EASTPORT Neighborhood Plan

MICHIGAN CITY, IN – Residents and stakeholders of the Eastport neighborhood (neighborhood boundaries: Poplar Street, Vail Street, Springland Avenue, Roeske Avenue, and Barker Avenue) are developing a neighborhood quality of life plan with facilitation by Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED). This plan will identify what residents and stakeholders can do in collaboration with the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to make Eastport an even greater place to live, work, and recreate.

Over the last several months, feedback about the neighborhood has been received from a survey that was sent to the owner of each property in the neighborhood and interviews and meetings held with neighborhood residents, business owners, non-profit entities, elected/appointed officials, and the general public. A summary of what was shared at the various meetings was presented in June and visioning for the future of the neighborhood started earlier this month. Out of the Visioning Session discussions came five key topics – Business, Housing, Walkability, Civic Infrastructure, and Engagement/Pride.

Separate working groups are now being formed to focus on the five key topics individually. Each working group will formulate and prioritize goals and create action items to move that topic of the plan forward toward the overall end goal – a stronger neighborhood. If you consider Eastport your home – whether by living/working/owning property/etc. in the neighborhood – please take a look at the upcoming schedule and sign-up for a working group topic that interests you if you can commit yourself to the meeting times listed. The best time to get involved is now; no previous involvement is needed.

Anyone who may be interested in joining one of the five working groups should attend the upcoming training workshop:

WORKING GROUP TRAINING WORKSHOP
Wednesday, August 24, 2016, at 6:30 PM
in the Community Room of the new Michigan City Police Headquarters (1201 E. Michigan Blvd.)

Please park in the upper parking lot off of Cleveland Ave.

Individual working groups will have the following schedules with meetings to be held at the Emmet D. Wise Neighborhood Center (1702 E. Michigan Boulevard):

BUSINESS – The following four Wednesdays from 5:30pm til 6:30pm:
August 31, September 7, September 28, and October 12

HOUSING – The following four Wednesdays from 6:30pm til 7:30pm:
August 31, September 7, September 28, and October 12

WALKABILITY – The following four Wednesdays from 7:30pm til 8:30pm:
August 31, September 7, September 28, and October 12
CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE – The following four Thursdays from 5:30pm til 6:30pm:
September 1, September 8, September 29, October 13

ENGAGEMENT/PRIDE – The following four Thursdays from 6:30pm til 7:30pm:
September 1, September 8, September 29, October 13

Jessica Gage, Assistant City Planner, is compiling the lists of working group participants. Please email her at jgage@emichigancity.com (or call 219-873-1419 Extension 323) with your working group selection and contact information should you be interested in helping and can commit yourself to the meeting times listed above for the particular working group. There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet available from the Planning Department if you would like more information before signing up. This information is also available on the city’s website at www.emichigancity.com. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Michigan City does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Please place call to 219-873-1419 Extension 323 forty-eight hours prior to the meeting time for assistance with translation or accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made upon a timely request.
Eastport Working Group FAQ

1. What are the working groups for Eastport?
   There are 5 working groups:
   - Business
   - Housing
   - Walkability
   - Civic Infrastructure
   - Engagement/Pride

2. Who is needed to serve on working groups?
   There should be 8-12 people on each working group and the groups need a chairperson. Each working group should include residents (informal leaders) and formal leaders from the community with special knowledge about the topic. The working groups need people with passion about the topic and knowledge of the neighborhood and the larger community systems.

3. How many times will the working groups meet?
   Each group will meet four times in addition to a large training workshop in the beginning to learn about the role of the working groups, goal writing, and action planning. Each meeting will be about an hour and have a specific purpose.

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4. What if I can’t make all the meetings?
   We would still love your participation in the working groups, but if you know you are going to miss two or more you might want to think of other ways to contribute to making Eastport great.

5. Will there be work to do in between?
   Yes, but not too much. We will be asking people to spend 30 minutes working on their group’s activities between meetings. With the meeting and the work in between we anticipate about 90
minutes commitment per week.

6. What is the purpose of each meeting?
The training workshop will be an overview of the working groups, setting goals, and action planning and will include all of the working groups. After that the working groups will meet individually. The first meeting will be to brainstorm the topic and data/information needs, the second to review the data and draft goals, the third to refine the goals and draft action plans, and the fourth to review and refine the action plans.

7. What will the working group produce at the end?
Each group will have 2-4 goals, with an action plan for each goal. The action plans will include a responsible party, timeline, and performance measure for each action. The timeline will be in the next 10 years.

8. How does the working group activity fit in the larger process?
All of the goals and action plans will be combined with the vision statement, data and maps, and information from the interviews, focus groups, and surveys to create a draft neighborhood plan. The plan will be available for review and comment before it goes to the city for adoption.
Eastport Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

Walk, bike, or drive the neighborhood and identify things in the neighborhood that match with the following questions and write down your response. Email/mail your responses to Rose Scovel, Indiana Association for Community Economic Development, rscovel@iaced.org, 202 East Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Pictures are welcome.

What makes you proud to live in Eastport?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What is your favorite place in Eastport?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Other than home is there a place in Eastport where you spend a lot of time? Where?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What type of place (park, community center, coffee shop, club, restaurant, etc.) would you spend a lot of time at if it existed in Eastport?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What change would make you most excited about living in Eastport?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________