potential taglines

1. Where tradition meets tomorrow
2. Welcoming the future
3. Building on tradition, planning for tomorrow
4. Connecting our past, defining our future
5. Honoring the past, shaping our future
6. Moving forward together
7. Building on the vision, planning for tomorrow

8. Deep roots, new growth
9. Pride in place
10. Center of it all
11. Embracing the past
12. Realizing our vision
13. Connection to Vision Worthington
14. Sustainable plan
15. Everyone is welcome
16. All are welcome
17. Inclusive

Other Questions and Next Steps

- Next Meeting: April
- Staff to send poll about future meeting dates
- Staff to send documents of other plans for committee to review
- Planning Team to develop communications and outreach plan, process identity and logo, and project website.
- Committee to review and contribute to Outreach Network matrix

Attachments

Community Committee Attendance

Agenda

Presentation Slides

