MIDTOWN Neighborhood Plan

Michigan City, IN – The Midtown Neighborhood of Michigan City is in the process of deciding what it needs to do to strengthen the neighborhood. The area for consideration is 11th Street to the north, the railroad tracks near Ames Field to the south, the railroad tracks west of Ohio Street to the west and Poplar/Tilden Streets to the east.

The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development and the City of Michigan City are serving as facilitators in this planning process which started last fall.

Out of the Visioning Session held in January came five key topics – Recreation, Housing, Business (including nightlife), Infrastructure, and Identity. Working groups of resident/business/non-profit/city volunteers are now being formed to focus on each of the five key topics. The five working groups will formulate and prioritize goals and create action items for the implementation plan for the Midtown neighborhood.

If you consider Midtown 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 if you can commit yourself to the meeting times for the working group in which you feel you would be most helpful to serve.

All meetings will be in St. Francis Hall (basement of hospital) unless noted otherwise.

**WORKING GROUP WORKSHOP** – this is training for ALL WORKING GROUPS
Wednesday, March 23rd
5:30pm for about 90 minutes
St. Francis Hall (basement of Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer Street, MC)

**RECREATION Working Group** – The following four Wednesdays from 5:30pm til 6:30pm – April 13, April 27, May 11, and May 25
HOUSING Working Group – The following four Wednesdays from 6:30pm til 7:30pm – April 13, April 27, May 11, and May 25

BUSINESS (including nightlife) Working Group – The following four Wednesdays from 7:30pm til 8:30pm – April 13, April 27, May 11, and May 25

INFRASTRUCTURE Working Group – The following four Thursdays from 5:30pm til 6:30pm – April 14, April 28 (room booked, meeting at City Hall), May 12, and May 26

IDENTITY Working Group – The following four Thursdays from 6:30pm til 7:30pm – April 14, April 28 (room booked, meeting at City Hall), May 12, and May 26

Jessica Gage, Assistant City Planner, is compiling the lists of working group participants. Please email her at jgage@emichigancity.com with your working group selection should you be interested in helping to strengthen the Midtown Neighborhood. 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.
Midtown Michigan City Working Group FAQ

1. What are the working groups for Midtown?
   There are 5 working groups:
   - Infrastructure
   - Recreation
   - Business (including nightlife)
   - Housing
   - Identity

2. Who is needed to serve on working groups?
   There should be 8-12 people on each working group and the groups need a chair person. 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 workshop in the beginning to learn about the role of the working groups, goal writing, and action planning. We will meet between the beginning of March and the end of April. Each meeting will be about an hour and have a specific purpose.

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 Midtown 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 first meeting 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.