

Central District Master Plan Project Update



October 9, 2009

Upcoming Roundtable Meetings

To those of you that attended the first set of Central District (Downtown) Plan Update roundtable meetings, we want to thank you for your time and engagement in the process. For everyone involved or interested, whether or not you attended the September roundtable meetings, please know that you are welcome to attend the next set of roundtable meetings which will be held next week as follows:

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.

[Click here](#) for additional information about the upcoming roundtable meetings including:

- Roundtable Meeting Set #2 Agenda
- A sheet containing the following
 - A listing of the most critical issues to be addressed by each roundtable
 - Draft Vision sentences for each roundtable theme
 - Questions for further discussion

- Sheets containing the public comments (unsorted and sorted) from each of the roundtable groups, as written down at the meetings

These materials are intended to inform the discussion at the upcoming meetings.

We need your help!

As you read and react to the vision sentences drafted for each theme, send us your thoughts by emailing contact@hpdowntownplan.org.

Visioning Process

The visioning process that the roundtables are engaged in is designed to help Highland Park residents plan for and control the future of Downtown. In considering the broad diversity of viewpoints offered, it is the challenge of the roundtable participants to work to and discover a common vision for the future of Downtown, and to develop a plan of action to achieve that community vision.

A mutually agreed upon vision statement will assure that the community understands the overall future direction for Downtown Highland Park. A well drafted vision statement provides a desired "big picture" outcome and long-term direction to guide strategies and actions. In this process, the community is being asked to first identify the long-term Downtown vision that it desires and second, agree upon strategies to take us to that desired future Downtown. Of paramount importance is that the vision statement is **realistic, credible, attractive, and future oriented.**

The intent of the next set of roundtable meetings is to review draft vision sentences that were prepared by staff, based on the comments given at the roundtable meetings and other means such as the community survey and open house. The vision sentences and some questions for further consideration are attached to this project update. Please review these vision sentences carefully so that you will be prepared to discuss them at the roundtable meetings.

Ultimately, after discussions and agreement by the participants, each roundtable's vision sentences will be incorporated into an overall vision statement for the Downtown. The vision statement will be supported by corresponding and more detailed strategies and actions that can be taken to implement the vision.

Depending upon the progress made during the second set of roundtable meetings, at the third set of meetings in November, participants may be able to consider some draft strategies and actions.

The following steps summarize the vision process for the roundtable groups:

Step 1: Community input - **(done, Sept. 23 and 24, 2009)** & ongoing

Step 2: Draft vision sentences by theme (staff) – **(done – to be presented Oct. 14 and 15, 2009)**

Step 3: Community agreement on draft vision sentences and beginning of discussion on potential strategies and actions – **(for discussion Oct. 14 and 15)**

Step 4: Merge draft vision sentences into Vision Statement (staff) – **(future meetings)**

Step 5: Develop strategies and actions to implement vision statement – maybe short and long-term (staff) – **(future meetings)**

Step 6: Community agreement on draft strategies and actions **(future meetings)**

Thank you for your attention to the roundtable visioning process. We look forward to a productive dialogue at the roundtable meetings on October 14th and 15th. **Please attend the roundtable meetings and bring a friend, neighbor or relative!**

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 or call 847 432-0867.

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