



AGENDA

Community Committee Meeting 1

February 25, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Purpose: Provide an orientation to the planning process and committee role and gain initial insight on community opportunities.

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| 1. Welcome | <i>Robyn Stewart, City Manager</i> | 6:00 pm |
| 2. Dinner | | |
| 3. Introductions | <i>All</i> | 6:15 pm |
| 4. Setting the stage | <i>Jamie Greene, Planning NEXT</i> | 6:25 pm |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is this process and why is it important• Roles and responsibilities• Process overview and schedule• How this work relates to other plans• Public engagement, outreach, and communication | | |
| 5. Discussion of kick-off poll | <i>All</i> | 6:50 pm |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting: What are the most important outcomes that this process should address?• Reflecting: What messages must we convey to motivate people to participate in the process?• Refining Messages | | |
| 6. Next Steps | <i>Planning NEXT</i> | 7:55 pm |

Additional materials:

- *Steering Committee Job Description*
- *Frequently Asked Questions (initial version)*

Frequently Asked Questions

Comprehensive Plan, City of Worthington

February 25, 2025 **DRAFT**

1. **What is a comprehensive plan?** A Comprehensive Plan is a long-term guide that expresses the values and aspirations of a community. It is the broadest public policy document a community can create for its future physical development considering the input of citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders. It includes a vision about the future condition of the City; goals and desired outcomes for topics like land use, housing, economics, parks, and transportation; and specific actions to achieve the goals. The plan is a tool to prepare for change and acts as both a business plan and guidebook for decision-makers. Worthington's comprehensive plan is used regularly to guide many city decisions such as budgeting, zoning and other regulations, and infrastructure investment.
2. **Why do we need a new plan?** Worthington last completed a full update of the Comprehensive Plan in 2005. Since that time, portions of the Plan have been revised and more narrowly focused plans have been adopted (e.g. Northeast Area Plan, Wilson Bridge Corridor Study, Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, Parks Master Plan). Given the changed and continually evolving national, regional and local dynamics, it is time to pursue consideration of the entire Comprehensive Plan.
3. **How does the comprehensive plan relate to Vision Worthington?** Vision Worthington was a community visioning effort led by a Visioning Committee comprised of Worthington residents appointed by City Council. It was a citizen-led process with broad community engagement that culminated in the adoption of eight vision statements covering seven vision areas in March 2021. The visions highlight the community's values and describe the community's desired future. Vision Worthington focused on overarching interests to pursue over the long term. The Comprehensive Plan should align with Vision Worthington and will focus on the physical development of the community. More information about Vision Worthington can be found at worthington.org/visioning.
4. **Will the UMCH site be addressed in the plan?** The Comprehensive Plan will consider all areas of the community including sites along the major corridors such as 1033 High Street, 6700 North High Street and the north side of Wilson Bridge Road.
5. **What is the Community Committee and how were members selected?** The Community Committee is a diverse group of 18 community members appointed by the City to provide guidance and direction regarding the plan process and substance and to serve as advocates for the plan. The committee members were either nominated or selected through an open application process that yielded many talented, passionate, and qualified individuals. The committee members are collectively representative of many interests, geographic areas, professions, and demographics, of the city's population.
6. **What is the timeline for completing the plan?** The plan update is a significant undertaking that is anticipated to last approximately 14-16 months. It is expected to be completed in early 2026.
7. **Will there be opportunities for others to get involved?** Yes, there will be three distinct rounds of community input through in-person events and online activities. The first opportunity is being planned for early 2025.

Community Committee Overview

Comprehensive Plan, City of Worthington

February 25, 2025

This document provides an overview of the Community Committee for the City of Worthington's comprehensive planning process.

Background

The City of Worthington is undertaking an effort to define a long-term vision for the City's growth and development in the coming decades. The new plan will build upon the recent Vision Worthington, reflect changes that have occurred within and around the City over the past 20 years, and set the direction for the City's development in the coming years. It is crucial that this plan be built on the values, needs and aspirations of the community. To ensure this happens, a diverse group of community members, known as the Community Committee will be convened to support the process.

In addition to the Community Committee, other groups who will be involved in the process include:

Community Committee Process leadership The Committee is a diverse group of community members that will meet regularly throughout the process provide guidance on the process and substance of the Plan, will serve as community advocates, and may serve as stewards of the completed Plan.	Subject matter experts Targeted input Various interested parties and subject matter experts will convene to inform specific aspects of the plan. These groups include business leaders, neighborhood associations, real estate professionals and developers, education professionals, students, young professionals, and others to be identified.	Public Input and feedback Community participation is vital to the plan's success. Three distinct rounds of engagement opportunities and online tools will offer a variety of different ways for the community to give input throughout the process.
City Staff Coordination City staff will support and help coordinate the work of all other groups and provide local knowledge and expertise.	Elected Officials Monitor and adopt City Council and the MPC will monitor the process through input and periodic briefings with the expectation to formally adopt the final plan. City Council will have a central role in implementation through regulatory updates or funding allocations. Planning Commission will support implementation through the development review process.	Consultants Process leadership, expertise Planning NEXT will facilitate the process and share experience from other successful communities. Burgess & Niple, Ninigret Partners, and Realm Collaborative will facilitate the process and provide technical expertise.

Committee Role and Job Description

The Community Committee will help guide the plan. Members will work closely with the City's planning staff, the consultant team and other community members to bring insight and perspective to the planning process. They will help spread the word about the planning effort to encourage community participation. They will also advise on the plan's substance, helping staff and the consultant team to integrate the community's intuition with technical analysis. The Committee will meet formally approximately seven or eight times during the 14-16 month effort.

Responsibilities

- Participate in-person for seven to eight committee meetings during 2025 (some meetings may support a hybrid or virtual format, but in-person participation is preferred)
- Represent the public in the planning process.
- Provide guidance and direction to the staff and consultants at crucial steps in the process.
- Act as spokespersons for the effort.
- Serve as hosts at public events during the process.
- Volunteer to facilitate at public meetings (training will be provided).
- Recruit volunteers to assist with conducting outreach and facilitation at public meetings.
- Disseminate information during the planning process through individual networks.
- Recommend substance for the draft plan (role is advisory)
- Assist in presenting the plan for adoption before appropriate adopting bodies.

Operating Principles

To guide the committee's deliberations, the following operating principles are proposed:

- **Trust the process**
- **Keep an open mind**
- **Prepare for complex conversations**
- **Contribute to a safe setting**
- **Work toward alignment**
- **Enjoy the experience**

Meet the Members

Laura Abu-Absi
Mikel Coulter
Sara Gallagher
Rebecca Hermann
Matt Lofy
Darnell Perkins

David Chang
Beth Dekker
Garrett Guillozet
Kate LaLonde
Beth Mirmelstein
Maria Ramirez

Jessica Cornett
Reese Flowers
Faith Halaiko
Nick Linkenhoker
Hope Paxson
Michael Sharvin

Laura Abu-Absi

Laura Abu-Absi is a public policy professional focusing on health and human services of interest to Ohio counties. She has two children at Colonial Hills Elementary School and has called Worthington home since 2012. Laura is looking forward to helping ensure community input and vision is reflected throughout the comprehensive plan.

David Chang

David Chang moved to Worthington in 2024 to be closer to family (now walking distance to 11 family members!). His professional work in computer science has included founding a startup and supporting digital transformation solutions at the White House. He looks forward to connecting with fellow Worthington residents in his role on the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Jessica Cornett

Working as an architect and interior designer, Jessica has a passion for design and years of experience navigating zoning guidelines working with various municipalities. She and her husband moved to Worthington in 2020 in hopes of starting and raising a family here and quickly fell in love with their neighborhood and the community. Now as a mother of two young daughters, she loves to explore the Worthington community by finding the best parks and family-friendly activities.

Mikel Coulter

Mikel Coulter has lived in Old Worthington since 1998. His sons graduated from Linworth Alternative High School. He has been a registered Architect in the State of Ohio since 1982. He is also the Chair of the Architectural Review Board and the Municipal Planning Commission for the city of Worthington and have been an active volunteer on various city committees as regards the planning and growth of Worthington for over two decades.

Beth Dekker

Elizabeth Dekker has been a proud part of the Worthington community for over 12 years, serving as the city's Tourism Director while living just outside Old Worthington with her husband and two kids. A longtime advocate for the arts, she is a founding member of Wild Goose Creative, a ceramics instructor at the McConnell Arts Center, and the driving force behind the annual Art Walk that enlivens the historic district. Whether she's showcasing Worthington's charm or fostering its creative spirit, Elizabeth is deeply committed to celebrating the people and stories that make this community so special.

Reese Flowers

Reese J. Flowers IV is a devoted husband and father of three, balancing family life with his successful career. With over 10 years of experience as an executive chef, he has honed his skills and passion for creating exceptional dining experiences. Beyond the kitchen, Reese is deeply committed to his community, constantly seeking ways to give back and make a positive impact.

Sara Gallagher

Sara Gallagher is passionate about sustainability and has been a part of the Worthington community for several decades. She has resided in Worthington Estates with her family since 2016. She started her own business helping people reuse and eliminate waste, previously worked as the Watershed Coordinator for FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed) and currently works as a Food Waste Program Administrator for SWACO (Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio). Sara currently serves as the Worthington Partnership Board President, leads the Worthington Partnership Green Team, and is on the Worthington School District Sustainability Committee.

Garrett Guillozet

Garrett Guillozet has served on the Board of Zoning Appeals since 2020 and is currently serving as Vice-Chair. He is the Delaware County Health Commissioner and received his Masters of Public Administration from Kent State University.

Faith Halaiko

Faith Halaiko has spent more than a decade specializing in high-impact communications and leadership for the public sector. She currently serves as a senior advisor at the Peace Corps and has worked at the federal, state, and local levels. Faith is a member of the 2024-2025 Leadership Worthington cohort; she and her husband Brian, a 2003 Thomas Worthington grad and former Cardinal girls' lacrosse coach, live just south of Old Worthington with their daughter and two rescue dogs.

Rebecca Hermann

Ms. Hermann has lived in Worthington since 2002, is a mother of two, and is married to a 1986 Worthington High School graduate. Rebecca Hermann has served on Worthington City Council since January 2022 also serving as the ARB/MPC Council Liaison since January 2024. She holds an MBA with a concentration in finance and has a background in economic development as a Business Development Director. She is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Worthington and a 2020 Graduate of the Worthington Police Citizens Academy.

Kate LaLonde

Kate LaLonde is in her eleventh year as the Executive Director of the Worthington Historical Society, and she's been with the organization for 19 years in various capacities. She works closely with Society volunteers to preserve the Society's three properties, present engaging exhibits and events, research Worthington's past and share the stories of the community. Kate also serves as the Treasurer and Outreach co-chair for the Ohio Local History Alliance, an organization that works to advance the field of local history in Ohio through education, advocacy, and collaboration,

representing over 300 member organizations ranging from small neighborhood historical societies to large history museums.

Nick Linkenhoker

Nick is the Executive Director of the Worthington Resource Pantry. He has served as a member of the Community Relations Commission since 2017 and is on the board of the McConnell Arts Center. He and his wife Jeanine have a daughter in Worthington Schools and have lived in Worthington for 10 years.

Matt Lofy

Matt has served as President/CEO of the Worthington Area Chamber since August 2021, where he has been a driving force behind initiatives in workforce development, women in business, DEI, and community-driven growth, all aimed at igniting positive change for Worthington's businesses and community. His strategic leadership in business advocacy and stakeholder collaboration has earned him recognition as a Forty Under 40 honoree by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and as the 2023 Chamber Professional of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Ohio. Outside of work, Matt is a proud husband, father of two, veteran of the United States Coast Guard, and co-host of the award-winning Dadass Podcast.

Beth Mirmelstein

Beth is a 10-year resident of Worthington, by way of Alexandria, Virginia and Shaker Heights, Ohio. A wife, Mom of two and Grandmother of five, she is retired as was a High School English teacher and a small business owner. She currently serves on the Community Relations Commission, the Age-Friendly Worthington Steering Committee and as a member of the Harmony Project.

Hope Paxson

As VP of Programs and Housing, Hope is responsible for the oversight of COCIC's Initiatives offering a repurpose and disposition strategy for underused, abandoned, tax delinquent, and foreclosed properties. She has also been instrumental in implementing initiatives to support housing stabilization and community reutilization efforts. Currently, in partnership with the City of Columbus and Franklin County, Hope administers the Central Ohio Community Land Trust; a subsidiary of COCIC which focuses on permanently affordable homeownership development and serves as President of the statewide organization, the Ohio Community Land Trust Network.

Darnell Perkins

Darnell and his wife Carmen have lived in Worthington for 43 years and been parishioners at St. Michael Catholic Church since 1979. They raised our two sons in Worthington, and both attended and graduated from Worthington public schools. He is employed as a financial planner with Osaic Financial Advisors and currently is serving a second term as a member of the City of Worthington's Community Relations Commission.

Maria Ramirez

Maria Ramirez is a 23-year Worthington resident. She is trained as an architect and urban planner, and she is interested in the intersection of design, planning and community development. She is the

Public Art Coordinator at the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and she has served on the Worthington Community Relations Commission since 2020.

Michael Sharvin

Michael Sharvin grew up in Worthington and graduated from TWHS. He enjoys biking around town with his three kids and wife. Michael is a real estate attorney by trade and enjoys seeing the growth and development of Central Ohio and looks forward to the future of Worthington as a thriving, inclusive, and healthy community, through purposeful planning and preparation.