

Plainwell Community Forum

Response Card

July 9th, 2009

Welcome to the Plainwell Community Forum! This forum is being held as part of the city's update to the community master plan. The questions below pertain to each of the large display boards located around the room. Following a short presentation, please take time to visit each board at your leisure and answer the related question. Remember to return this card to the welcome station before leaving. Thank you for participating.

1. Do the listed Planning Values reflect Plainwell's character and aspirations as a community? Do you have any changes or additions you'd recommend? Yes/No

- The exit from US 131 is a big issue; also landlords need to be held responsible for the look of their property.
- Yes- need to improve economic opportunities; need to encourage correct upkeep of historic neighborhoods.
- Yes - I would like to see Plainwell linked to Kalamazoo with regular mass transportation service.
- Add art, culture and entertainment opportunities, especially to attract and retain young professionals.
- Commercial shops (Meijer, Rite Aide, etc.) are all toward Otsego, this pushes people west and not to shop in Plainwell - need a grocery store.
- Yes.
- Some; need something to attract all age groups.
- Yes; 106th Street and US 131 interchange should be completed.
- Yes.

2. What are your opinions regarding the proposed concept for the M-89 Gateway area near US-131, (please explain)?

- This area is important to visitors coming off the US 131 ramps; we really need a positive visual. The "island" is crappy there and first impressions are remembered; also clean up the houses/yards in that stretch, especially the last house on the right, next to the river.
- Definitely need an eye-catching welcome structure coming into town; the residential area on south side of street (Allegan Street) is marginal.
- I am in favor of the concept but I wonder how feasible its development will be?
- A boulevard - do we have room; why?
- Must have - can use public art at the gateway.
- Need better traffic flow coming into Plainwell off the US 131 exit; restrictions are getting traffic to back up on the south side of M-89 (i.e. - gas station).
- Improvements are needed; concern that if a boulevard is put in traffic will still need to be addressed. Traffic going through downtown is backed up for a long way during busy times.
- Questionable concept; where does the land come from and at what cost?
- Clean up the houses along the road and take down the fence around one house.

3. What are your opinions regarding the proposed concept for Downtown Plainwell, (please explain)?

- Keep the character that our downtown has; have signs on US 131 that entice travelers to get off at Plainwell and EXPLORE!
- Restored Community Bank Building occupied by tea shop is a beautiful asset to the downtown.
- A wider definition of downtown is needed that includes successful businesses such as the Coffee Mill and Community Center. The character and charm of Plainwell are its pockets of services and businesses.
- What changes?
- Building owners must also be held responsible for upkeep - both outside and inside - to maintain properties!
- Yes - need to focus on creating a prosperous downtown; this will also help retain young people.
- M-89 intersection needs a focal point; traffic congestion is heavy.
- No bookstores or quilt stores are necessary - need a hardware store. Need to keep traffic moving in Plainwell so that it doesn't back up to Harding's.
- I like the idea of the river walk extension; not sure we need a library in the old Harding's; however, something that gathers people downtown is a good idea.
- Looks good on paper – where does the room to do it all come from?

4. What are your opinions regarding the proposed citywide concept for Plainwell, (please explain)?

- Sounds great; as a homeowner I would like to see ordinances enforced, especially for rentals - landlords need to be held responsible.
- Need to occupy empty buildings, e.g. the old Harding's store, lumber yard, etc. before attacking existing businesses such as auto sales downtown. Need more cooperation and shared services with Gun Plain Township.
- I'm not sure how I feel.
- Seems reasonable.
- Need to improve the M-89 downtown intersection with aesthetic enhancements as well as those dealing with safety and traffic considerations. Need a truck route - eliminate trucks through downtown.
- A trail in Plainwell that mimics a "Kent Trail" for bikes, rollerblades, runners, etc. An additional skate park for younger kids would be good too.
- I like the pedestrian-friendly idea and the idea of taking the Industrial Park traffic out to Miller Road.
- Some good ideas - lots of room for improvement. We need jobs and more career choices if we don't want to become a community of seniors only.

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