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2013

Comprehensive Vision Plan

Liberty Township,
Butler County,
Ohio





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Liberty Township, Butler County, Ohio

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Dedication

This plan is dedicated in memory of A. Christian Worrell. Chris volunteered his time serving on the Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Economic Development Committee, and JEDD Board. Chris also worked tirelessly in numerous ways for the betterment of this community and he is truly missed.



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I: Introduction

In March of 2012, Liberty Township began the process of updating its Comprehensive Vision Plan which was first adopted in 2006. The plan is referred to when reviewing development, zoning, and land use proposals, and also when setting priorities during budgeting. Periodically, the plan is updated to ensure it remains current with the needs and desires of the community. The Comprehensive Vision Plan was updated under the direction of a steering committee and incorporating public input.

1.1 What is the Comprehensive Vision Plan?

The Comprehensive Vision Plan lays out a future vision for the direction of the Township, and puts forth specific goals and objectives towards accomplishing that vision. The plan covers topics related to development, such as land use, housing, economic development, transportation and other infrastructure. However, the plan also covers quality of life concerns such as delivery of government services, public safety and welfare, recreation, and community events. The document serves several purposes, and is used by the Township in several ways.

As a Vision Statement – The process of updating the Comprehensive Vision Plan is the opportunity for the community to come together and answer the question, “What do we want our community to be in the future?”

As a Guide for Future Decision Making – The Vision Plan is frequently referred to during any decision making process the Township goes through; particularly those involving land use and infrastructure improvements. Consulting the Vision Plan when considering everyday focused decisions ensures that the long-term plans and goals of the

community continue to be embraced and supported in those decisions.

A Means of Communicating the Community Vision to the World – The Vision Plan serves as a means to project the Township’s vision, along with ideas and plans about how to achieve that vision with the community. Even more than that, the document is a way to project that vision out to the wider world. The purpose of this is to generate buy-in from the community and to excite outsiders to the opportunities present in our growing community.

1.2 How the Plan was Drafted

The Liberty Township Comprehensive Vision Plan Update 2013 was drafted over the course of a year and a half by Liberty Township Planning staff working with a 23 member steering committee. The planning process included three interactive public open houses to solicit input from the public on topics of the plan. Furthermore, progress of the plan was charted on a page on the Township’s website, which was also used to gather public input on the plan. Once drafted, the plan was presented at three public hearings where comments from the public were solicited prior to the plan being adopted.



Fig. 1. Vision Plan Public Open House in April 2012



Section I: Introduction

1.3 Plan implementation, Updating, and Evaluation

The Comprehensive Vision Plan has been, and will continue to be implemented through many daily decisions on any number of topics, including land use, zoning, subdividing property, expansion of transportation and utility infrastructure, parks and trails development, and the delivery of government services. Additionally, the plan contains goals, objectives, and tasks designed to contribute towards the overall vision projected in the plan. These goals, objectives, and tasks are listed in each chapter and again summarized in Chapter 10: Plan Summary Recommendations. Goals listed in the plan are overarching results that are called for in the Vision Plan. Objectives are components which must be achieved to realize the result called for in the goals. Finally, tasks are specific actions to be taken to accomplish an objective.

The Comprehensive Vision Plan must continue to reflect the current vision and goals of the Township, and therefore must be periodically updated. This plan is an update of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. It is recommended that this plan be updated again approximately five years from now, and continue to be updated every five years working with a steering committee.

Occasionally, unforeseen changes or opportunities come up which calls for elements of the Vision Plan to be updated or reconsidered. For such circumstances, a procedure for reviewing these proposed changes shall be as follows:

1. Proposed changes to the Liberty Township Comprehensive Vision Plan shall be submitted to the Director of Planning and Zoning.
2. The Liberty Township Zoning Commission holds a public hearing at the next available meeting and considers the request. The Zoning Commission shall pass a motion to

recommend approval or denial to the Township Board of Trustees.

3. The Township Board of Trustees reviews the application and the Zoning Commission's recommendation, and then votes to approve or to deny the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
4. If approved, the changes to the Comprehensive Plan are presented to the Butler County Planning Commission.

1.4 Vision Statement

The Vision Plan Steering Committee drafted the following Vision Statement to broadly outline the focus of the plan and to serve as a guide when evaluating the goals and objectives discussed during the planning process.

Vision Statement

Liberty Township offers families, businesses, and individuals a place to experience an outstanding quality of life, and to prosper in a financially sound community.

Liberty Township is, and will continue to be a place where people choose to spend their lives, raise their families, and enjoy their retirement. It is a hospitable, safe, and pleasant community with a growing complement of activities and amenities, which features both vibrant commercial centers and areas of quaint rural splendor. Liberty Township will maintain a balance between embracing its important natural, historical, and cultural legacy while looking to, and planning for progress that the future brings. In the future, Liberty Township enables families, businesses, and individuals to experience an outstanding quality of life as a place to:



- **Live**

Families and individuals of all age groups grow, live, and retire in attractive, quality housing which is nestled in a safe and inviting community. Living in Liberty Township provides convenient access to amenities and activities with nearby shopping and entertainment, while still preserving a level of rural charm and privacy. As the community grows, the township will continue to provide a level of service and quality of life, which families, individuals, and businesses come to expect, in an efficiently managed and financially responsible way.
- **Work**

Local and regional retail and service businesses, medical and professional office, and manufacturing businesses thrive amongst a highly educated and experienced workforce. Companies with national and international focus rely on the unparalleled access of I-75, the convenience of two local international airports, several local universities with nationally ranked programs, and close proximity to major rail corridors and international air freight operations. These attributes make Liberty Township an ideal location for corporate offices. The township's residential and business population supports a full complement of retail, hospitality, and service businesses.
- **Shop**

Liberty Township's Central Business District (CBD) area becomes a regional shopping and entertainment mecca, while dispersed nodes of locally oriented businesses offer convenient access to everyday goods and services.
- **Play**

Locals utilize parks, ball fields, and trails, participate in youth and adult sports, and congregate in church and social groups. Seasonal events bring the community together and the Township will leverage its natural features such as Gregory Creek for outdoor recreation. Further, the CBD will have opportunities for shopping, dining, and entertainment catering to a regional audience.
- **Learn**

Opportunities for learning at all ages abound. Quality schools are a top priority and continue to be a hallmark of the community. The burgeoning local professional population is serviced by career schools and branch universities, and there are numerous opportunities for recreational education with a branch library, nature walks, social and religious groups.