



## **Winchester Public Workshops Summary (1/24/2017 & 1/26/2017)**

Two public workshops were held on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Clark County Public Library and January 26<sup>th</sup> at Hall's on the River from 5:00-7:00 pm where over 100 people attended. These workshops were held as an open house format where attendees were asked to complete several exercises at each station available. The first station included an overview of the comprehensive plan process and schedule and the second station include a demographic overview of Winchester and Clark County. At the third station participants were asked to write on post-it notes what their dream for the future of Winchester-Clark County is, what community assets are most important to them, what they value most about the community and place those post-it notes on large corresponding boards (Assets, Value, Future). The second station asked attendees to write their BIG IDEA for Winchester-Clark County and place it on the Big Idea Board. The third station had attendees place colored dots on a 9'x10' map that identified where they work, where they live, where they shop and the places that they love. The last station had attendees write on post-it notes any additional comments or ideas that they wanted to convey.

Overall there were over 280 post-it notes collected from the Public Visioning Workshops that articulated the attendee's big ideas, what they wanted to see in the future, what they value and their most important assets. Many reoccurring comments helped develop major themes or topics that community members would like to address in the Winchester-Clark County Comprehensive Plan. Each of these comments will be evaluated based on their relevancy to the plan, the context to the community and the frequency of similar comments to determine if they will become priorities in the Comprehensive Plan. The major themes identified are as follows:

- Provide parks and recreational opportunities for all ages
- Enhance multi-modal connectivity throughout Clark County
- Revitalize downtown to include more dining, shopping and entertainment options
- Preserve and protect natural areas
- Preserve and protect agricultural areas
- Become a tourism destination for natural, historic and cultural areas
- Market the community to potential visitors and residents
- Provide diverse housing options for all ages and stages of life
- Increase the success of businesses by providing incentives

- Identify appropriate areas for industrial development and expansion
- Attract high-paying jobs
- Provide a balance between development and the preservations of agricultural and natural areas
- Preserve and promote history and historic areas
- Update and review the zoning ordinance and other development codes
- Invest in education and a skilled workforce
- Enforce property maintenance and increase compliance
- Have strong and transparent leadership
- Create public-private partnerships
- Merge City-County Government
- Provide high-quality public facilities
- Invest in infrastructure and service improvements

### **Detailed Themes**

1. Enhance Parks & Recreation
  - a. Accessibility
  - b. Boonesboro Beach Clean-Up
  - c. Kayaking and Lock 10
  - d. Youth Entertainment Activities and Recreational Facilities
  - e. Zip Line Finish
  - f. River Activities
  - g. Downtown park
  - h. Events
  - i. Sports Programs
2. Enhance Connectivity
  - a. Multi-Use Trails, Bike Lanes, Sidewalks
    - i. Ford, KY as a Trail town
    - ii. To Lexington
    - iii. Throughout Clark County
  - b. Improve Traffic
  - c. Finish Veterans Bypass
3. Revitalize Downtown
  - a. More Businesses (shopping, restaurants, entertainment, etc.)
  - b. Infill
  - c. Aesthetics
4. Preserve and Protect Natural Areas
  - a. Waterways (Lower Howards Creek, Kentucky River, Lock 10 Dam, Red River)
5. Preserve and Protect Agricultural Areas

- a. Purchase Development Rights
  - b. Small Farm Incentives
6. Become a Tourism Magnet
  - a. KY River/Natural Areas - Ecotourism
  - b. Agritourism – Rural Heritage
  - c. Tourism Corridor – Athens Boonesboro Road
  - d. Historic Sites and Structures
  - e. Downtown
  - f. Cultural Destinations (Museum, Beer Cheese)
  - g. Tourism Center
7. Market Community
  - a. Businesses/Industries
  - b. Tourism
  - c. Great place to live
8. Provide More Housing Options
  - a. Single-Family Homes
  - b. Senior Homes
  - c. Affordable Housing
  - d. Downtown Living
  - e. State of Old Trailer Park
9. Increase Business Success
  - a. Provide Incentives
10. Identify Appropriate Areas for Industry Development and Expansion
  - a. No heavy industrial
  - b. Biotech Companies
  - c. Hemp Industry
11. Attract High-Paying Jobs
  - a. Airport
12. Provide a Balance Between Development and the Preservation of Agricultural and Natural Areas
13. Preserve and Promote History
14. Investing in Education and Skilled Workforce
  - a. Expand Bluegrass Community College
  - b. Skills Development
15. Update and Review Zoning
  - a. Design Standards
  - b. Standards and Inspection of Rental Housing
  - c. Revisit TDRS
  - d. Setbacks and Road Frontage for Agricultural Properties

- e. Keep areas along the River as Agricultural
  - f. No non-AG uses in Southwest Portion of the community
  - g. Mining Regulations
  - h. Unsafe Structures
  - i. No more rock quarries
16. Enforce Property Maintenance
  17. Have Strong and Transparent Leadership
  18. Create Public-Private Partnerships
  19. Merge City-County Government
  20. Provide High Quality Public Facilities
    - a. Reopen YMCA
    - b. Community Center
  21. Invest in infrastructure and service improvements
    - a. Telecommunication infrastructure to ALL residents (Highspeed internet, LAN line, Cable Services)
    - b. Water/Wastewater Capacity and Upgrade to NFPA standards
    - c. Stormwater Management
    - d. Make sure rural areas are served
    - e. Provide better fire protection
    - f. Place County First Service in County
    - g. Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness
    - h. Improve locks flood control
    - i. Add a turn lane at the top of Boonesboro hill

### **Places I Live, Work, Play, Love**

A large 9'x10' map was displayed on a wall and participants were asked to put colored dots on the areas they lived, worked, played and the one place they love. Overall there were over 130 dots on the map. A majority of attendees live in Clark County (40) and the rest live in Winchester (18). A majority of these attendees also work in Winchester (24/32) and shop in Winchester (22/24). Shopping clusters appeared on the map along the Bypass and downtown. There was also a small cluster along I-64 just outside of Clark County indicating the Lexington area. Many attendees identified their home as a place they love as well as natural areas/farms and the Kentucky River.