

Community Gathering  
July 13, 2006  
The Radisson

Introduction from Jeff

Creating a different kind of partnership. CBC, CNC and City of Covington  
Too many times we have been blaming the City. This is a different process. This is not totally about the City preparing the strategic planning. The City wants the community to plan the strategic plan. You will experience some anxiety. We cannot expect the politicians to do everything. We must help and do the work and create the plan. The citizens have to be held accountable to make the plan work. We need more people to get involved. The city should not be responsible to make everything better. The citizens need to get together and help make the plan. Need to build relationships with everyone. Wants everyone to come together to plan the strategic plan. This is a different process. This is to get people talking and building relationships. Must have a commitment with the community. Retreat dates are August 19 and the second retreat date is September 23

1. Share who you are and why you care about the future of Covington.  
Scale 1-7 engaged or not – present – check out and daydream-

2. What crossroads do you personally face when it comes to your participation in a citizen-city planning partnership under the scope of review as set by the Covington stewards? (people want more arts info in the scope)

Jobs- people are worried about jobs in Covington. Home ownership. Where are the quality living units?

Social services is not covered anywhere. They are there and we need more jobs.

2 issues that really kept coming up, economic development and safety. If people do not feel safe then they will not come to visit Covington.

Too many sub groups in the process. This is a visual model. This limits how we are going and this is too visual. I can see the picture on the map, but I don't see myself in it. I don't see ordinary people doing this work. I see the picture, but not the people in it. How we are going to move our population to this stage. We are not at this point. As a community how are we going to move people to get into the scope? Need to get people involved. Most people would say this is wonderful, but getting people to take ownership isn't going to be possible. This is someone else's vision. Not the communities- too many people are living in poverty, too many people in our community are living in poverty. It is too hard to have people get here where we are since they are living day to day. What

can we do to get people to come as residents? People are living day to day in poverty. I think it will be hard to get these people to see this. More people are worried about surviving.

Fostering a bike route is going to be hard. I have heard that many people downtown give the riders a hard time when they are riding their bikes. Walking and biking is an opportunity in Covington, because you can get to just about anything that you need to get to.

This is a very recreational vision. Safety- kids that we work with they have a safe place to talk. Some kids don't feel like they can walk out of their home because they will get hurt.

There are a lot of neighborhoods. It is a very diverse place. It is rural and urban. I think it is going to be hard to see the same vision. People live in poverty and people live in 4 million dollar homes. Everyone is different. Everyone has their own unique living experience and some people may have a hard time seeing this vision and planning process.

The real issue is how we are working together to get things done. Getting people together and building relationships. This process balances everything. We are working on the plan. I was involved in so much planning. We are designing a process on how we are going to get this process done. We are stewards. We are not in charge of doing all of the work to make things happen. The citizens and communities are involved in making the decisions.

Need to get people here and talking and building relationships. There will be a plan.

### 3. What doubts and reservations do you have about this process?

Money, funding, financial issues. Where is all the money coming from? How to pay for all of this? It is very sparing. We have great ideas but how do you pay for it? Rivercenter - it was a plan for 20 years before it was done.

This plan doesn't seem to plan for the young people. Getting young people here is difficult. A lot of elderly people live here. Covington is aging. Young people do not want to live here. Young families buy homes older home but they are not staying. Single women, gay couples, (excluding South Covington) developers are buying the homes in Covington. Young people want newer homes even if they are more expensive.

People are very isolated. We don't have as many good friends. People don't talk to each other anymore. They work, go home. There isn't enough socializing.

We have a lot of resources, but we are not meeting the needs of the people that are already here. There are not enough funds. Maybe spend the money more wisely.

One way to distribute money – check out the City Beat and it showed how the city of Cincinnati gave money to different neighborhoods.

Look at the positive and keep the not out. Everyone can focus on problems. We have to focus on the positive. We need to retrain our brains to think more positive.

4. What “gift” has someone given to you today?

Gift that social service people are here to give a different view- people- adding another scope – bringing people together- community events? People need to come to celebrate.

4<sup>th</sup> card- people