

## meeting summary

May 7, 2018  
6 – 8p  
City Building

## Regional Partnerships & Collaboration with Adjacent Communities Committee Meeting

attendees	Jack Moreland	Michelle Knight
	Lisa Kelly	Will Weber
	Karen Montgomery	Sara DiLandro
	Debbie Buckley	

### discussion items:

- Sara DiLandro welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed what the committee has been discussing.
- Scheduling:
  - Phase 2 (Exploration): March- June
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting: June 25<sup>th</sup> , 7pm at the Mess Hall
  - **Next Committee Meeting: Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**, 6pm at the City Building.
- Sara reviewed the project team’s progress in identifying collaboration opportunities during the Exploration Phase, especially as they pertain to the big ideas that were introduced at the last committee meeting.
  - 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 at the future riverfront park.

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 connections to Ft. Thomas, the Riverfront and adjacent communities.

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Jack Moreland (on behalf of Southbank) spoke to the City and has generously offered to fund the Engineering Study to connect Tower Park to Route 8/Riverfront Commons Trail as the next step toward implementing this connection to the neighboring river cities. While we won't be able to meet the deadline for OKI's Transportation Alternatives grant submittals this spring, Jack encouraged the Committee/City to consider submitting a grant application in September/October for this project.

- 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 was especially interested in the idea of collaborating with a third party to build camping/glamping tree houses with different themes and possibly different sponsors.

- 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. Debbie Buckley informed the group that David Hosea owns 50 acres along the river at the railroad crossing and he has expressed interest in letting the City use his property. Coordination is needed to create a formal agreement.
- Ft. Thomas Bike Park: At the last committee meeting, the Committee discussed several locations for a proposed Bike Park for Ft. Thomas. With the recommendation from the Regional Partnerships & Collaboration Committee, the Parks & Open Space Committee has explored this opportunity and is proposing a bike park at the South Park practice fields at Tower Park. The proximity to the park, visibility, and unique topography all make it a promising location. Coordination would be needed to relocate the practice fields.
- Route 27/River Road Corridor & Beverly Hills Supper Club: A meeting with the County, Southgate and Highland Heights has been scheduled to collaborate on a 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.

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- The Transportation & Connectivity Committee is studying transportation improvements (including bike lanes) that could be made along this corridor. The Partnerships & Collaboration Committee discussed the need for a Comprehensive Bike Plan that is multi-jurisdictional and can incorporate major corridors like Route 27. Bike infrastructure on Route 27 would provide a much needed connection from NKU to the river and Newport on the Levee. Kenton County is currently developing a Comprehensive Bike Plan so the timing is favorable for Campbell County to collaborate.
  - 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.
  - Highland Heights will be updating their Comprehensive Plan next year and would be interested in coordinating with Ft. Thomas' efforts.
- The Committee spent the rest of the meeting reviewing the Collaboration Matrix (see attached), discussing progress and identifying additional collaboration opportunities and next steps. We will be sharing outcomes of upcoming collaboration meetings at the next Committee meeting.

FORT THOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN  
Stakeholder Meetings

Topic Area	Stakeholder	Committee	Lead	Committee Members (to be included in meetings)	Priority	Scheduled Meeting Date/Time	Meeting Outcomes/Next Steps
Sargeant Park	Dayton	Parks & Open Space	Ron Dill			TBD	
Ft. Thomas River Camp (Glamping)	Aquaramp	Parks & Open Space	Chris Manning	Lisa Kelly, Jeff Bezold	Yes	TBD	
	Railroad	Parks & Open Space	Rob Hans?				
	Private Property Owners	Parks & Open Space					
	Treehouse Masters	Parks & Open Space		Lisa Kelly			
Tower Park Trails	NKU (conservation easement)	Parks & Open Space	Ron Dill	Chris Manning, Jeff Bezold	Yes	23-Apr-18	Ft. Thomas can construct new trails within easement limits with consultation/coodination with NKU
	KYMBA (Jason Reser) & CORA (Michelle Knight)	Parks & Open Space	Chris Manning?				
Tower Park Zip Lines	NKU (conservation easement)	Parks & Open Space	Ron Dill	Chris Manning, Jeff Bezold	Yes	23-Apr-18	Ft. Thomas can construct new trails within easement limits with consultation/coodination with NKU
Riverfront/Route 8 Local Road	KYTC	Parks & Open Space		Dave Wormald, Rob Hans			
Riverfront/Route 8 node at 275 bridge / Coney Island Ferry	Silver Grove	Parks & Open Space	Debbie Buckley and Bob Yoder				
	Coney Island (Ferry)	Parks & Open Space					
Route 27 Corridor (River Road & Beverly Hills Supper Club)	Highland Heights (Mayor Greg Meyers & Will Weber)	Regional Partnerships	Frank Twehues	Ron Dill, Chris Manning, Sara DiLandro		10-May-18	
	Southgate (Mayor Hamburg & Will Weber)	Regional Partnerships	Will Weber	Ron Dill, Chris Manning, Sara DiLandro			
Memorial Parkway / Carlisle Development Site	Newport	Regional Partnerships					

