

Lorain Area Wide Planning Project – Steering Committee Meeting
September 29, 2017 – 9 A.M.

Minutes:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Don Romancak	Lorain County Department of Community Development	Tom Brown	City of Lorain Port Authority
Megan Wainright	Lorain County Department of Community Development	Tiffany McClelland	City of Lorain Port Authority
Louise Kilbane	City of Lorain Mayor’s Office	David Oakes	Lorain County General Health District
Tony Gallo	Lorain County Chamber of Commerce	Loraine Ritchey	Charleston Village Society
Michael Taylor	Vita Nuova	Will Warren	Vita Nuova
Jim Rocco	Vita Nuova	Karen Rogalski	ICP Consulting

FOLLOW UP:

-*OTHER PLANS* - need to tie-in to other initiatives (City Master Plan and Lakefront Connectivity Plan)

-*OTHER NAMES* - Committee was asked to list two people Vita Nuova should talk with

-Need to speak with **Lieutenant Hargraves** – Lorain Police Department: City Community Service

-*REPORT* – by *Western Reserve*: completed 3-4 years ago, provides information on the housing stock, with the report rating (E-F) the properties.

-*COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS* - need to meet with, 3 were suggested:

- Rotary Meeting (meets on a weekly basis)
- Lion’s Club (meets on a weekly basis)
- Historical Society Meeting (meets at least twice a month)

-*WEBSITE* – list other projects Vita Nuova has worked on. It was suggested that people are skeptical (due to planning fatigue and historical action, or lack thereof) and would be good to let people know consultants expertise.

-*DATA WEBINAR* – it was decided there needs to be a data webinar of findings presented to the steering committee before any community outreach is done

- Data Webinar Presentation in **November/December** (can be multiple depending on need)
- Need to narrow the market study down, focus on site specific

-*SCHEDULE*

- It was decided that the community outreach needed to be to established groups instead of multiple open community meetings, established groups include:
 - East Side Block Watch
 - South Lorain Community Group
 - Central Lorain Community Group
 - Rotary Meeting
 - Lion’s Club

- Historical Society Meeting

-STEERING COMMITTEE

- Vita Nuova needs to put together a “Kit” or plan/guide book so the committee can speak in a single voice when discussing the project
- Need other names and groups from the Steering Committee

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

-Mayor’s Office suggested that the new zoning rules and regulations will be completed/updated towards the end of the year.

-AREA WIDE PHASE I - A question was posed by the committee regarding the lack of “brownfield” activity (or suggestions) in the presentation. It was explained that Vita Nuova has spoken with U.S. EPA to conduct an area-wide Phase I in order to give a historical review of the subject area. Currently trying to determine what parcels will be included in the area-wide Phase I.

- There was a concern by some members of the committee about what was underground, suggested two underground rivers and capped gas wells.

-County Health Department is in a year of transition, there were 3, now have consolidated to 1

AGENDA:

D. Romancak started the meeting and introductions were made by the group.

D. Romancak asked the committee their expectations for the project. The group was reluctant to express too much, but wanted to see implementation.

J. Rocco presented the initial existing conditions (opportunities and constraints) to the committee.

Existing Conditions:

- 356 Vacant Properties
- Steering Committee was asked to let VN know about any buildings they should add to the existing conditions report

W. Warren discussed the market assessment that would take place over the next several months. He explained that the analysis would focus on specific catalytic sites in the subject area, to ultimately identify end users for redevelopment opportunities.

W. Warren presented the new schedule to the committee, explaining that there is a lot of work over the next several months, including the data/market analysis, funding guide, opportunities and constraints, project inventory and reuse prioritization, catalytic site prioritization and repositioning, as well as a potential area wide phase I. M. Taylor explained to the committee that the work would be focused on producing a Request for Proposals in the spring of 2018. He commented that the schedule may change based on the committee’s needs/concerns. D. Romancak suggested that the community meetings be to established groups. He explained that they were currently having planning fatigue and they didn’t want to do what has already been done (i.e. have several open community meetings throughout the City). The committee agreed and gave their input on what those established groups should be.