March 6, 2018

Athens City Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement
(What we want to be in 2040)

Athens is a welcoming, forward-thinking, and diverse community that celebrates its eclectic college town roots while growing sustainably.

Guiding Principles of Our Vision

- We will build on the historic and cultural assets that make Athens one-of-a-kind.
- We will enhance our neighborhoods to maintain a high quality of life and to include a variety of housing choices.
- We will collaborate in economic opportunities that build on the entrepreneurial efforts of our community, organizations, and institutions.
- We will strengthen our long term sustainability by incorporating renewable energy, a healthy environment, and opportunities to connect with nature.
- We will leverage technology to expand our economic base and provide services for citizens and visitors.
- We will promote multi-modal and active transportation solutions that better connect our neighborhoods, our destinations, and each other.
- We will support the physical health, mental health, and wellness needs of our community.
- We will highlight the artistic and creative spirit of our community.
  We will be inclusive for all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, marital or familial status, religious belief, age, disability, or economic status.
Background

The vision statement and guiding principles was created based on the information collected though the City of Athens Comprehensive Plan visioning opportunities in late 2017. Community outreach included a public workshop in September 2017 that was attended by about 75 people and an online survey that was completed by about 190 people. All of the information generated through the visioning process was sorted and grouped into common themes and topics that were important to the participants. This information helps to set the tone for our plan. Once all information was sorted the draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were written by city planner Paul Logue with assistance from the comprehensive plan advisory committee and planning interns.

Supporting Information

Sept 21 public meeting summary: http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/4229


Online survey raw summary: http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/4327

Online feedback sorted into themes: http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/4326

The city's current comprehensive plan was adopted by Athens City Council in February of 2007. The comprehensive plan process will provide the community with the opportunity to help plan for future land use, development, and infrastructure within the city. The update will establish a community vision, perform a community inventory, and identify goals and recommendations to address neighborhoods, corridors, and general community initiatives to enhance the city.

The comprehensive plan is a tool for future decision making to help plan for the physical growth, development, and redevelopment of Athens. The plan aims to help achieve long term goals and objectives within the context of the vision.

The process will include several community-wide planning meetings and neighborhood level meetings. Participants will also be provided with tools to conduct their own planning meeting using a meeting-in-a-box technique. Social media and online surveys will also be utilized to gather information for the plan.

Those who are interested in updates on the plan including meeting announcements, surveys, and general information are encouraged to email the planners at plan2017@ci.athens.oh.us to be added to the comprehensive plan contact list.

For more information please contact planner Paul Logue at 740-592-3338 or plogue@ci.athens.oh.us