

Central District Master Plan Project Update



June 15, 2009

Take the Downtown Survey

Please take the downtown Highland Park survey. We are very interested in your input. The survey covers a range of topics including how and why you use downtown Highland Park, how you get there, your opinions regarding the existing scale and character of downtown and the future development character of downtown.

The survey will be open until July 10th. Please take the survey and let your relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues and other associates know about it, too. ***Please answer each question, as incomplete surveys will not be counted, and YOUR opinion matters!***

Click www.surveymzmo.com/s/137530/hpdowntownplan to take the survey.

Community Open House

Mark your calendar for June 24th at 6 p.m. for a Community Open House to discuss the Central District. The Open House will be held at the Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road. At the Open House we will set forth the purpose of the planning process, educate ourselves about cutting edge work being done related to sustainable urban planning, and to hear from you about the direction that you want for downtown Highland Park. Doug Farr, principal of Farr Associates (<http://www.farrside.com>), and a national leader on “sustainable urbanism” will be the keynote speaker.

From 6 to 7 p.m. you will have an opportunity to review map illustrating current conditions in the downtown and talk with members of the planning staff regarding your interests and issues. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with remarks from Mayor Michael Belsky and our keynote speaker.

Stakeholder Interviews Starting Soon

In order to dig a little deeper into the specific concerns of downtown stakeholder groups, City staff will be conducting interviews with various representatives of these groups in the coming weeks. Stakeholders include representatives from property owner and business operator organizations, government officials, developers, local architects, social service and arts agency, downtown residents and local consumers. Gathering this input will allow the Plan Commission and City Council to balance the multiple needs of the downtown stakeholder groups for the benefit of the entire community.

Talk to a Planner

On June 18th, a member of the Department of Community Development Planning Division staff will be on hand at the Thursday night summer concert at Buhai Square (Port Clinton Plaza) to discuss the downtown planning process and downtown planning issues with you. Please look for the planner, and ask them a question or tell them what you think of downtown. The planner will be present from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Walking Tour

A walking tour of the Central District has been posted to the website. You can amble around downtown and think about the commentary and questions posed in the tour. This is your opportunity to take a closer look at downtown and think about what you like and don't like and consider what elements of downtown might be ok to change and what are the best elements of downtown to preserve. Walk with your friends or family and discuss what your favorite places in Highland Park are. Think about places that you like outside of town and what physical elements of those places make them attractive. To access the walking tour please click the following:

<http://tinyurl.com/qew6k2>.

Email List Growing – Get Involved Now!

More than 200 people have submitted their email addresses so they can continue to get information about the planning process. If you want to make sure you continue to get important information, check our website at www.hpdownatownplan.org or email the Department of Community Development at contact@hpdownatownplan.org. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to get involved.

The City of Highland Park hopes that this planning process will provide a variety of opportunities for City residents, property and business owners, employees and visitors to have meaningful input into the future of downtown Highland Park.

For more information, please visit the website www.hpdowntownplan.org, email the Department of Community Development at contact@hpdowntownplan.org, or call 847 432-0867.

Please do not print this email unless it is absolutely necessary. By doing so, you help the City of Highland Park spread environmental awareness.