

Rushville Republican

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Citizens share concerns at Comprehensive Plan meeting

By Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

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---- — Wednesday evening the citizens of Rush County were given the opportunity to put in their two cents on the new comprehensive plan that the city has put together.

The comprehensive plan will be Rushville's guide to future growth and development. It is an official policy document that elected officials such as the Mayor, City Council, and Area Plan Commission will use to guide the decision making process about the future of infrastructure critical to Rushville's success.

The comprehensive plan started with a survey in which over 1,000 residents of Rush County filled out. Wednesday evening citizens were able to discuss their concerns with HWC Engineering, who are in charge of the project, and share their concerns and questions.

Cory Daly, architect for HWC was able to answer and help the residents with their questions.

HWC is a full service consulting engineering firm providing water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation and site engineering, as well as landscape architecture and planning, for both the public and private sectors.

Several citizens were concerned with the population.

One resident stated that they were concerned with the population, stating that the town would not grow and progress unless the population goes up. They stated that younger people with children need to be staying in Rushville and raising their families. Most families are moving away to larger cities to have a family.

Others were concerned with their children graduating college and coming back here to work. A mother voiced her opinion stating that her children are graduating college but won't come back here because there are no options for a job in the career field they have chosen. They love the fact of growing up here, but will not keep their roots here because they can't find a job unless they go to a larger city.

Daly went over some of the results of the survey briefly, stating that Rushville is a great community but does need some changes.

“There were phrases on the survey that citizens used to describe Rushville; friendly, safe, close knit and it's quiet. Those all very good qualities to have in a community,” said Daly.

After discussion of the goals for the plan, citizens were split up into random groups and members of HWC Engineering provided them with information about certain areas of the city and how they hope to improve them. Some of the focuses were on downtown and neighborhoods.

Goal prioritization include for the plan include; transportation infrastructure, utility infrastructure, economic development, land use, parks and natural resources, neighborhoods and housing and downtown.

Transportation infrastructure includes roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, etc. Utility infrastructure includes water, sewer, cable, telephone, internet and mobile. Economic development includes businesses, jobs, services, incentives, etc. Parks and natural resources include parks, rivers, woodlands, etc. Downtown will include storefronts, business buildings, streetscape, etc.

Mayor Mike Pavey was pleased with the turnout.

“I was very happy with the turnout and it was nice to see people attending that are not a part of the steering committee. I think for the event there was a good turnout. We plan to have another meeting maybe a couple months down the road.”

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