

meeting summary

March 26, 2018
6 – 8p
City Building

Regional Partnerships & Collaboration with Adjacent Communities Committee Meeting

attendees	Dave Wormald	Rob Hans
	Jack Moreland	Michelle Knight
	Lisa Kelly	Will Weber
	Robert Yoder	Ron Dill
	Karen Montgomery	Chris Manning
	Ann Winkler	Sara DiLandro

discussion items:

- Chris Manning welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed what the committees have been discussing.
- Chris reviewed the feedback that was received from the Open House in January and encouraged committee members to check out the materials posted on <https://ftcommunityplan.com/>.
- Scheduling:
 - Phase 2 (Exploration): March- May
 - 2nd public meeting: Early June (has not yet been scheduled)
 - **Next Committee Meeting: Monday, May 7th, 6pm** at the City Building.
- Chris reviewed the project team’s progress since the public open house. After the team compiled feedback from the public, we met with the Mayor and City Administrator, Ron Dill to review topics introduced in Phase 1 and discuss a plan for moving them forward in Phase 2. The majority of our meeting was spent discussing the big idea topics.
 - Riverfront/Route 8: The future of the riverfront and Route 8 as a local park road is one topic area that the committees were asked to explore further. This topic was introduced as a result of KYTC’s study and the proposed local park road designation (which will require coordination with KYTC) will allow the City to slow traffic to 35 mph and use the riverfront for low-impact park and recreation activities (i.e., hike/bike trails, camping/glamping). Once in place, the local road could be temporarily closed for races, events and festivals.
 - This big idea would also incorporate several nodes that will function as small designated parking areas, trailheads, and canoe/kayak put in/take outs. Nodes/ trailheads are currently proposed along the Route 8 corridor under the 275 bridge, at Tower Park, at the HHS/HMS greenbelt connection, and a potential fourth location further north at the City-owned property along the riverfront is still being explored.

meeting summary

March 27, 2018
6 – 8p
City Building

With these nodes, there's an opportunity for a riverfront land hike/bike trail as well as a water trail/blueway that could ultimately connect California to Dayton/Newport.

- The proposed nodes will also serve as access points for paved shared-use trails as multi-modal connection to Ft. Thomas, the Riverfront and adjacent communities. On behalf of Southbank, Jack Moreland enthusiastically expressed interest in these connectivity opportunities as they offer the ability to connect to Ft. Thomas. He further mentioned that grant applications for OKI's Transportation Alternatives grant for 2021-2022 are currently being drafted and the Tower Park trail could be an option if the City/Council agrees.
- The gas line easement that overlaps the northern boundary of Ft. Thomas and the City of Dayton could be another opportunity to connect northern Ft. Thomas/Dayton to the riverfront.
- The Riverfront/Route 8 opportunity also allows the city to celebrate the river and enjoy the natural amenity. Southbank has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers and the NKY River Cities to restore the banks of the Ohio River. Their study proposes examples of restoration methods that cities can use and a natural restoration approach has been proposed for Ft. Thomas. This study has informed the decision to celebrate Ft. Thomas's riverfront as a connected greenspace.
- Using the Riverfront for passive recreation opportunities like camping/glamping is another big idea that will be explored in Phase 2, particularly by the Parks & Open Space Committee. The City owns some riverfront property and there may be opportunity to purchase additional land and/or partner with property owners like Aquaramp to collaborate on the Ft. Thomas River Camps opportunity. The project team will reach out to Aquaramp to further explore this opportunity. If Aquaramp is not interested, there could be a possibility to locate the camps on the city-owned parcel (though no infrastructure- water, restrooms, etc. - currently exist).
- The Committee spent some time discussing the vision for Ft. Thomas's riverfront and how Riverfront Commons extends along it. The Committee sketched out a diagrammatic riverfront trail that travels along the south side of Route 8, along City-owned and rail property then crosses Route 8 at Aquaramp's rail crossing to travel along the north side of Route 8 to avoid NKY Water District property.
- Riverfront Acquisition Strategy: The Committee discussed the importance of a continuous ribbon of publically accessible riverfront. While the Land Use Committee is working on strengthening the hillside greenbelt, the Partnerships & Collaboration Committee could focus on a property acquisition strategy that would create the riverfront public greenbelt.

meeting summary

March 27, 2018
6 – 8p
City Building

- Ft. Thomas Bike Park: The Committee also discussed proposing a Bike Park for Ft. Thomas youth and the importance of locating it at a location that is accessible by bike. Michelle Knight, Ft. Thomas resident and CORA representative gave an overview of the need for a bike park as there's currently no safe place for youth to ride. The park would need a space that's approximately 80' x 200' (similar to the park in Newport). The Committee discuss potential locations for this park- the riverfront, River Road fields, South Park fields (practice fields at Tower Park), and the Rossford practice field. The riverfront's hillsides and flooding make it a less desirable option. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the South Park practice fields at Tower Park could be a great location if we can coordinate a site for the practices to relocate to. The proximity to the park, visibility, and unique topography all make it a promising location.

- Route 27/River Road Corridor & Beverly Hills Supper Club: The Committee discussed collaborating with the County, Southgate, Highland Heights and NKU on the vision for this corridor. There are commercial development opportunities and an existing TIF District in Highland Heights that suggest commercial development that can help fund improvements proposed for the core of Ft. Thomas.
 - The intersection at Woodfill/Ft. Thomas Ave. is an important corridor connection to Midway/Tower Park.
 - The Transportation & Connectivity Committee is studying transportation improvements (including bike lanes) that could be made along this corridor.
 - NKU's Health Innovation Center and their Health Science degree program may drive health/wellness centered development and a vision for this corridor.
 - The Beverly Hills site has sold several times and a vision for this site is still under formation. Southgate would like a commercial use though infrastructure (i.e., roads, utilities, etc.) are needed.

Memorial Parkway: The Committee discussed collaborating with Newport on the vision for Memorial Parkway including:

- Improving the aesthetics of the corridor including ash removal and reforestation and partner with the Conservancy. The parkway was named as a tribute to the military and these improvements would help realize/celebrate this intention.

- Future of the Carlisle Development site. Creating a park across from the new apartments could be an opportunity though this park would be fairly isolated. There may be some technical issues though creating a Planned Urban Development (PUD) would promote a well-designed commercial campus that could incorporate greenspace. The Land Use Committee could explore this planning and zoning strategy for redevelopment.