



**VOICE VISIONING SESSION REPORT OUT
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2012
6 P.M.
HELFRICH PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL**



What VOICE is About

VOICE brings together diverse members of our community in facilitator-led group discussions to draw out and capture everyone's ideas for the future. Together, we'll discuss our hopes and dreams for Evansville in a comfortable, open forum that's fun and inspiring, too. The sessions will allow respectful conversations to take place, and all voices to be heard, and every opinion to be documented and shared. VOICE will ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in creating a desired future. Absolutely everyone.

The VOICE Process

Leadership Evansville will facilitate discussion sessions each month starting on August 15 at easy-to-access public locations, such as Evansville Public Library System branches and Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation schools. The sessions will be advertised in neighborhood newsletters, the newspaper, television, radio and via the initiative's website: www.evansvillevoice.com.

Comments from each session will be available to the participants and the public. A summary and detailed notes will be posted on the VOICE Web site within one week of the session.

Once all comments are collected, additional community sessions will occur to verify that the information collected truly represents participants' opinions.

Then, common themes and ideas will be grouped by topic area to serve guidance for those organizations, businesses, universities, individuals, and government bodies with interest in that topic to move forward with further research and planning toward common goals.



VOICE SESSION SCHEDULE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

GROUND RULES

THE POSITIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

CARRY FORWARD & LEAVE BEHIND

VISION DRAWING & PRESENTATION

WRAP UP/ WHAT'S NEXT



LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator

“One or two words describing why you are passionate about our community.”



LARGE GROUP OPENING- Lead Facilitator

“One or two words describing why you are passionate about our community.”

- Leadership Evansville
- Evansville Voice
- Greenway
- Hometown friends
- Beautiful Riverfront
- Main street
- Zoo
- Historical District
- Streetlights
- Main Streets
- Community Policing
- Volunteering
- Involved
- Evolving
- Small town Environment
- Riverfront
- Mayor
- Open to Christianity and other faiths, not prejudic
- Not prejudice
- Fairly Safe City
- Newer initiatives
- Welcoming
- Diverse
- Good City
- Proud to be here
- Christianity
- West Side Fall Festival
- Friendly People
- Good schools
- Work Ethic Police and Fire Services
- Willingness to help
- People who help
- Riverfront
- Neighborhood activities
- Arts, sports, music, zoo
- Schools
- Churches
- Civic Groups
- Frog Follies
- Greenway
- Historic Architecture
- Great moms and dads
- Children’s museum
- River
- Friendly and open community
- willing to listen
- willing to change
- libraries
- music programs in schools
- older neighborhoods

- clean-up program
- Location in middle of country
- Beautiful area
- Hidden Talent
- Can be a destination for families
- Centrally located
- Friendly people willing to be involved and get things done
- Young professionals
- Culture
- Openness
- Small city feel
- Big city opportunities
- Safe
- Growing
- Diversity
- People willing to volunteer
- Community events
- Art Museum
- Interfaith Communities
- Good food
- Friendly people
- private schools
- safety
- safety
- education
- small community feel with big opportunities
- downtown
- USI
- growing technology
- Civic Theater
- Victory Theatre
- CPO Program of EPD
- Great for families
- opportunity for growth
- riverfront
- shopping
- universities



CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

SMALL GROUP 1- SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

“In a preferred future, what would you carry forward and what would you leave behind?”

Small group 1 facilitator: Kim Moman

Small group 1 scribe: Nicky Tesh

Small group 1 recorder: Jean Reising



CARRY FORWARD	LEAVE BEHIND
progressiveness	trash
greenspace	restrictive land use policy
willing to do baby steps	trash
enhancements to parks and greenways	do away with image of being downstate
greenway	stoplights
	gnag activity and crime
safety	gangs activity
art on the river	trash
art	pedophiles
moving forward	dilapidated housing
willingness to help	unemployment
accepting	prejudice
Volunteers	drug scene
police community relations	Complacency
urban infill	
Opportunities for civic dialogue	Meth
Educational system - pK-12, college	culture of littering
architectural history	catch-up planning/lloyd-burkhardt intersection
new, alternative roadways	traffic
Literacy	
Proud of veterans	abandoned store fronts
jobs	
healthcare	welfare
trying to attract business	drugs
small locally owned shops	barriers
library reading programs	complete reliance on technology
educational system	"no child left behind"
present infrastructure	lack of involvement
opportunity to use abandoned spaces to house people	homelessness
	lengthy process to get homes repaired
Music programs in schools	



CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

SMALL GROUP 2- SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

“In a preferred future, what would you carry forward and what would you leave behind?”

Small group 2 facilitator: Linda Negro
Small group 2 scribe: Andy Herbertz
Small group 2 recorder: Jeff Gruszewski



CARRY FORWARD	LEAVE BEHIND
golf courses, sports complexes	
fitness initiatives	laziness
public parks/green areas	state of upkeep of parks/green spaces
optimistic attitude	animal abuse
waterparks	sewage on riverfront
small locally owned businesses	negative east side/west side
neighborhood associations	gap between haves/have nots
unity in diversity	eastside/Westside division
swimming pools	homelessness
neighborhood associations	graffiti
mets transportation	homelessness
willingness to listen children	gay critic
philharmonic	bullying
more trails	cigarette smoking
improving highway 41	litter
historical names of places	renaming places tht have historical names
university parkway in pristine condition/no billboards	antiquated city codes
revamping Howell park/better maintenance	littering the neighborhoods/lack of clean up
Bosse Field	
public/private school system	attitude that it won't work
good ties with neighboring cities	negative attitude of cities
emergency preparedness	
community gardens	litter/trash
willingness to work with each other	negativity/racism/bad attitudes
programs like VOICE	limited creativity in schools
farmers markets	animal abandonment
accountability	cynicism
corridor between airport and downtown	
weather preparedness	

voice

CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Recap of "What elements have you drawn into your visions of Evansville's Preferred Future?"





LARGE GROUP CLOSING- Group 1

Recap of "What elements have you drawn into your visions of Evansville's Preferred Future?"

Group 1A

- USI, Ivy Tech, Sig School, planned shopping areas, greenway, support for rural farming areas, Burdette Park
- Gay couple walking down the street, kids of any age can walk around and be accepted and listened to
- Aikin Park, Sig School, Neighborhood watches, Neighborhood safety
- Farmers market, local cafes and shops, healthcare for everybody

GROUP 1B

- Music coming from the house, swings in the apple trees
- Amtrak Station, people walking to station, bicycle path
- 9 hole golf course
- Lake with dock
- 10 hole golf course, welcoming community with plenty of recreational opportunities
- Skyscrapers, diverse people getting along, help for people in judicial system so they can help the community get better, lots of store fronts – with a bakery

Group 1C

- Highway 41 needs better First impression from airport to downtown; fountains, parks, art. More riverfront development.
- Neighborhoods regardless of where they are, need gathering spaces for kids to play. Moms can work and do dishes and still see kids; easy to move from neighborhood to neighborhood.
- Skyscrapers, friendly people, lots of culture, lively downtown, Welcome – Bienvidos on same sign; modern transportation system that you can go place to place without difficulty.

Group 2A

- Neighborhood with beautifully landscaped homes; diverse, colorful community with neighbors helping each other. Police care keeping streets safe
- Keep environment in our vision. Enforce environmental standards. Keep the great schools. Don't blame others, do something to help the situation yourself. If you see something that needs to be done, get people together and do it.
- Loves the river. Go to the river and see art.
- Environmentally city with clean river, Greenway connecting to Burdette and Newburgh; pet friendly, non-prejudice, sun shining on all of us.

Group 2B

- 2 square block area – Pocket Neighborhoods – smaller homes surrounding common outdoor area. All shops close and walkable
- Railroad infrastructure, I 64, I 164, 2 69, Greenway, colleges
- First Presbyterian Church, trees, sunshine, Ohio River, Cancer research hospital, road to Indy
- 2 kids with flute, violin and teacher; 2 more kids encouraging people to read

Group 2C

- No more homelessness; more art and theatre in Arts District, better sewer system
- Personal responsibility; hold people to do what they need to be doing; reasonable growth expectations; not all projects have to be big; hate the litter in the city; improve existing older neighborhoods – not all has to be torn down; not everyone has to have a subdivision style house; need to plan for natural disasters
- House, pretty yard, rainbow, prosperity for all ---- if we draw on everybody's idea we can have prosperity for all – not just trickle down – but raise the basement so there is not so far to go
- Churches in city always working, helping with homeless; remodeling homes for elderly. Keep Christ focus to keep helping things improving.



CREATING EVANSVILLE'S FUTURE

Participants:

First Name	Last Name
Carrie	Smither
Lilly	Pease
Vera	Campbell
Carolyn	Stagg
Betty	Baumgather
Abraham	Brown
Paul	Farmer
Larry	Samples
Jim	Bradley
Patrick	Keepes
Michael	Lockard
Greg	Freyberger
Ralph	Winnecke
Rodney	Buchanon
Steve	McCallister
Jenny	Triggs
Fred	Padget
John	Aldenderfer
Juan F.	Garcia
David	Postin
Lara	Postin
Phyllip	Davis
Makenzie	Coulter
Gretchen	
Shirley	Winnicke
anonymous	
anonymous	
anonymous	