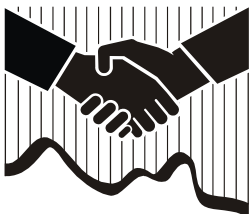


Members of the Planning Partnership

- Anderson Township
- Blue Ash
- Cincinnati
- Cleves
- Colerain Township
- Columbia Township
- Deer Park
- Delhi Township
- Fairfax
- Forest Park
- Green Township
- Greenhills
- Harrison Township
- Indian Hill
- Jackson Township
- Loveland
- Mariemont
- Miami Township
- Milford
- Montgomery
- North Bend
- Norwood
- Sharonville
- Silverton
- Springdale
- Springfield Township
- Sycamore Township
- Symmes Township
- Wyoming
- Citizens for Civic Renewal
- Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency
- Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
- Cincinnati Association
- Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati
- League of Women Voters
- Ohio Valley Development Council
- The United Way & Community Chest
- Western Economic Council

Planning Partnership



HAMILTON COUNTY

Regional Planning Commission

The mission of the Planning Partnership is to bring together public, private and civic sector organizations engaged in community planning in Hamilton county so that mutual goals related to physical, economic and social issues can be planned for comprehensively and achieved collaboratively.

Congratulations to the First Graduates of the Certified Planning Commissioners' Program

March saw the debut of the Planning Partnership's newest program – the "Making Great Communities" Certified Planning Commissioners' Program. Designed in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati School of Planning, this training program introduces participants to fundamental planning concepts and procedures. The Program was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 and Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at the Drake Conference Center. Twenty-four individuals participated in the workshop from townships (Green, Colerain Springfield, Anderson, Jackson), municipalities (Lincoln Heights, Montgomery, Amberley, Springdale, Sharonville), county boards (HCRPC and HCRZC), and the private (Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce) and civic (League of Women Voters) sectors.



Participants, from left to right. Sitting: Chad Alston, Audrey Meyers, Joanne Gerson, Patricia Stearns, Merrie Stillpass. Standing: Robert Apke, George Gray, Judy Squire, Hal Franke, Robert Polewski, Steve Dana, Jim Penrod, Peggy Lopez, John Kerr, Bill Robers, Christy Meyers, Gary Sweeney, Christine Williams, Bonnie Mitchell, Mel Martin. Not in the picture: Jerry Thomas, Susan Gibler, Bill Knight.

At the core of the course design was the input from a focus group of commissioners from the region that met back in October. To develop a base of knowledge that will allow the citizen planner to make informed decisions on planning related issues, the 16-hour course included discussion on the legal and historical basis of planning, planning in the context of the region, comprehensive plan and plan review process, implementation tools, meeting management, facilitation and mediation techniques, site plan review, and a mock public hearing. The purpose of the program is to equip participants with the tools they need to perform their duties more effectively. The session's success can be summed up by Montgomery's Joanna Gerson, "This program has given me more confidence in my ability to do a good job as a Planning Commissioner." The next "Making Great Communities" Certified Planning Commissioners' Program will be offered in the fall. You can call 513-946-4455 for more information.

Community Character Act Communities Across the Nation Will Benefit

U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Committee held a hearing on S. 975, the Community Character Act. The proposed Community Character Act (S. 975) and Brownfields Site Redevelopment Assistance Act (S. 1079) would substantially help to improve the livability of cities, neighborhoods, towns and rural areas throughout the nation.

The Community Character Act and companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 1433, are designed to promote locally driven planning innovation by providing small grants and technical assistance that encourage regionalism and public participation, housing choice and affordability, efficient use of land and infrastructure, and conservation.

For example, grants could be used for projects involving economic development, environmental protection or regional collaboration as well as to acquire information technology and equipment, such as GIS systems, to improve planning and public understanding of the consequences of current development patterns.

A recent study by the American Planning Association (APA) showed that over half the states are still using planning legislation that dates back to Herbert Hoover. States could use funding from the act to modernize their statutes.

In support of S. 1079, Burlington, Vermont, Planning Commission Vice Chair Elizabeth Humstone testified before a U.S. Senate Committee on behalf of the American Planning Association (APA). Humstone said the legislation would allow communities to not only clean up sites, but also make them "part of a broad economic development plan" that would have a "multiplier" effect on federal investments in brownfield remediation.

CCA was originally introduced by Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) during the 106th Congress. The bill was slightly modified and reintroduced earlier this year by Sen. Chafee with seven original cosponsors. The Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Continued on next page

COMPASS

Under the leadership of Jim Wuenker and Jackie McCray, Co-chairs of the Community COMPASS Steering Team, the process to develop a comprehensive plan for Hamilton County continues.

A Countywide Town Meeting was held at Music Hall on January 12th. The participation of 1,300 people was possible due to the use of advanced technology that allowed the processing of large amounts of information in real time. Immediate feedback gave attendees the reassurance of an open process and confidence that their participation will make a difference.

Importantly, at the end of the Town Meeting, 95 % of the participants indicated a commitment to remain involved in the COMPASS process!

"Such extraordinary community support gives us ample reason to believe that the shared vision can be implemented," says Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Regional Planning

Commission. We now are prepared to build on that vision and move the plan forward with critical strategic actions.

The many products of the COMPASS Town Meeting include a vision statement gleaned from more than 2,800 ideas collected during a series of 12 public forums held throughout the county last fall. The ideas were tested, refined and validated at the Town Meeting. The agreed-upon vision is defined by four core goals and related objectives (available on the website at www.communitycompass.org). The goals and objectives are valuable because they come directly from the thoughts and voices of Hamilton County residents.

Hamilton County's master plan, Community COMPASS, is ready to move into the next phase. The COMPASS Action Teams (CATs) phase will review public input to date, focus in on areas for improvement, and develop strategies to guide the county through the next 20 years. The meetings will be structured around the four core issue areas discussed at the Countywide Town Meeting: Assuring Economic Prosperity Monday March 18th, Balancing Development and the Environment – Tuesday March 19th, Embracing Diversity and Equity – Wednesday, March 20, and Building Collaborative Decision-making – Thursday, March 21.

Thanks to the participants and volunteers that made the Countywide Town Meeting a huge success!



Photography: Joe Simon

Countywide Town Meeting – Music Hall
January 12, 2002

Annual Meeting

Make plans to attend the Planning Partnership Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2002 at Memorial Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This year's Annual Meeting will open with an information fair, highlighting current initiatives of the Planning Partnership. Other features of the event will include the presentation of Planning Partnership 2001 report, awards, the election of new officers, and a luncheon. A debate entitled "Urban/Suburban Interdependence and Implications for Public Policy" between Dusty Rhodes and Myron Orfield, moderated by Aaron Herzig is also scheduled. Space is limited, please make reservations by calling Teresa Lawson at 946-4452.

Planning Partnership Fees

The Planning Partnership funds its operation largely in part through Hamilton County General Funds, grants, and membership fees. The fee structure is revised annually based on the Apportionment of Cost method, as described in the Resolution of Cooperation. The jurisdictions are grouped into five levels of membership fees based on the jurisdiction's area (square miles) and assessed valuation per capita. Fiscal year 2002 invoices for Planning Partnership membership were mailed in December. Included with the invoices were forms that will allow representative contact information be updated. Please return these forms if you have not done so to the Planning Partnership so that our databases and contact information can be updated. Completed forms can be faxed to 946-4475 or mailed to: Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission; Attn: Planning Partnership; 807 County Administration Building; 138 East Court Street; Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Annual Survey Results

During the fourth quarter of 2001, the Planning Partnership Executive Committee Annual Survey was mailed to 116 individuals that included Planning Partnership representatives and committee members, COMPASS Steering Team, Hamilton County Regional Planning Commissioners and County Commissioners. The survey is being used to gauge public awareness of Planning Partnership initiatives as well as to receive suggestions regarding possible

News

was 30%. Committees and staff are following up on the suggestions such as preferences on communication, revamping of the website and newsletter, and potential topics for future Planning Partnership forums. Respondents indicated interest in participating in a number of committees, giving an indication that the volunteer spirit that is the catalyst of the Partnership is present and strong.

City of Harrison Invites Planning Partnership Officers to Make a Presentation

Dick Huddleston, Planning Partnership Chairman and Ron Miller, Planning Partnership Secretary made a presentation to the City of Harrison Council on Thursday, February 21, 2002. Elected officials of this community were interested on learning of the mission and initiatives of the Planning Partnership as well as the importance of participation.

Welcome New Planning Partnership Members!

The Planning Partnership welcomes new Jurisdiction Member: Village of North Bend, and Affiliate members: the Cincinnati Association and Jackson Township, Clermont County.

Planning Partnership Website: WE ARE MOVING!

The Planning Partnership has a new cyberspace address:

www.planningpartnership.org. The ListServ and the website will be hosted with a different server making it easier to locate, navigate and maintain, and ... advertisement free. We will no longer have random advertisements (that seemed to be increasingly inappropriate) added to our messages.

The Planning ListServ

PartnerNet -- the email discussion list (or listserv) maintained by the Planning Partnership --has a **new email address**: PlanningPartnerNet@planningpartnership.org

The list will keep members and affiliates informed about the activities of the Planning Partnership. The Planning PartnerNet is also a way for you to exchange information and ideas. All subscribers can ask questions, carry on discussions, and post materials from other sources they think would be of interest to the group. If you would like to change your email address or cancel your subscription, please send your request to Catalina.Landivar@rpc.hamilton-co.org.

Newsletter Editorial Committee Meets in April

Frank Davis and Adam Goetzman volunteered to work with Catalina Landivar in producing the June issue of "UPDATE". The editorial committee will meet on Tuesday, April 30, 2002 at the Green Township Lodge. Additional volunteers are welcome, and anyone interested in serving on this committee may contact Catalina Landivar at 946-4455.

MapShop

Christine Fox, GIS Specialist CAGIS, (946-4466) reports that the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission launched an enhanced mapping service called MapShop, an online database of maps about Hamilton County. Consisting of zoning, land use plan maps, and street maps, this service provides users a central location through which many of the maps distributed by the data products division of Regional Planning Commission may be viewed, alleviating the necessity of traveling to the Planning Commission offices. Furthermore, the website provides a medium through which hard copies of any map may be ordered. The MapShop service can be accessed at http://www.hamilton-co.org/hcrpc/RPC/Data_Products/mapshop/mapshop.htm.

Continue :

Community Character Act

EPW Committee Chairman Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT) is an original cosponsor. The Senate Environment and Public Works may hold a hearing on smart growth legislation, including the Community Character Act, later this year. We will keep you posted on the progress of this bill.

Source: American Planning Association Press Release -- March 6, 2002

Upcoming Events

March 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Organizational Strategy Committee	March 15	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Drake Conference Center Room H	Paulette Leeper 677-2631
COMPASS Action Team 1 Assuring Economic Prosperity	March 18	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Christine Nolan 946-4487
COMPASS Action Team 4 Balancing Development and The Environment	March 19	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Caroline Statkus 946-4461
COMPASS Action Team 3 Embracing Diversity and Equity	March 20	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Steve Johns 946-4457
Program Committee	March 20	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Wyoming Administration Building	Joanne Gerson 793-2648
COMPASS Action Team 2 Building Collaborative Decision-Making	March 21	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Paul Smiley 946-4469
Executive Committee	March 28	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room D	Bob Schuler 891-6293
Membership Committee	March 28	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Drake Conference Center Room D	Adam Goetzman 598-3060

April 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Annual Meeting	April 8	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Memorial Hall 1225 Elm Street	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
COMPASS Action Team 1 Assuring Economic Prosperity	April 8	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Christine Nolan 946-4487
COMPASS Action Team 4 Balancing Development and The Environment	April 9	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Caroline Statkus 946-4461
COMPASS Action Team 3 Embracing Diversity and Equity	April 10	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Steve Johns 946-4457
COMPASS Action Team 2 Building Collaborative Decision-Making	April 11	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Paul Smiley 946-4469
Planning Commissioners' Program Follow-up session on plans and processes	April 22	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Drake Conference Center Room G	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
Executive Committee	April 25	9:00 am – 11:00 am	TBA	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
Membership Committee	April 25	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	TBA	Adam Goetzman 598-3060
COMPASS Action Team 1 Assuring Economic Prosperity	April 29	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Christine Nolan 946-4487
COMPASS Action Team 4 Balancing Development and The Environment	April 30	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	237 Wm. H. Taft Road	Caroline Statkus 946-4461
Newsletter Editorial Committee	April 30	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Green Twp Lodge	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455

May 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
COMPASS Action Team 3 Embracing Diversity and Equity	May 1	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Steve Johns 946-4457
COMPASS Action Team 2 Building Collaborative Decision-Making	May 2	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA	Paul Smiley 946-4469
COMPASS Action Teams	May 21	5:30 pm – 9:00 pm	TBA	Caroline Statkus 946-4461
Executive Committee	May 23	9:00 am- 11:00 am	TBA	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
Membership Committee	May 23	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	TBA	Adam Goetzman 598-3060

Note: Schedule of meetings is subject to change. Please confirm with the listed contact person or check the Planning Partnership website:

www.planningpartnership.org .