

# ***Central District Master Plan Project Update***



***August 10, 2009***

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## **[Awareness Walks and Walking Tour](#)**

On Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, a City planner will lead an awareness walk around the downtown. These awareness walks will be similar to the Walking Tour of the Central District that has been posted to the website. Each awareness walk will start at 7:00 p.m. and end around 8:00 p.m. The awareness walks are organized as follows:

- August 12: East side of downtown – meet at the Veterans’ Memorial at St. Johns and Central Avenues at 7:00 p.m.
- August 19: West side of downtown – meet on the steps of Port Clinton Plaza at Central Avenue and Second Street at 7:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to take a closer look at the downtown, to think about what you like and don’t like, to consider what elements of downtown could change, and what are the best elements of downtown to preserve. To access the walking tour please click the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/qew6k2>.

## **[Roundtable Meetings to be Held in September through November](#)**

We anticipate holding three sets of roundtable meetings. The roundtable meetings will be held at the Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, in the Pre-Session Conference Room on the second floor. The dates and times of the roundtable groups are the following:

**Roundtable Meeting Set #1**

Wednesday, September 23:

- Promoting Commerce and Service @ 7:00 p.m.
- Assuring a Well Functioning Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept 24th

- Creating a Vibrant Downtown @ 7:00 p.m.
- Advancing a Sustainable Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

**Roundtable Meeting Set #2**

Wednesday, October 14:

- Promoting Commerce and Service @ 7:00 p.m.
- Assuring a Well Functioning Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

- Creating a Vibrant Downtown @ 7:00 p.m.
- Advancing a Sustainable Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

**Roundtable Meeting Set #3**

Tuesday, November 10:

- Creating a Vibrant Downtown @ 7:00 p.m.
- Assuring a Well Functioning Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 12

- Promoting Commerce and Service @ 7:00 p.m.
- Advancing a Sustainable Downtown @ 8:15 p.m.

The roundtable process is intended to focus participant discussion by planning theme and get feedback which will lead to the development of a Vision Statement for the Central District. Roundtable participants will explore the overarching questions facing the downtown and then explore one of the themes. The discussions will be facilitated by

community leaders, appointed by the Mayor, members of the Plan Commission and assisted by staff from the Planning Division. Each roundtable may meet a number of times in order to develop their recommendations, which will then be forwarded to a Roundtable Advisory Group. The Roundtable Advisory Group will take the disparate recommendations from each roundtable and create a unified vision for the Central District.

The number of participants in the roundtable process will not be limited. You do not have to attend all of the roundtable meetings to participate. In addition, you can participate in more than one of the roundtable groups.

**To participate, please email [contact@hpdowntownplan.org](mailto:contact@hpdowntownplan.org) and tell us which roundtable, or roundtables you would like to join.**

**Every person participating in the roundtables is highly encouraged to take the Downtown Walking Tour and participate in one of the awareness walks around downtown.**

### **Parking Report Posted to Website**

Is it easier or harder to find a parking space in downtown Highland Park than it was 10 years ago? What has the City done to increase the supply of parking in the Central District? Where are all the municipal lots and where can you find a place to park? Click [Central District Parking Report](#) to find the answers to these intriguing questions.

### **Thanks for Taking the Downtown Survey**

The Downtown Survey wrapped up on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The City wants to thank the more than 320 people that completed the survey. In the coming weeks the survey results will be compiled and made available to the public. These results will be used to inform the public discussions that will take place at the roundtable meetings as well as the future deliberations of the Plan Commission and City Council.

The City of Highland Park hopes that the Central District 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](http://www.hpdowntownplan.org) or call 847 432-0867.

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