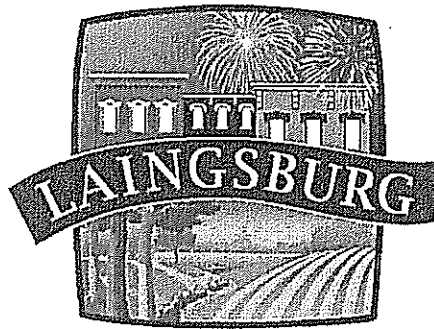


Laingsburg DDA
Community Improvements



Discover ☆ Enjoy ☆ Celebrate!

July 31, 2017

Background

The 2010 Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) Community Improvement Priorities Plan (“Plan”) was developed to provide the DDA with a list of public improvement projects to improve the image, function and sustainability of the community. Projects were identified based on information gathered from several sources. The “Project Consultant” for the Plan included staff from Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc. (“LAP”), Lori Strom and Jody Frank. The Project Consultant gathered community input through a community survey distributed during “Movies in the Park” events, at a public workshop and made available at the City Hall; meetings with City staff and the DDA throughout the process; and reviewed the existing Parks and Recreation Plan, Master Plan, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Laingsburg Business Association Strategic Plan.

In 2017 the Laingsburg DDA Community Improvement Plan was reviewed and for consistency with the most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Comprehensive Master Plan, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Laingsburg Business Association Strategic Plan. This was done in order to ensure that the identified projects within those plans met with the DDA’s current Goals and Objectives as provided for in the DDA’s Plan.

Several objectives were identified based on input from the DDA and City staff, as well as: reviewing issues of health, safety, welfare; compliance to federal standards; availability of matching grant funds; return on investment; and the Consultants professional opinion. The following objectives are listed in the Consultants suggested order of priority, but it should be noted that the order is flexible dependent on internal and external factors that may change the priority, including but not limited to available funding and public need/interest. **NOTE THAT IN SOME CASES THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES LISTED MAY BE MARKED AS COMPLETED. THIS ALLOWS THE DDA THE ABILITY TO TRACK PROGRESS.**

Objectives

1) **Promotion, Marketing and Way Finding Signs (continuous) \$87,500**

This task received a high priority because promotion and marketing is necessary in order to encourage visitors and increase commerce in the City. Interest was expressed by the DDA and LBCA and it appears that it can be done for a relatively low cost for the return gained on the investment.

The initiation of a comprehensive marketing program should typically coincide with any civic improvements and it is recommended the City start as soon as possible. It is imperative that the DDA coordinate with other organizations within the community such as the LBCA and other organizations that promote business in the DDA district such as the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

A program of community branding (**Completed 2011**), advertising (**Continuous**), events in the City and DDA projects, press events, promotions (ex: coupons, event calendars), e-newsletters

and website cross-marketing with the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce help to market Laingsburg to nearby cities and communities.

Way finding signs were a high priority for the community as well as the DDA, LBCA and the City. They are another relatively low-cost improvement with immediate impact. Several types of sign templates would need to be developed including welcome and or welcome/civic group recognition signs, directional, and possibly facility identification signs. **(Completed 2013)**

Way Finding Signs - The City has two (2) existing welcome signs at the borders that are in good condition, but could be enhanced. There are also two (2) civic group signs at the borders of the City that do not complement the welcome signs and are in need of repair. One option would be to install two (2) new signs that incorporate a welcome slogan and for civic groups to replace the four (4) existing signs. The second option would be to keep the two (2) existing welcome signs and replace the civic group signs if desired with a complementary sign in close proximity to the welcome sign. **(Completed 2013)**

Directional signs will provide guidance to the downtown, schools, parks, City facilities and other difficult to locate facilities. They will not only increase awareness of amenities, but likely increase traffic to local businesses. The sign templates that are developed will set or reinforce an existing style or brand for Laingsburg. They should complement the other amenity standards for a cohesive look and feel to the downtown. **(Completed 2013)**

The DDA determined that they would like to proceed with a grant application to the USDA for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant. The grant allows for the City of Laingsburg to apply for the grant without a monetary match requirement. The following market program will be pursued under this grant. **(Phase I and Phase II were funded in 2011 & 2012)**

Market Program Description

The purpose of the proposed marketing program is to create a unified image and message in order to promote the community's assets and wares. Implementation of the program will begin through signage and other forms of promotion that should lead to increasing economic development and redevelopment in the downtown development district and in the City as a whole.

Phase I Community Input and Brand Development

Community Input will be gathered through workshops, stakeholder interviews and research on existing City plans to identify the unique characteristics of the community. Based upon the community and DDA input, possible logos and positioning statements will be created and reviewed by the DDA. One logo will be chosen with an appropriate positioning statement for use in the DDA's marketing campaigns and in the overall marketing strategy.

Phase II Marketing Development

The second phase of the project will include the development of a Marketing Plan of Action consisting of: identifiable objectives, tactics, and a budget focused on selling the community's brand and assets in the mid-Michigan/Lansing region and throughout the Midwest market place. Some of the following actions are being considered:

1. Hosting a travel writers' event.
2. Increasing the number of feature articles in other print media (e.g., AAA's *Michigan Living* and *Midwest Living*).
3. Producing and placing seasonal television advertising in regional markets such as Lansing, Flint, Alma, Howell, Owosso, Durand and St. Johns to encourage daytrips to the City and surrounding area, i.e. Sleepy Hollow State Park, Rose Lake State Preserve and other private campgrounds.
4. Contacting targeted statewide and regional organizations (e.g., historical societies) to help spread the word.
5. Expanding print advertising in regional organizations (e.g., Grand Rapids Magazine, Lansing Magazine, Flint and others). **(Currently Shiawassee County Visitors Guide placed around the State at Welcome Centers)**
6. Establish buy-in by Laingsburg businesses in order to ensure a continuing marketing program. **(Continuous)**
7. Advertising toll-free phone number and either monitoring it daily or having a detailed message and a promise that some will contact callers within 24 hours.
8. Creating, revising and expanding website information. This may include video flash and a complete redesign of the site to be more appealing visually and to provide more customer friendly navigation and optimal positioning on the web. **(Updated City Hosted Website in 2013 – Continuous)**
9. Purchasing of billboard signage.
10. Pursuing joint promotion efforts with neighboring communities.
11. Updating/revising all existing promotional literature. **(2012-2013 Updated Logo and Advertising)**
12. Designing and promoting additional special events (e.g., farmers market, Sidewalk Days, Movies in the Park, Historical Days, Springtime Festival and Pancake Breakfast) **(Continuous)**
13. Designing and promoting a mixer between developers (residential and commercial) and City staff. This event should be established and repeated, as needed, in order to promote mixed-use developments in the downtown district. Ordinance amendments established in 2017 allow mixed-use development by right in the C-1 District. **(Continuous)**

Phase II Development of Signage Program

Included in Phase II is the development and implementation of a signage program based upon the brand and logo designs. The sign program will include:

1. Sign design - sign hierarchy, gateway entry signs, directory signs with business marquee, directional signs, interpretive signs, street signs; sign location **(Completed 2013)**
2. Sign locations - Locations will be identified based upon way-finding principles. Specific property ownership identification, easements, land purchases, etc. will be suggested in this phase. **(Completed 2013)**
3. Landscape Plans will be included in the design of each sign location to enhance the signs and provide four-season interest for viewers. **(Completed 2013)**
4. Construction Drawings will be provided. Detailed construction drawings calling for the materials, thicknesses, color applications, mounting, pole specifications, installation, coordination of bidding to contractors etc. will be provided once items 1 and 2 above are completed. **(Completed 2013)**

Phase III Marketing Implementation

Phase III is the continuing implementation of the branding and signage programs and seeing the outcome of the planning in real products that will help to capture new patrons and visitors to Laingsburg. Included in this phase are allocations for:

1. Sign construction site acquisition, development and installation
2. Creation of marketing/informational website
3. Other marketing that will create awareness, drive potential customers and patrons to the website for more information--television and/or radio advertising; print advertising, etc.
4. The scope and continuation of these actions will be dependent upon the resources available from local businesses, local taxing units, grants and other contributions. This effort will continue over the long term with funds generated by the DDA to further marketing efforts.

Potential Funds: USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant

<i>Phase I:</i>	<i>\$18,000 –Awarded/Implemented (2011)</i>
<i>Phase II:</i>	<i>\$25,000 – Awarded/Implemented (2012)</i>
<i>Phase III:</i>	<i><u>\$44,500 – USDA no longer funding</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$87,500</i>

<i>Laingsburg Match (10%):</i>	<i>\$ 8,750 Actual\$10,000</i>
<i>Grant Request (90%):</i>	<i><u>\$78,750 Actual \$43,000</u></i>
<i>Project Total:</i>	<i>\$87,500 Actual \$53,000</i>

1) Phase III at McClintock Park – Entertainment Venue **\$232,141**

The entertainment venue at McClintock Park is the last phase of the park master plan and is a high priority for the community. Despite the local support to complete this project, funding may be difficult to obtain. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) grant funding is typically sought for parks and recreation projects of this type. The City has received several grants for this park through the MDNRE in the past and because the project does not

involve accessibility to recreation and natural resources it is not likely to be a high priority project to the MDNRE.

The City may still wish to pursue an MDNRE Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and/or other sources as well. In the future, this project may also be combined with the land acquisition **(Completed purchase only in 2011)** of an adjacent parcel of land and implementation of basketball courts.

Exhibit: McClintock Park Phase III – Option A and B

Potential Matching Funds: MDNRE Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Shiawassee Community Foundation, Michigan Community Foundation, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, MEDC Crowd Sourcing and local dance studios.

<i>Laingsburg Match (25%):</i>	<i>\$ 58,035 (DDA Portion \$29,000) (City Portion \$29,035)</i>
<i>Grant Request (75%):</i>	<u><i>\$174,106</i></u>
<i>Project Total:</i>	<i>\$232,141</i>

2) Hogsback Park Master Plan \$457,766

Hogsback Park is located within the DDA boundaries. City property that contains the wastewater treatment lagoons is located to the west of Hogsback Park and is outside the DDA boundaries. The public expressed interest in developing the sites to include trails and public access to the Looking Glass River. At this time, the priority is to develop a park master plan for the Hogsback Park located within the DDA boundaries.

A conceptual park plan was developed with the thought that a City/School partnership could be formed to utilize the park for a nature study area because of the close proximity to the Middle School/Preschool. In the future, a connection could be made to the adjacent City land for additional trail use. Because the creation of this park will help the community gain access to natural areas and provide educational opportunities for the public, it is likely to qualify for support through the MDNRE as well as various foundations looking to provide access to nature education.

Exhibit: Hogsback Park Plan

Potential Matching Funds: MDNRE LWCF, MDNRE Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Laingsburg School District, Shiawassee Regional Education Service District, Shiawassee Community Foundation, Michigan Community Foundation, Lions Club and Kiwanis Club.

<i>Laingsburg Match (25%):</i>	<i>\$114,442 (DDA 100%)</i>
<i>Grant Request (75%):</i>	<u><i>\$343,324</i></u>
<i>Total Cost:</i>	<i>\$457,766</i>

3) Farmers Market \$165,000

The LBCA currently runs a farmer's market along Roosevelt Row on Wednesday evenings (as of 2011) during the summer. 2010 was the first year for the market and per the community survey the residents support the market and would like to see expanded hours. Improvements to the market would include an open-air shelter, parking and space for tented booths. The shelter would allow for expanded use not only for the market, but also community events.

Potential Matching Funds: USDA Rural Economic Development Grant
MEDC Farm to Food Program, Farmers Market Program:

<i>Laingsburg Match (15%):</i>	<i>\$ 24,750 (LBCA, City & DDA)</i>
<i>Grant Request:</i>	<i><u>\$140,250</u></i>
<i>Total Cost:</i>	<i>\$165,000</i>

4) McClintock Park

- Additional skate park equipment
- Additional playground equipment

5) Expansion of Memorial Park

- Develop vacant City owned property and incorporate the current Memorial in the concept. Ensure structure design expands and enhances Memorial Park by providing sitting areas (benches, tables, etc.).
- Potential public parking with a pocket park

6) Standards for Amenities In-House

Benches were identified as a priority during the planning stage, but during the process the City and service organizations installed several benches along Grand River eliminating the need to include locating benches as a priority. Therefore, it should be a priority to establish standards for amenities that are placed in the DDA boundaries. This would include items such as benches being the same style and surface/in-ground mounted, trash receptacles and pavement patterns.

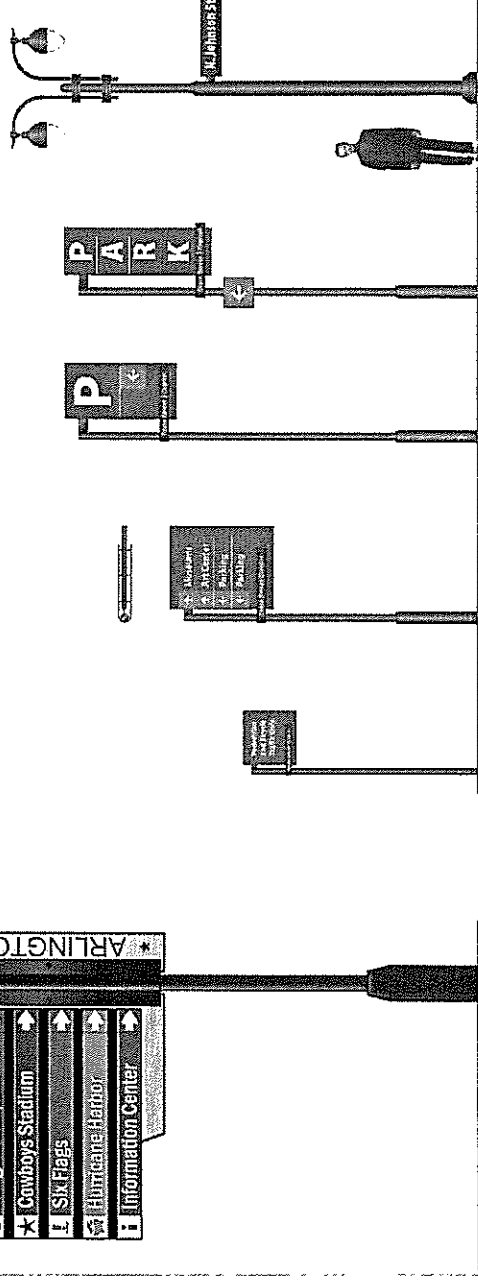
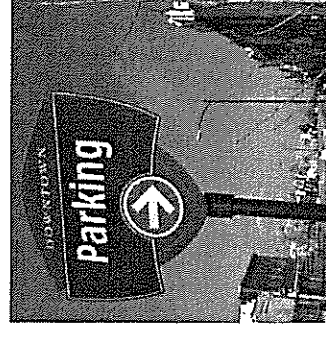
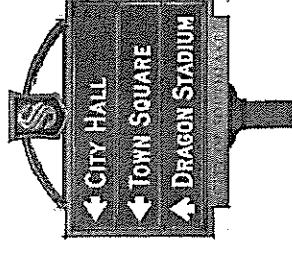
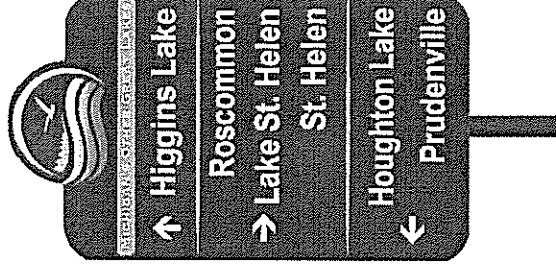
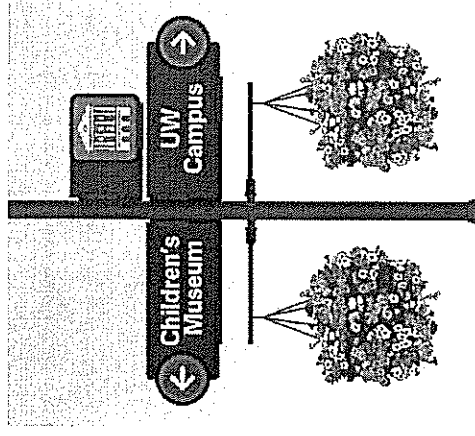
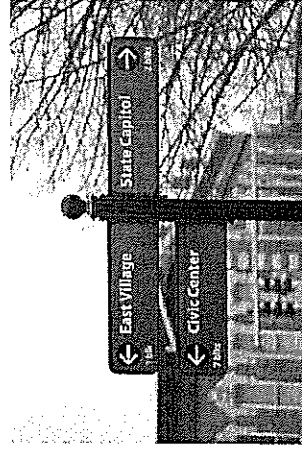
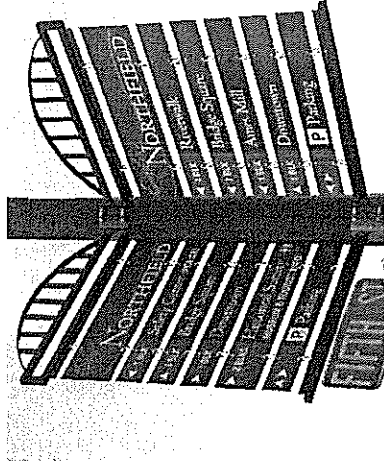
7) Safe Routes to School Completed a Grant in 2015

Laingsburg is prioritizing pedestrian oriented development in the Downtown District. The City will take steps to improve the pedestrian infrastructure and overall walkability of the City by participating in the Safe-Routes-to-School program. This can be accomplished by:

- Forming a team of City and School District officials to identify popular walking routes used by children to get to school.
- Assessing these walking routes for their quality and safety.
- Developing a plan to eliminate or reduce identified barriers along subject routes.

Appendix

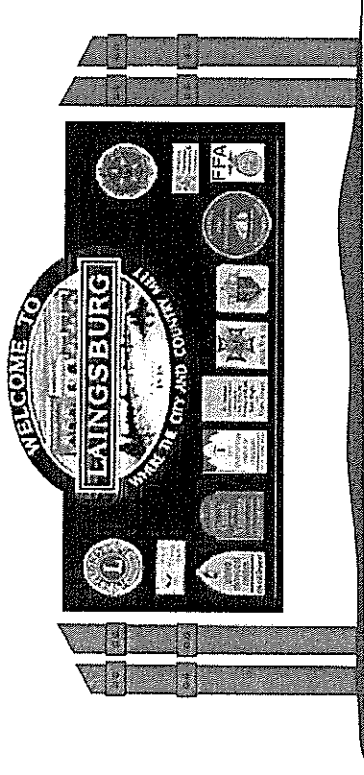
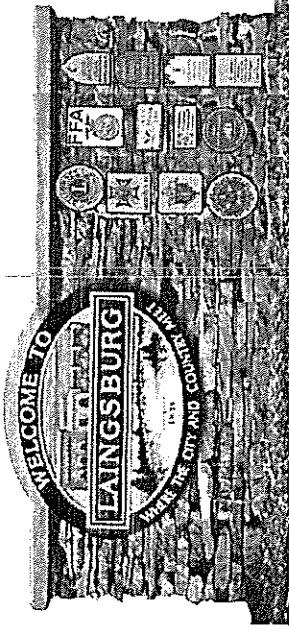
Way finding Sign Examples



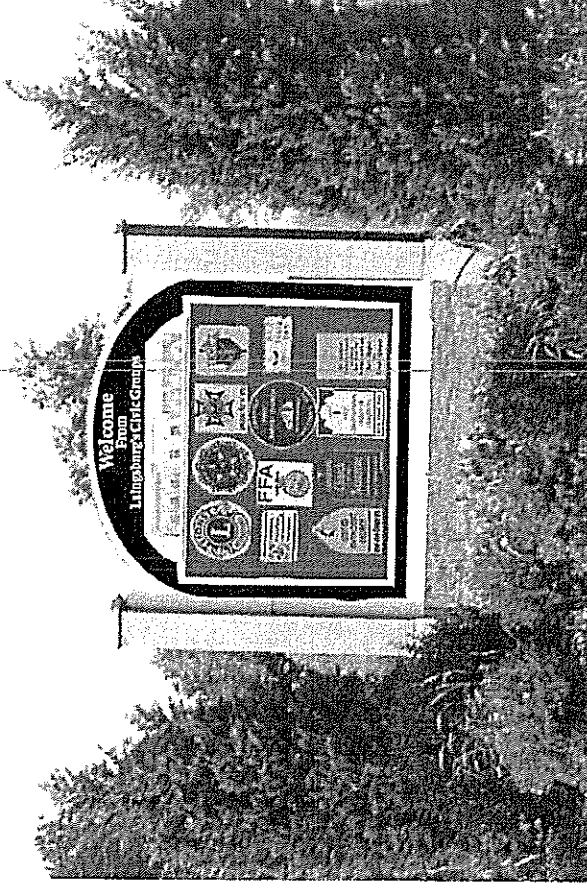
Laingsburg DDA

Community Improvement Objectives

Welcome/Way finding Sign Examples
Combined Welcome and Civic Group Signs



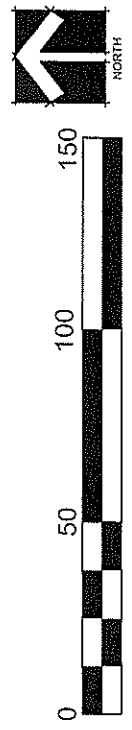
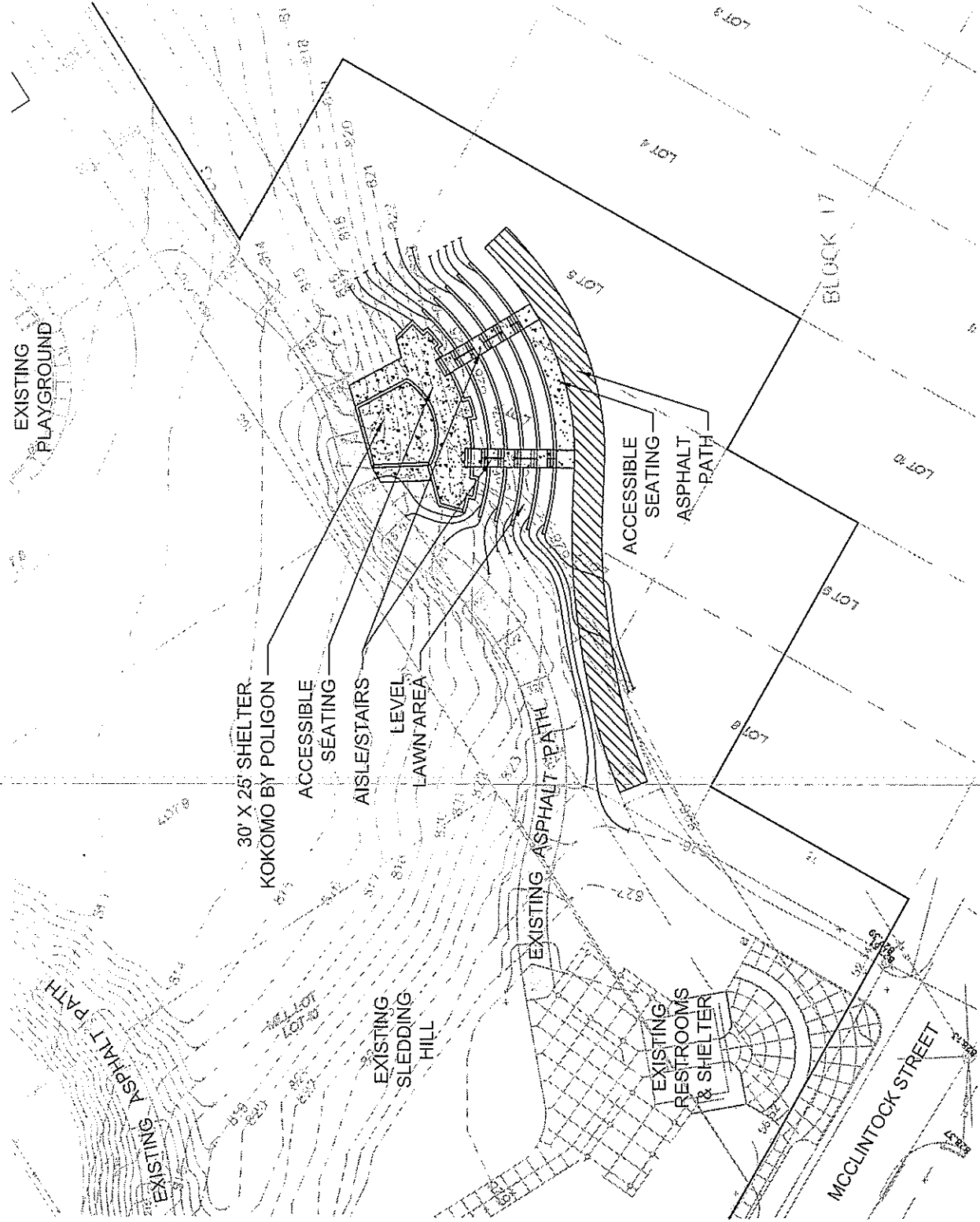
Complimentary Civic Group Signs



Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc.

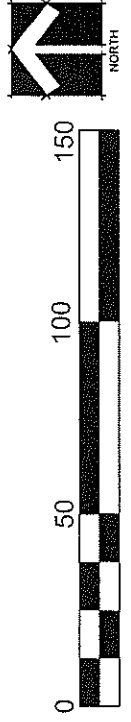
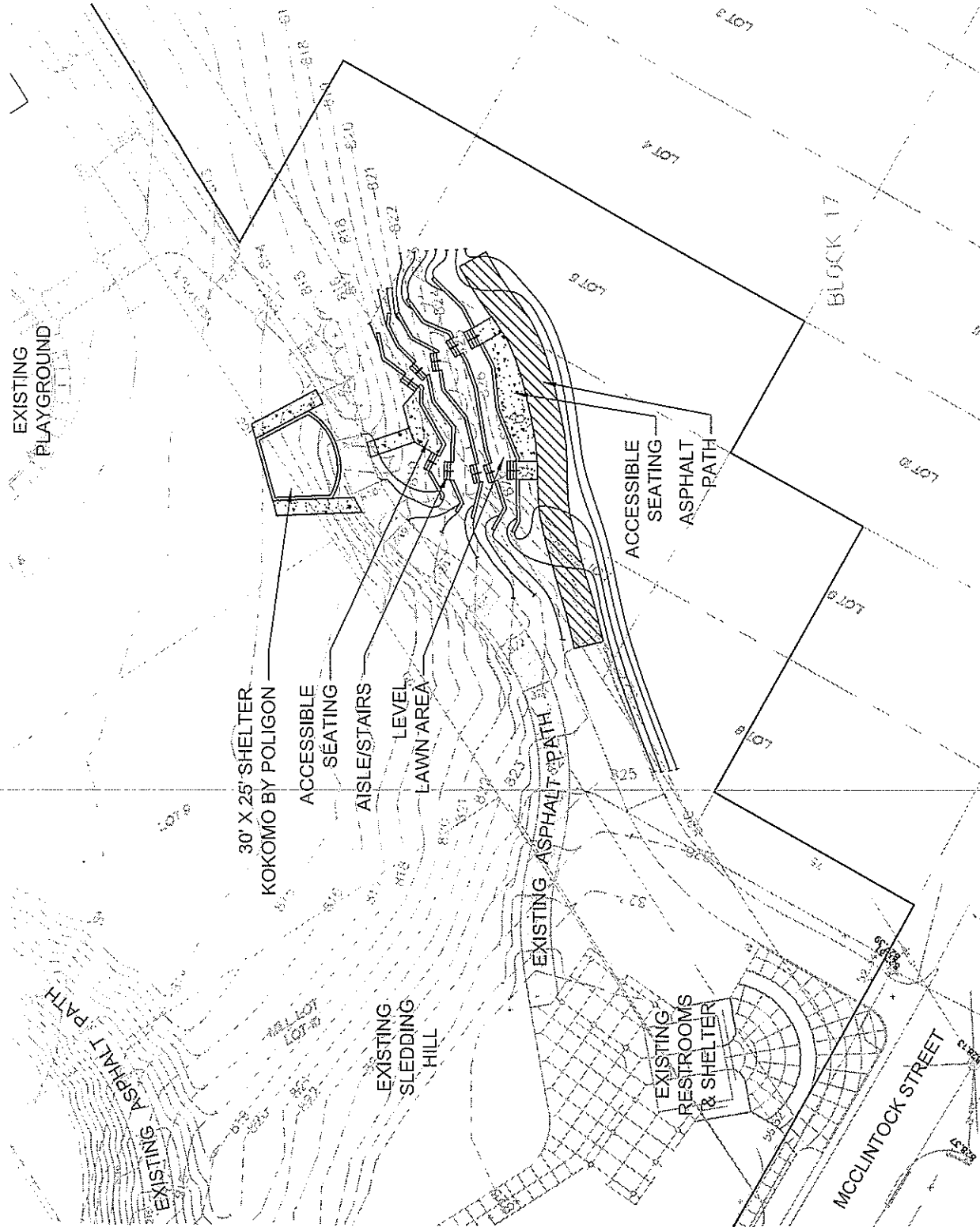
LEGEND:

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- PROPOSED CONTOUR
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED CONCRETE
- PROPOSED ASPHALT
- PROPOSED RETAINING WALL



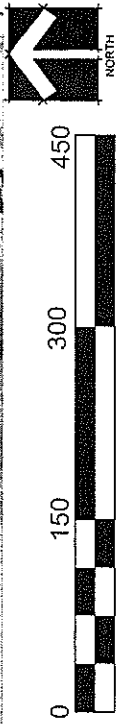
LEGEND:

- EXISTING CONTOUR
- PROPOSED CONTOUR
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED CONCRETE
- PROPOSED ASPHALT
- PROPOSED RETAINING WALL



OPTION B

MCCLINTOCK PARK AMPHITHEATER
CITY OF LAINGSBURG



HOGSBACK PARK
CITY OF LAINGSBURG

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS, INC.
1000 N. WOODHULL RD.
LAINGSBURG, MD 21753
(410) 326-1234
www.landscapemasters.com

**LAINGSBURG DDA
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS
October 25, 2010**

The following synopsis of community need is based on a comparison to the existing Laingsburg City-Wide Master Plan, Laingsburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Laingsburg DDA Community Improvements Survey. The following list does not indicate priority.

I. General Maintenance

Community members are concerned with blighted commercial and residential buildings and vacant storefronts. (MP: pg2, G&O; CIS: TP).

II. Development

A. Parks and Recreation

1. *Importance* - Parks and Recreation are an important land use in the City and the community wants to continue expanding these uses and to connect these uses with the downtown, residential areas and schools. (MP: pg 1, G&O and CED G3 Obj a).
2. *Basketball* – The community wants a basketball facility at or adjacent to McClintock Park. (PRP, G2, obj 7; CIS PI)
3. *Entertainment Venue* – The community wants an entertainment venue such as an amphitheater, gazebo or band shell at McClintock Park. (PRP G2, obj 6; CIS PI)
4. *Water Access* – Develop a water access site along the Looking Glass River in Hogsback Park. (PRP: G3, obj 3; CIS: PI)
5. *Entertainment Space* – Space for entertainment utilizing the space on and around Roosevelt Row. (PRP G3, obj 7).

B. Non-Motorized Transportation

1. *City-Wide Connections* – The community feels that it is important to connect residential neighborhoods, schools, parks and businesses with non-motorized routes by improving existing pathways (sidewalks) and building new ones.
~~(MP: LUG, G1, Obj D and PSI, G1, obj a; PRP: G2, obj 1; CIS: TP)~~
2. *Bates Scout Park to Hogsback Park* (PRP: G3, obj 1)
3. *McClintock Park to Pine Hills Golf Course* (PRP: G3, obj 2)
4. *Hogsback Park* (PRP: G3, obj 5)

C. Streetscape

1. *Coordinated Vision and elements* – Develop a coordinated vision for downtown streetscape as new development is implemented incorporating elements such as seating, landscaping and planters, lighting, artwork/murals. (MP: LUG, G1, obj e; CIS AID)

D. Downtown Development/Redevelopment

1. *Redevelopment and maintenance of historical significance* – (MP: Pg. 2, G&O; LUG, G2, obj a)
2. *Regional Draw* – Encourage, fund and pursue public investment in the downtown as a regional services area including public buildings (such as community center, library and municipal parking) and services (such as parks and recreation, commercial recreation, farmers market and events). (MP: LUG, G2, Obj C; CED G1, obj D, CED G2, Obj C and PSI, G2 obj a; CIS: FM, E, TP)

E. Signs

1. *Way Finding* - Develop a way finding program that makes it easy for those visiting the City to get around with ease and locate amenities such as schools, parks, public buildings and municipal parking. (MP CED G2, obj b; PRP: G2, obj 3; CIS TP).
2. *Historical/Interpretive* – Identify and interpret local history on signs to educate and inform citizens and visitors to the City. (CIS TP).

III. **Promotion and Marketing**

Promote and market the City using a wide-variety of tools including the internet, brochures, fliers and through community and school based events, etc. (MP CED G2, obj A; CIS)

Source Abbreviations:

MP = Laingsburg City-Wide Master Plan

PRP = Laingsburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan

CIS = Laingsburg DDA Community Improvement Survey

Pg = Page

G&O = Goals and Objectives

G= Goals

Obj = Objective

TP = Top Priorities

PI = Park Improvements

CED = Community Economic Development

LUG = Land Use and Growth

PSI = Public Service and Infrastructure

AID = Aesthetic Improvements Downtown)

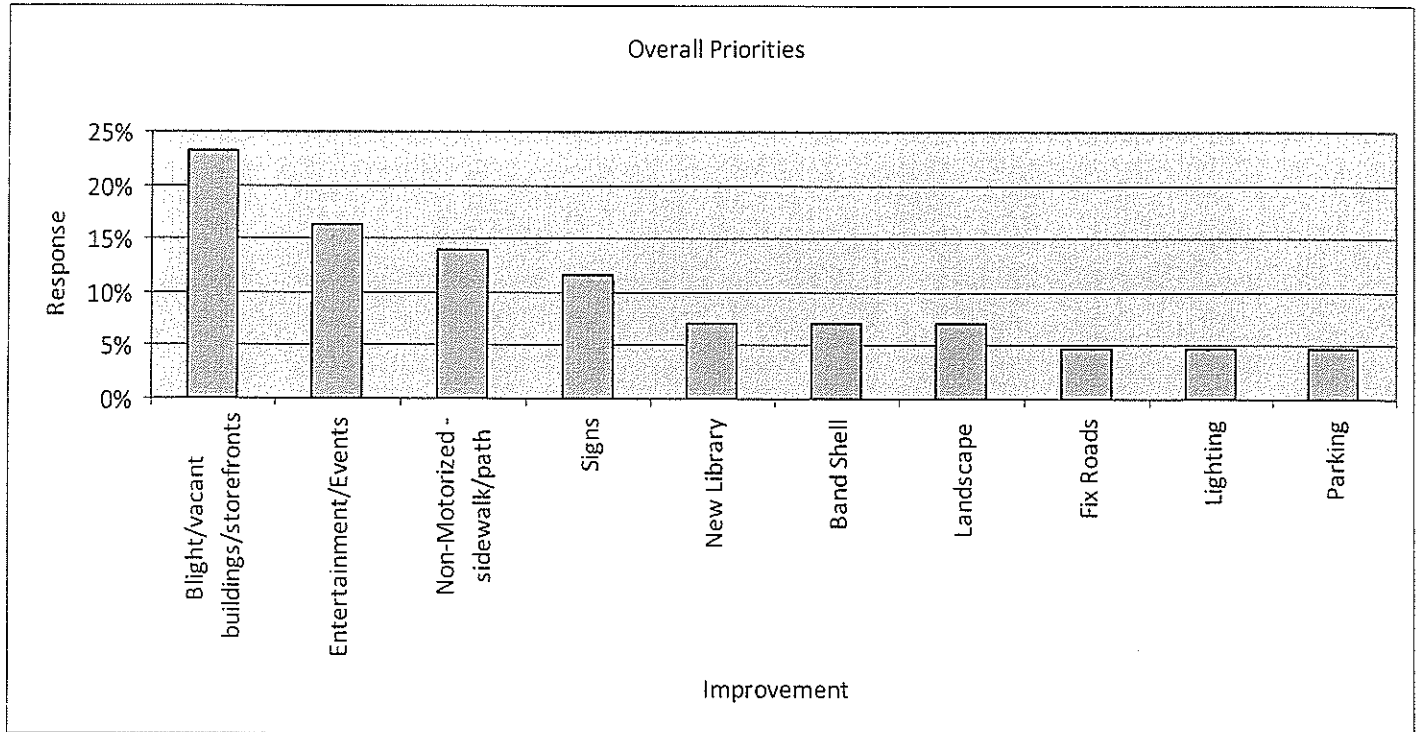
FM = Farmers Market

E= Events

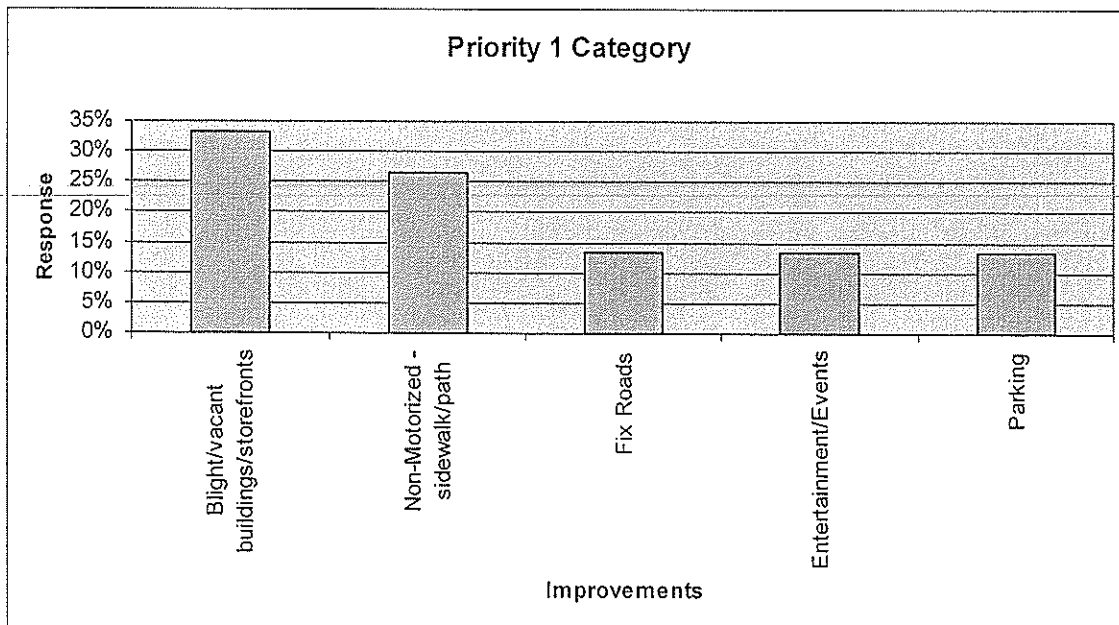
CITY OF LAINGSBURG DDA
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS
INPUT SUMMARY

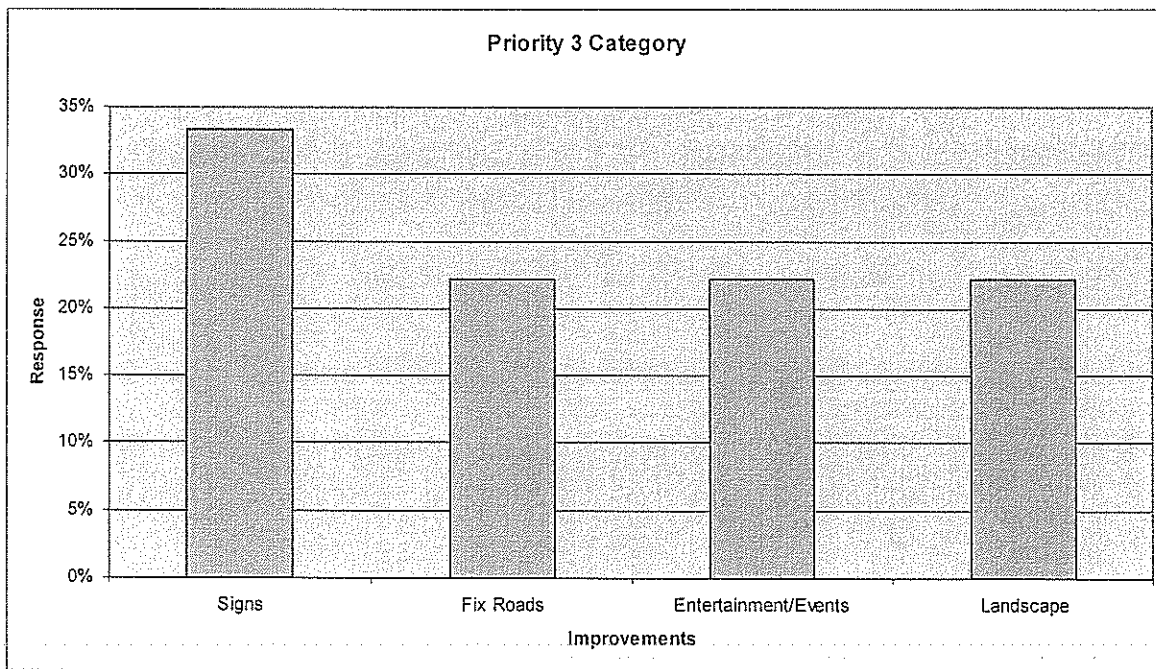
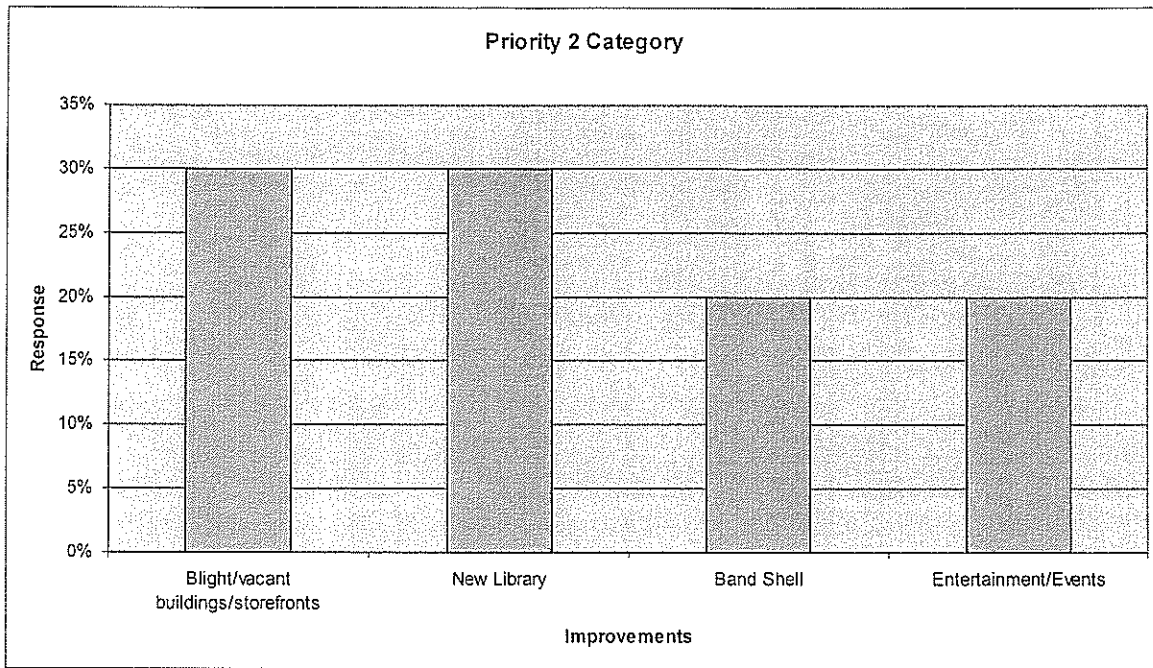
Top 5 Suggestions for Downtown

Overall Priorities – Overall priorities were determined by combining all of the answers collected for all priorities.

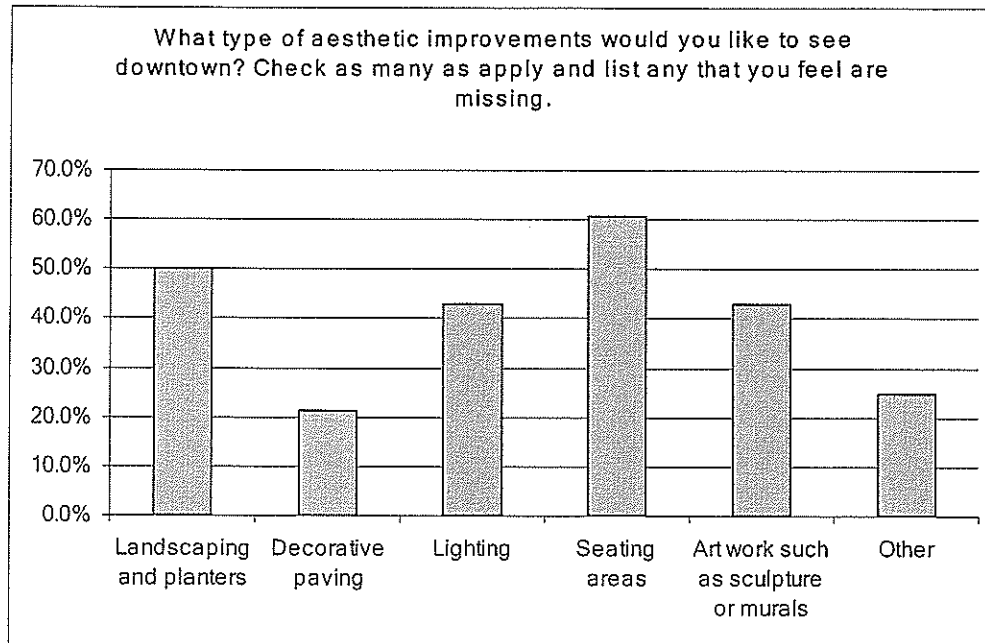


Numbered Priorities – The response by priority category were tallied and the Priority 1 to 3 categories are shown.





Aesthetic Improvements Downtown



Other comments included:

Eliminate blight, signage, facade improvements to back of buildings

Facade improvements

Signs that are decorative

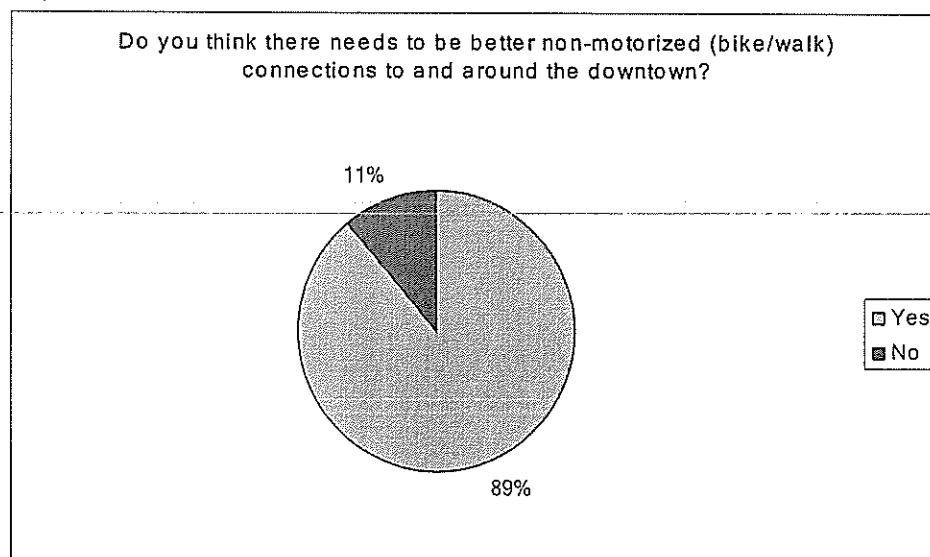
Just better upkeep of downtown buildings

Strict enforcement of lawns being mowed

Band shell, a fitness trail with exercise stations

Speaker system – hard to hear on Roosevelt Row

Non-motorized Transportation



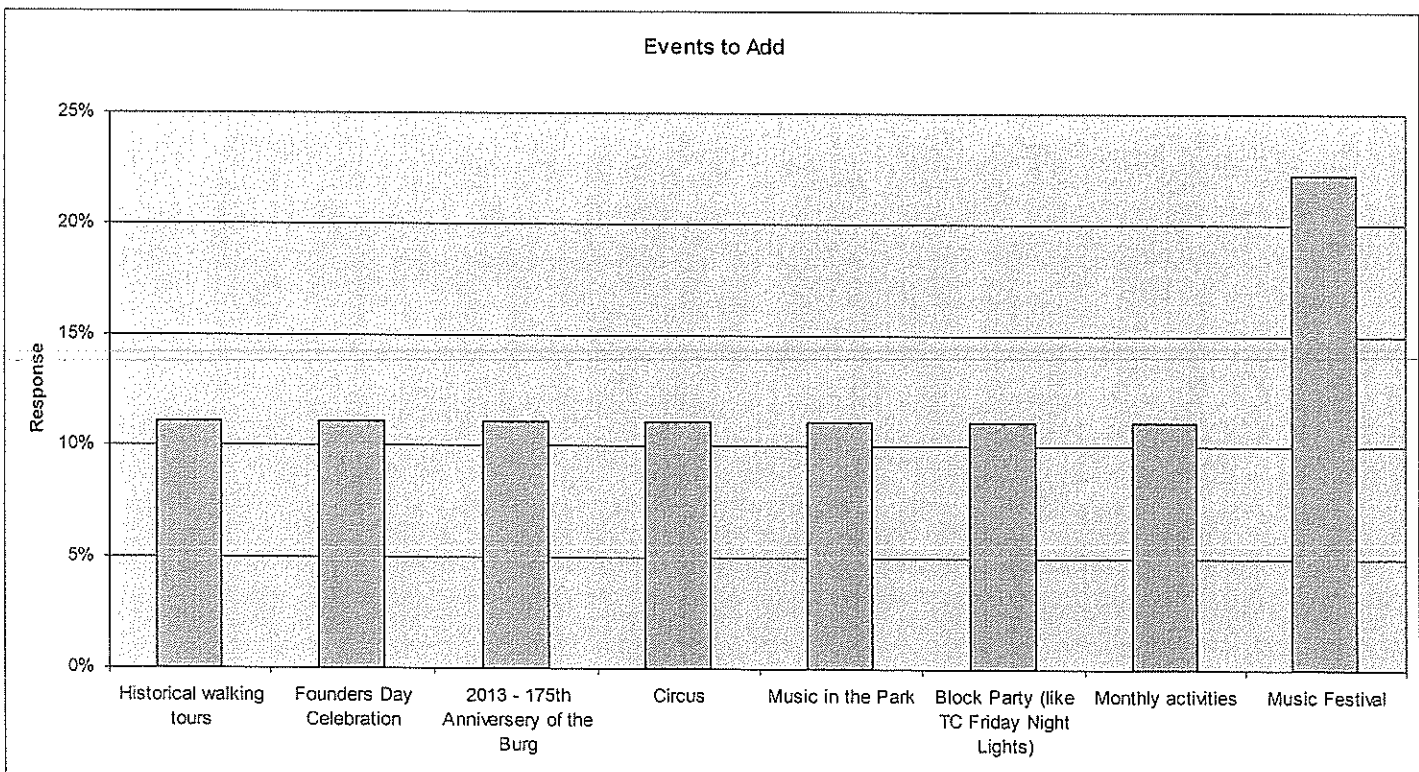
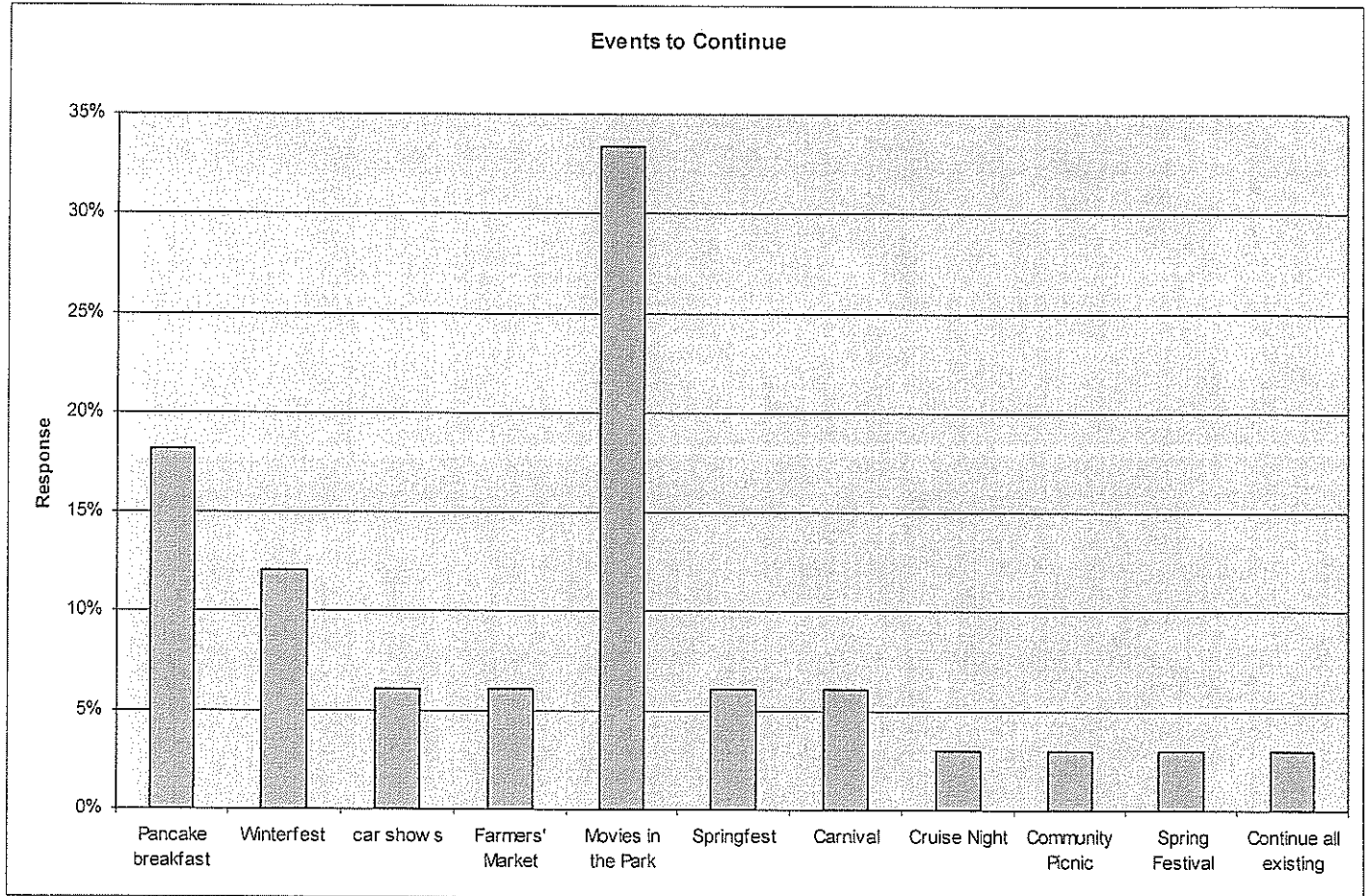
Where to improve or include new non-motorized connections:

Connect schools/housing/recreation/business	33%
Downtown to Grand River/Woodbury Rd	13%
To and from Lakes	8%
Sleepy Hollow	4%
More sidewalks/repairs to existing	4%
Old railroad	4%
In residential subdivisions	4%
Bike lanes Woodbury and Grand River	4%
Marked Trails	4%
Dr. Gurdens	4%
Baptist Church	4%
Along Church St.	4%
To Golf Course	4%
Sidewalk south side N. Laingsburg Rd.	4%

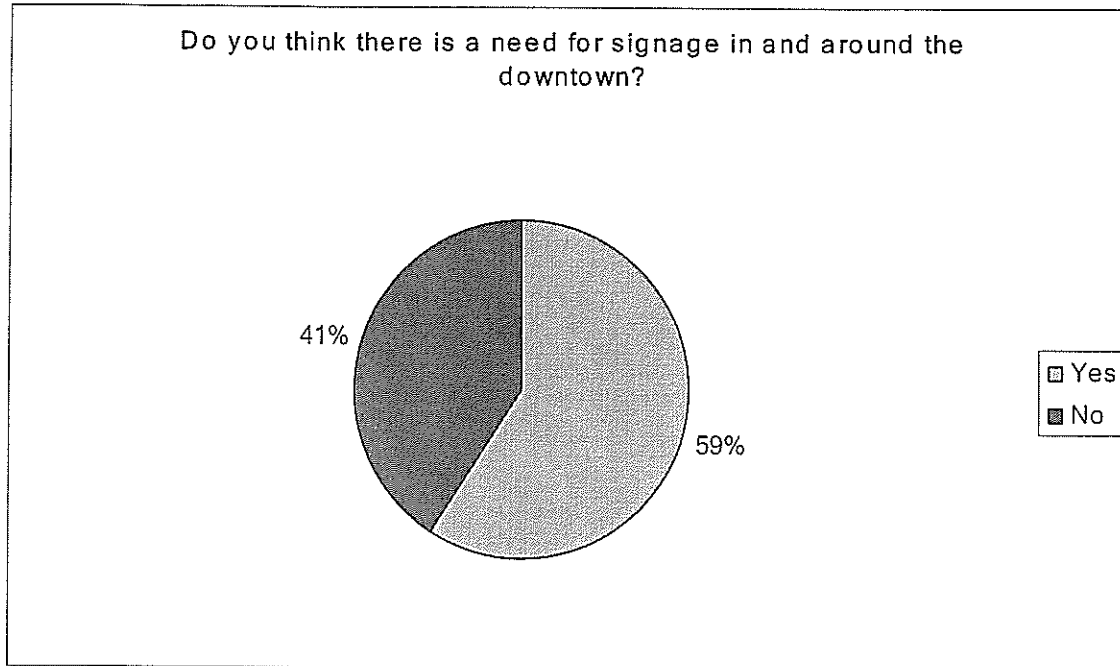
Park Improvements

Park	Improvement	Response
Hogsback Park	Any Park - More lights, horse access, community pool	1
	Bug control	1
	Sledding hill, hiking trail to Looking Glass	1
McClintock Park	Any Park - More lights, horse access, community pool	1
	More parking	1
	Amphitheater for concerts/performance	3
	Bug control	1
	More picnic tables	1
	Children's Garden / Fountain Area, Basketball courts	1
	Basketball courts	3
	Circuits (exercise)	1
	Lighting	1
	Sand play	1
	More movies in the park	1
	Fitness trail incorporating downtown	1
	music shows	1

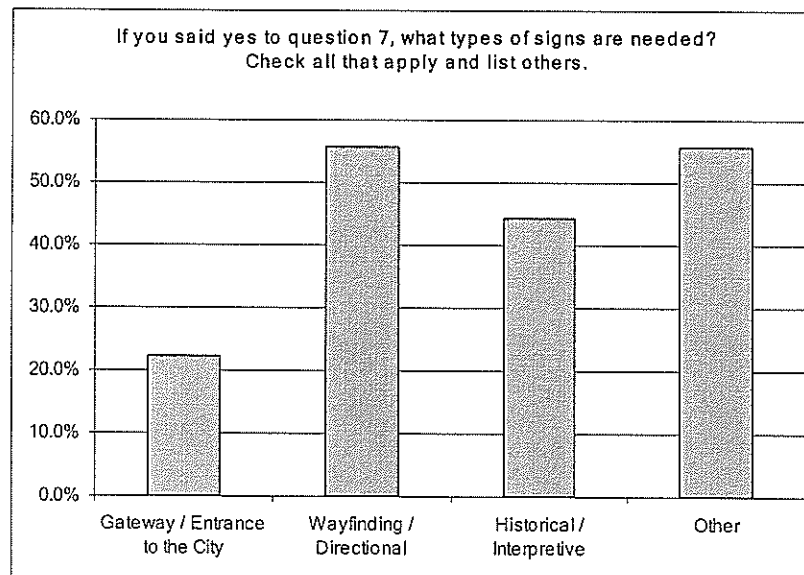
Community Events



Need for Signage



Type of Signage



Other Types of Signs Listed included:

Directional - schools, recreation areas, business, transportation connections, trails

Population

Finding school elementary, etc.

Pointing out parks

Stop sign at the end of the one way alley behind the library.

Farmers Market (Dates/Times)

Day / Time	Spring	Summer	Fall
Monday	1	1	2
Tuesday	2	1	2
7 to 9 PM		1	1
Wednesday	2	2	3
9 to 12		1	
3 to 6		1	1
Thursday	2	2	3
Friday	3	4	7
12 to 6		1	
Saturday	6	9	11
8 to 12	1	1	1
8 to 1	1	1	1
8 to 2	1	1	1
9 to 12	1	1	1
9 to 1	3	1	1
9 to 2	1	2	2
9 to 4		1	
10 to 1		1	1
Sunday	2	4	3
9 to 2		1	1
12 to 4			1

Other Suggestions

Coordination/cooperation of our great organizations/people

Continued and increased collaboration between government, business, schools and community

Keep doing what you are doing!

More restaurants, locations for kids/teens to participate and need for activities (supervised)

Need more elderly (low income) housing

Police patrol during the morning hours on Doyle Road before school. I can barley get out of my driveway - they drive too fast.

Pressure rowdy residents and loud car stereoes to comply with ordinances. Too many loud car stereos at all hours.

More events such as Pancake Breakfast and Cruise Night. More parades and local funded events.

It think it is a great small town. The farmers market is a big plus.

Keep it family friendly

Do not like the idea of limiting Farmers Market for Mothers Day, let all participate, variety better

More community activities

Improve sidewalks throughout town along side streets.

Change trash site - you can't see if cars are coming from the east.

General Information

27 Surveys collected

66% Residents/ 34% non-resident (of 24 responses)

CITY OF LAINGSBURG DDA
DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS
Public Workshop, September 13, 2010, 7:00-9 PM

Summary of Meeting Discussion

Aesthetic

- Clean up downtown (general maintenance)
 - Emphasis quaint characteristics
 - Remove “blighted” properties, leave greenspace for people to imagine potential
- Overall
- Facades – DDA Grants continue

Signs

- New signs into the City
- Electronic sign/message board at high traffic area
- Wayfinding – parking, connecting the school to the community, directing people into the City
- Historical / Interpretive

Non-Motorized Transportation / Infrastructure

- Walkway from the High School to downtown (connect events to downtown – parade, etc.; provides a safe route)
- Route from Bates Park, to Elementary, to McClintock Park, to High School (per Plan on record)
- Improve sidewalks (route to shopping plaza)
- Street Reconstruction

Park Improvements

Bates Park Improvements

- Drainage
- Fewer trees to let light in
- New playground equipment

Hogsback Park Improvements

- Trails
- Sledding
- Water access

McClintock Park Improvements

- Band Shell where house torn down on McClintock St.)
- Upgrade electrical
- Band shell Large enough for band/dance performance

Farmers Market

- Need a shelter
- Possibly add Friday and Saturday times. Competition with other markets on Saturdays and lose vendors and customers.

Events

Continue:

- Pancake Breakfast
- Winterfest
- Springfest

Add:

- Historic Walking Tours – tie into Founders Day Celebration
- 2013 is the 175th anniversary of Laingsburg
- Possibly have a winter event in January to replace Winterfest

Comment:

Businesses should be connected with events (i.e. school tournaments). For example where soccer tournaments are held businesses will put together a pamphlet with coupons to restaurants that are distributed at the event.

Miscellaneous

- Attract meaningful business downtown
 - More active downtown business promotion
 - Grain Elevator needs to be rehabilitated to different use (grant pending)
 - Library expansion
 - Affordable Senior housing
 - Market unique community assets (ECEC – very few young 5 programs in the region)
-

LAINGSBURG DDA SEEKS CITIZEN INPUT

Your opinion counts – Join the Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for a Community Open House from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, in the Laingsburg Middle School Media Center.

The DDA wants to hear your ideas for community enhancements in the downtown area. Participants will have the opportunity to complete a survey and discuss improvement ideas with the DDA's representatives. They want your top five priorities and suggestions for improvement.

What would make Laingsburg a better town? You may consider items such as landscaping, decorative paving, lighting, seating areas, art work, park improvements and non-motorized connections/paths for walking/biking.

The DDA is also interested in hearing about your interest in community events such as the Pancake Breakfast, Movies in the Park, and the Farmers Market. What new ideas for community events can you offer? Does the "signage" around town need to be improved? (Gateway to the city, directional, historical/interpretive). This is a community forum, and your input is important.

If you cannot attend, the surveys are available at Laingsburg City Hall, 114 N. Woodhull Street.

For more information, persons may contact Tamara Jorkasky or Bob Ford from Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc., e-mail: tjorkasky@lapinc.net or call (517) 485-5500.

Tile Project Unveiling Continues Long Tradition

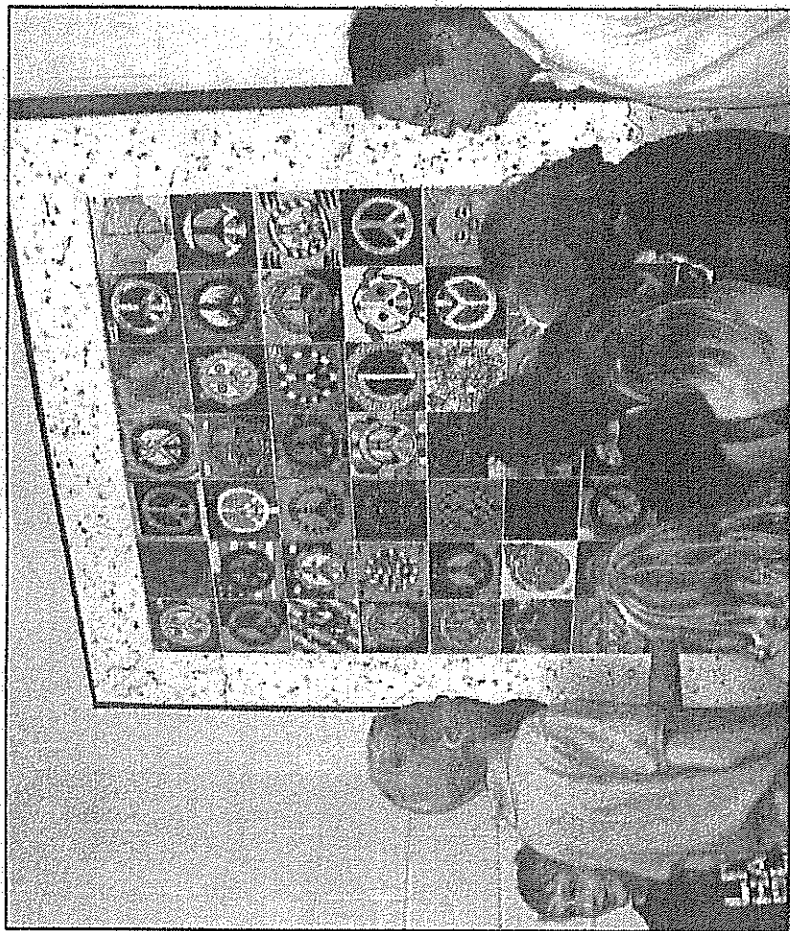
The unveiling of the latest fifth grade tile project at Laingsburg Elementary School last week continued a tradition that was started by former school board member Sue Brandenburg along with local artist Ronda Liskey and goes back 15 years.

Each year, as they prepare to leave the elementary school and move up to middle school, fifth graders choose a theme for an art project that will hang in the school hallways, then complete the work by painting individual ceramic tiles throughout the year, which are kiln fired, then placed together, much as the pieces of a puzzle, to form the completed art work.

Last year's students chose the peace symbol as the theme for their project, which can be seen just outside the school's media center. Funding for the project is provided by P.A.L.S., the Laingsburg schools' parent group. P.A.L.S. volunteer Eric Stevenson has headed the project since 1998 and is assisted by other parents.

Stevenson says students involved in the first projects are now coming back to the school as adults and are surprised to see their art work still displayed, and that many of them still remember which individual tiles they painted.

The Wednesday open house also gave new LES Principal Karen Lockwood an opportunity to introduce herself to parents and students. Mrs. Lockwood comes to Laingsburg from



LAST YEAR'S Laingsburg Elementary School fifth graders unveiled the latest edition of the school's traditional tile project during last Wednesday's school open house. The theme, chosen by the students, was the peace symbol.

(Independent Photo/ED BUSKIRK)

Williamston, where she was a curriculum coach at Explorer Elementary School. She was the selection committee's unanimous choice among 51 applicants for the job. She replaces Connie Schindewolf, who announced her retirement last fall, after nearly 30 years of service.

2nd Annual 5K9 Walk

The 2nd Annual 5K9 Walk to benefit Abuse Bites (Change of Heart for Brian) and the Shiawassee Humane Society is Saturday, October 2 and is accepting registrations. This year's theme is "Stop Abuse and Adopt A Pet." "The 5K9 Dog Walk was conceived last year by the winner of the first Humane Society Mayoral Campaign, Snickers Freeman and his mom Lisa," according to event Chairperson Carol Vaughn. "We are so excited to make this an annual event that gives area pet enthusiasts a fun day with their dogs to raise money for the homeless animals at the Humane Society Shelter."

Lisa Freeman is pumped as well. "This event is geared to include the whole family. And aside from helping homeless animals," she says, "this will help us educate others on how to stop abuse, bullying and violence."

An added bonus to this year's 5K9 Day is a brand new 5K Human Fun Run. So anyone can enter, with or without dogs.

"I'm excited about the opportunities this new run will bring to the event," Lisa Freeman says. "Snickers and I raised over \$1,500 just from the walk last year for the Humane Society, raising well over \$5,000 by the end of our campaign. We're hoping to do so much more this year."

The walk/run will take place in the beautiful Harmon Patridge Park (also known as Green Meadows) on Chippewa Trail, left off N. M-52 north of VG's, Owosso. Participants and their pets will enjoy a nature walk/run on scenic trails along the Shiawassee River. There will also be various vendor stations set up for walkers and their dogs to enjoy.

All entrants will also get to vote for the next Mayor of the Shiawassee Humane Society. To see candidates/campaigns log onto www.shs-petfinder.org.

5K9 Day kicks off at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 2, 2010, run beginning @



8:30 a.m., walk @ 9:30 a.m. ending at 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 (no t-shirt) one walker, one dog, (additional walkers and pets \$10 each), or \$20 (w/ t-shirt) if pre-registered by September 25th or while supplies last. Registration after September 25th is \$20.

Registration forms are available at Citizens Bank locations on M-21 and M-52 in Owosso, the Humane Society Shelter at 2752 W. Bennington and online @ www.abusebites.com click on "5K9 Link". Or simply mail check/money order made payable to: Shiawassee Humane Society, 5K9 Entry, PO Box 1622, Owosso, MI 48867.

There is still room for vendors and sponsorship. For more information please contact Carol Vaughn (989) 277-0740 or Lisa Freeman (989) 729-2124.

Laingsburg DDA Seeks Citizen Input

Submitted by Lori Strom

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Questions? Call Tamara Jorkasky, or Bob Ford from Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc. e-mail: tjorkasky@LAPinc.net or call (517)-485-5500.

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The Meridian Weekly

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