



ECONOMIC GROWTH WORKING GROUP

Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 29
Thursday, June 6
Wednesday, June 26
Wednesday, July 17
Wednesday, August 28

Meeting Place

Paris-Bourbon County Library, 701 High St.
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Wednesday, May 29, 2019

5 – 7 p.m. →

Paris-Bourbon County Library, 701 High St., Paris, KY



Attendees:

- Betty Ann Allen, Paris-Bourbon County Tourism Executive Director
- Lauren Biddle, Paris-Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce Director
- Stan Galbraith, Paris City Commissioner
- Todd Johnson, Building Institute of Central Kentucky
- Daron Jordan, Paris City Manager
- Vanessa Logan, Resident
- Nathan Maddocks, Resident
- Darrell Poynter, Contractor and Preservationist
- Debbie Poynter, Contractor and Preservationist
- Dan L. Quickel, Resident
- Cyndi Steele, Bourbon County Health Department
- Gordon Wilson, Executive Director, Paris-Bourbon County Economic Development Authority

Agenda

1. What is comprehensive planning?
2. What is the role of a working group member?
3. What have we learned from the community?
4. What does the data tell us?
5. What is a goal?

6. Let's craft our economic growth goals! (break out groups)

Introduction: Andrea Pompei Lacy: Developing Goals. What is a goal? Why do we craft goals? Existing and potential economic growth goals.

1. What is Comprehensive Planning?

What is planning? Planning provides a vision for the community today and what we want our community to be in the future.

Who plans? Individuals, families, organizations, public sector entities, private entities, non-profit organizations, religious institutions.

Who do we plan for? Everyone. All inclusive: existing and prospective residents, employers, employees, visitors, vulnerable populations, future generations. The heart of planning is to equitably serve people regardless of their race, ethnicity, social, and economic status in a manner that is sustainable to the environment.

Why do we plan? Good health, economic well-being, public safety. Sustainability. To be equitable. Required by KRS 100.183-.197. It is in our best interest to plan.

Community Engagement: Artwalk events; Chatauqua Days in Millersburg, On the Table Events, Focus Groups, surveys.

Community Strengths: Natural resources, community facilities, local business, people, schools, history/architecture, small town vibe, community events, community groups.

Challenges: Housing, infrastructure, Blighted and vacant properties, mindset, economic sustainability, drugs and crime, entertainments activities, education and training, health care, local businesses.

Flow of information for comprehensive plan:

Community engagement information (On the Table, Focus Groups, Surveys) → Working groups → Legislative Body → Planning & Zoning Commission. (*The Advisory Committee is involved throughout the entire process.*)

2. Role of Working Group members: Draft goals, objectives and action items. All draft items shall take into consideration the perspectives of the community (qualitative) and data and statistics (quantitative). The commitment is five (5) meetings over a four (4) month period.
3. What have we learned from the community: (*Source – Bourbon County On The Table April 2019*)
Need a sustainable economy
Workforce supply difficulty
Pay rates for jobs do not meet the cost of living
Positive industrial growth in past few years
Online sales and big box stores have negatively affected small business
Lack of local support for local small business

Introduction of Alison F. Davis, PhD. Executive Director, Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK). Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics. University of Kentucky. Discussion of Housing Demand Survey.

1. Economic Development: Unemployment rate in Bourbon County at lowest level in almost 50 years; tracked by those looking for work. Low unemployment rates are not always good at attracting businesses to a community. Current participation rate in Bourbon County is 63.7%. Employment and Wages by Industry. Importance of diversification. Some industries are more sensitive to a recession.
2. Supporting a Rural Workforce. Education. Skills. Commuting patterns – in-commuter, out-commuters.

3. E-Connectivity for Rural America. Bourbon County has approximately 35% of households without internet access. A disproportionate number in African-American and Spanish-speaking households.
4. Harnessing Technological Innovation. STEM Occupations: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. Require skilled workforce.
5. CEDIK Economic Data Profile
6. Economic Development Goals and Objectives.
 - Goals
 - Objectives
 - Action items

Current Economic Growth Goal:

1. To stimulate economic growth and stability in Bourbon County.
2. To recognize agribusiness as one of the important industries in Bourbon County and plan for its future vitality.

Goals presented to be voted on and to wordsmith:

- Make Bourbon County a place to establish, expand and do business as well as live.
- Attract diverse quality jobs by promoting a strong educational base and skilled workforce.
- Encourage the incubation of businesses in all stages of development.
- Cultivate a vibrant, unique community that attracts, retains, and develops a highly skilled workforce.
- Encourage agricultural economic growth and diversification.
- Promote growth of the tourism industry as another means of broadening the community's economic base.
- Encourage revitalization of the Central Business Districts of Millersburg, North Middletown, and Paris.

Proposed Economic Growth Goals:

1. Make Bourbon county a place to establish, expand and do business and encourage economic growth and diversification.
2. Promote understanding and growth of the tourism industry as a vital component of broadening the county's overall economic base.
3. Encourage revitalization of the urban core districts of Millersburg, North Middletown and Paris.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 6th, from 5-7 p.m. at Paris-Bourbon County Library. Plans are to:

- Finalize draft goals
- Craft objectives