

2020 Visioneering Workshop - November 10, 2007 @ Naperville City Hall

Co-Sponsored by the Naperville League of Women Voters and the Naperville Area Homeowners Confederation

Group 1 Post-it Notes - Issues and Concerns

- Density - How much can we fit in there
- Some changes discussed will result in extremely drastic and unnecessary lay-out designs for the area involved.
- Changing age-makeup of residents, i.e., demographics, needs to be considered.
- Too much emphasis being discussed on location for ribfest, etc., a once-a-year event.
- Why do we only think of this location as our "festival place".
- Flooding if paved over.
- Bright lights, noise
- Limit heights of buildings anywhere
- The City has lost sight of what Naperville has been (quaint small town with unique feel) and is changing to a large development. The community and feel of Naperville is being destroyed.
- Too much development concentrated in and around downtown.
- That Naperville Central High School remains a top-quality high school.
- Future of District 203 and Naperville Central High School - rebuild or renovate.
- Is the cemetery big enough for at least 50 more years.
- Magnet schools to concentrate on the Arts.
- This opportunity for change not be lost.
- All plans are big and long range.
- Create a use/uses for the Caroline Martin-Mitchell property that will last for 50 - 75 years,.
- Public land is used for community good.
- Planners and officials will be too confined by what exists already to think of perhaps better uses.
- There is insufficient playing field space, i.e., ball fields especially.
- Lack of public participation where it really counts - locally.
- City Council and staff not proactive in going to citizens to get input. Waits at public hearings.
- Where are the younger citizens?
- Lots of open space, natural land, mature native trees.
- Keep the Sportsman's gun shooting club.
- Keep garden plots, scouting area and shooting range intact. Keep as much open space as possible.
- Wild life protection and seasonal movement.
- Keep it the same way it is today.
- Change nothing.
- Preserving natural areas.
- Loss of green space.
- This area is the first open space outside of downtown. Don't build on it.
- I would like to honor the expectations of existing land owners/users.
- Keep the will of VonOven to be a scout camp in perpetuity.
- Should we change the current land usage?
- Children safety.
- Selling off or leasing publicly owned entities.
- Endless war draining away resources.
- Not enough consideration is given to how we are going to pay for the cost of development.
- Too much reliance on agreement, too many expectations.
- Voter apathy and unwillingness to raise taxes.
- Fair allocation of tax-supported amenities throughout Naperville.
- North-south transportation routes.
- Too many people and cars were changing the simple and low-key characteristics of Naperville.
- More traffic on West Street.
- Dependence on oil and soaring prices.
- We need to more aggressively pursue mass transit to reduce traffic.

Group 1 - Issues and Concerns - Summary

Land Use - Highest number of responses and concern

- Maintain Status Quo (preservation, natural space and wildlife)
- Create Future Use - 50 - 75 years
- Implement new uses, multigenerational uses

Transportation

- Traffic, safety, light, noise, congestion, pollution.

Finance

- Equitable Distribution "city-wide"
- Cost implications
- Public/private partnerships

Public Involvement

- Lack of public involvement including youth

Future of Naperville Central High / Schools

- Magnet schools?
- Quality

Festival Space / Use

- Need for multiple locations - different?
- Over-emphasized

Cemetery

- Sufficient Space

Group 2 Post-it Notes - Issues and Concerns

- Lack of long-term vision.
 - We are being Chicago tall buildings.
 - What are the community needs? Education, recreation, transportation, wellness, internment, government, commerce, etc.?
 - Traffic is a very big concern.
 - I am concerned that the entire Caroline Martin Mitchell property is not available to all Naperville citizens. Caroline's will specifically stated that her property be "perpetually devoted to public use" with special attention to portray and preserve historical background.
 - Do not want plans to adversely affect nearby residents or neighborhoods.
 - Balanced development following a master plan with concern to commercial, multi-family housing, and size of projects of both.
 - City doesn't have a consistent vision of what it wants to be.
 - Sector G - South side of Naperville and pulling them in.
 - Development downtown - losing Mom and Pop businesses.
 - Teardowns or preservation of buildings.
 - Move garden plots to less premium property.
 - Move Gun Club from center of town.
 - The community needs to have input as to how they envision cooperation between the School Board and Park District.
 - Get all intergovernmental groups to cooperate for the betterment of Naperville . Be flexible.
- Future hopes for all children and adults. Educational opportunities for learning how to conserve all of our natural resources (sunlight and earth) for use by future generations both biologic and technical through metabolism. Reference is Cradle to Cradle by McDonough and Braungart
- Finding balance downtown Naperville and throughout the City.
 - Concerns no further input will be coordinated after we've figured out this exercise.
 - Status quo is my hope.
 - It seems that either renovation of a new high school will require participation by all parties for success.
 - That Central High School gets a good site that will serve its needs for 20+ years.
 - Providing an improved education environment for the future children of Naperville.

- Hope Central High school is renovated at its present location.
- Solid building will be destroyed.
- Concerned that Naperville Central revamping will not sufficiently meet the needs of all students. It should be rebuilt from the ground up. A brand new school might be relocated to the garden plots and sportsman's..
- Too few people want to know what's happening in Naperville.
- Keeping open land or building on every inch.
- Need to retain and attract technical jobs into the area.
- Loss of hi-tech jobs.
- Small-town feel conflicts with giving in to high-rise (greater than 3-story) development.
- We are allocating precious open space to dead people - especially as traditions, i.e. cremations, change.
- City government is NOT listening and following the wishes of citizens of town.
- How big is too big!
- What changes are needed?
- No added Festivals. Enough is enough!
- That people realize the Caroline Martin Mitchell property is no longer the edge of town.
- I don't want any changes. Renovate the high school, leave garden plots, scout camp and Sportsman's Club.
- Why give up VonOven and the garden plots so we can have all the festivals there. How many Napervilleians attend?
- Concerned that the City thinks it can take VonOven Scout Camp from our children.
- Ease of pedestrian egress.
- Who will pay for it?
- Taxing bodies lack of accountability.
- Waste of taxpayers dollars.
- Excessive taxes.
- Escalating taxes.
- Realistic and safe vehicular circulation.
- Traffic and parking
- Traffic congestion
- We can't continue to build and build without thinking about widening streets so a fire truck could even get there.
- Transportation, traffic, and congestion.
- Transportation throughout Naperville.
- Congestion. We need open space to correspond with dense areas.
- Traffic Congestion.
- Traffic - Too many cars on the road.
- Traffic congestion.
- Giving in to high density development drives need for more parking downtown.
- Bicycle pathway system inadequate.
- Pedestrian walkways need to be improved.
- Alternate public transportation options.
- Efficient parking utilizing the least amount of ground space.
- Need to build new schools.
- Building a third high school
- Building of a third District 203 high school south of 75th street.
- Unnecessary destruction of buildings to add to landfill, as is so common in Naperville. Not teaching our children wise environmental practices.
- Change resistance "it's OK just the way it is".
- Concern that patching Naper Central high school will cost more money and not deliver a good facility.
- Sportsman's Gun Club, VonOven Scout camp and garden plots remain as is.
- Finishing what we begin other projects.
- Preserve natural and wooded areas.
- Preservation of open space.
- Value open space. We passed 2 DuPage County referendums for open space. Leave this space open.
- Open Land.
- Expecting too many services from the Park District. Keep open space.
- Lead contamination at Sportsman's Club
- Removal of trees and wildlife.
- We cannot do anything until we know what people really want to do.
- Central High school needs to be rebuilt - renovated or made totally new.
- Preserve Naperville's one-of-a-kind programs.

Group 2 - Issues and Concerns - Summary

Issues about issues

City Council does not really listen to residents.
Why so many personal agendas
Get City Council more involved in process
Status quo my hope
Concern no further input will be coordinated
Get all intergovernmental groups to cooperate for ALL
Finding balance downtown and throughout the City
Conservation of natural resources for future
"Sunlight and earth" "biological technical metabolism"

Central High's Future and/or 3rd high school in District 203

Build new
Build new high school south of 75th street
Renovate at present site
Concern solid buildings will be destroyed
Build new high schools

Preservation of open space/nature/wildlife

Traffic / Congestion/Parking/Pedestrians/Bicycling

More options to maneuver Naperville

Cost -Who pays?

Waste of taxpayer dollars
Excessive taxes
Job retention

Planning and Building

Adverse effects
Balanced development
Preservation
Pull Sector G into planning
City needs consistent vision
High density -> need for parking
Land use appropriate
Small town feel lost amid high rises

Change

Move Gun Club
Move garden plots to less premium property
Don't change location of garden plots
Don't add more festivals
Status quo
Lack of long-term vision
Need for cooperation between schools and park district
More young people need to participate

Group 3 Post-it Notes - Hopes and Ideas

- Allocation of resources us being made according to community-defined priorities
- All options were explored
- Public meetings will be held to get citizen input.
- Feedback provided to residents on how planning was going.
- .Each stakeholder had an input on how the Martin-Mitchell land would be used.
- Safe, sensible layout for Caroline Martin-Mitchell properties.

- Open-minded Process.
- That the Park District will think of the needs of the WHOLE city.
- Collaborative partnerships to maximize resources for benefit of residents.
- Advisory referendum - Let us vote on it.
- Make it a destination, perhaps with a museum.
- Retention of historical perspective.
- Vibrant historical museum complex.
- Community Investment in renewable energy.
- Variety of recreational options for a multitude of ages - both formal and informal.
- I hope that the City always thinks of what is best for the residents when it makes decisions.
- We can teach our children that being the best is not always the newest and biggest, but making the best use of what you have.
- Quality of life for all ages within the community.
- Better public transportation
- Increase use of public transportation
- Achieve campus-like setting by closing western-most portion of Hillside Ave and expanding Martin Ave to 4 lanes.
- The downtown area won't be invaded by high profile buildings such as the one recently approved, (Water Street)
- The Chicagoization - every square block becoming 4-5 story buildings.
- What do the developers want.
- Housing availability for community members so with rising prices retirees could continue to live in Naperville.
- We will realize we don't need such big-name entertainment at festivals. We could raise just as much money with local entertainment and not have to expand festival grounds.
- That the Park District will hire a consultant to find out what cost of Sportsman's Park lead cleanup will be.
- Do not raise taxes for it.
- Senior citizens will be able to afford to live here.
- Hope for a good design for remodeling Naperville Central High School, without the closure of streets and taking over open property.
- Parts of Naperville Central High School not used as part of a new high school will be repurposed for school. Park district use.
- Quality of education to be continued.
- New high school.
- Educational and historical enhancements for all ages.
- Rebuild Naperville Central High School.
- Use leftover Naperville Central High School space for early childhood learning center.
- Over the long term create school/park district facilities for joint use. Parks use school facilities, schools use park facilities for tournaments, etc.
- Build a new Naperville Central High School.
- We can make the best use of current structures at Naperville Central High School and be environmentally conscious.
- Use Naperville Central High School as a park district building.
- Trees and green space are part of the future, even in the downtown area.
- Trails and programs that utilize natural areas.
- Maintain vacant cemetery land as open space.
- Personal self-paced unstructured ability to enjoy the area.
- Campus-like setting for Caroline Martin Mitchell property and buildings connected by green space and paths.
- Maintain the current land usage.
- No man-made structures.
- Leave it alone.
- Keep the properties as we know it today, do not change.
- That the wishes of Caroline Martin Mitchell and Emma VonOven are followed.
- Less infill.
- {reserve natural and wooded areas.
- More open space.
- Preserve Naperville's one-of-a-kind programs.
- Change nothing.
- All options explored.

Group 3 - Hopes and Ideas - Summary

Preserve green and open natural space

Good democratic process

Input from residents

Quality education continued

Affordability

Keep cost down

Quality of Life

Decisions will affect

More renewable energy

Transportation

Congestion

Museum and historical

Maintain and enhance historic areas

Avoid tall buildings

Avoid excessive developer influence

Use of TIFFs

Group 4 Post-it Notes - Hopes and Ideas

- Designate alternate space to the cemetery to maximize the usable space in this location.
- The cemetery has gained ground adjacent to the Vermont Cemetery.
- Many persons were engaged in the problem definition and resolution theory.
- Let the people decide rather than a select few.
- More residents will feel connected to their hometown. More young people will attend forums such as this one.
- All parties who have an interest in the land will cooperate.
- Finish Moser Tower Carillon, Naper Settlement, DuPage Children's Museum, and Central Park before any new initiatives.
- A town core is pedestrian friendly united by outstanding public transportation.
- Civic campus, park, new high school, expanded Naper Settlement.
- We continue to have unique uses like Sportsman's Club in our town.
- Renovate Naper Central High and keep the area open.
- Hope Park District Maintenance Center (at the Barn) can be moved elsewhere.
- Hope the schools and Park District and City will have the strength to do the best for the entire community.
- The Barn has been removed and programming fulfilled at the Greene Barn.
- Hope we get a pedestrian-friendly campus tied to downtown.
- Plenty of kid-oriented amenities.
- Stream-line government, more private enterprise.
- As a community. will we value the future of our children over the present needs of ourselves?
- Many attempts were made by School District 203 to include any interested community members.
- A community festival area has been identified.
- Hope storm-water issues can be handled jointly.
- Visionary and stand-up residents came forward as leaders and identified existing areas of concern as well as identifying and preventing possible problems in the future that could be avoided.
- I would hope that City Council and staff would realize that we HAVE ENOUGH developments downtown. Leave areas around downtown undeveloped or less developed.
- I hope that the City gets a vision - one that is less grandiose than what developers want.
- The community will invest a financial interest in improvements for an education and recreation area on the property.
- The space can serve multiple functions.

- We implement a trolley/light rail system that transports more easily than cars.
- Hope that the cemetery will let their land be used for the living and accomplish their goals elsewhere.
- Rapid transit / public transportation.
- Public transportation.
- Keep garden plots where they are.
- Garden plots have been made available in all parts of Naperville.
- Hope that keep property the way it is.
- One day smaller high schools will concentrate on technology, arts, both public and private.
- Like all large cities, here's hoping Naperville develop into several popular gathering commercial areas similar to downtown Naperville.
- To encourage more "community", perhaps we have neighborhood-based "shared" garden plots in local parks.
- Hope we get frequent, safe, fun, public transportation between the Martin Mitchell campus and the train station.
- Trees are saved and planted.
- Leave it open.
- The space remains open and publicly available.
- Increased use of Sportsman's Club.
- Hope that any redesign of the Martin-Mitchell property includes more useable GREEN SPACE.
- We look at shared use of fitness space at our local schools by the general community. Many neighboring schools do this.
- We lose all of our open space.

Group 4 - Hopes and Ideas - Summary

Many engaged in the process

Keep garden plots

Less Development

Keep open space /trees

Multiple Uses / Interests

civic campus

Good Public Transportation

To facilitate movement

Renovated high school / smaller

Shared use of fitness space

Value future of children

Kid-oriented

Continued unique uses

Joint handling of stormwater issues

Maximize use of cemetery

Closing Comments From Index Cards

- I was surprised at the number of people who came and at how well the process worked. Even the loudest voices got only one vote. A far better method for public input than "Comments from the public".
 - Greater Communication and Involvement of citizens is needed in this process (decision making of land use). Green space is very important. Watching developers self-interest.
 - This will take a lot of discussion and compromise to reach a conclusion.
 - The future of Naperville.
 - Gratified to see this many people turn out on an early Saturday morning - Sorry not to see more people under the age of 50.
 - Good democratic process. Sportsman's, VonOven (Scouts) and Cemetery Association not community-minded.
 - Property use should be determined not based on what it has been for 100 years, but what it should be in 100 years.
 - People are concerned on two major points. The don't feel enough involvement in the process of future improvements. They are not afraid of change, but want the future to include past uses, green space, kids, safety, etc.
 - I did not feel anything new or different surfaced during the discussions. I felt very similar issues and points have been identified and discussed by the stakeholders who began the process, thus representing the community's diverse thoughts.
 - I'm pleased to know that preserving open space is a priority with so many participants. I'm disappointed that very little attention was paid to a 27 acres used by a PRIVATE gun club.
 - What brought me here today? Hope of maintaining present uses of land which have something for everyone. Time well-spent if nothing changed.
 - AHA - That often residents aren't aware of big topics until after they find out the plans' and proposals' facts, when they have already formed pre-conceived ill-informed opinions. The Chicagoization of Naperville.
 - As a one-time activity it was good. If covered well in media and newsletters, then a once-a-year process will generate bigger turnout.
 - People value open space. People are concerned about transportation.
 - Large degree of support for preserving green space and natural areas.
 - I am happy to see the majority of people gathered today are in favor of keeping open and natural space. Also we need to preserve and make the best use of current structures at the high school. There has been a lot of waste of solid structures going into landfills and being replaced by absurdly large homes that waste an enormous amount of our natural resources to run. We need to give our children a good education in many aspects, one of which is how to conserve and make wise environmental choices. Encourage everyone to use mass transportation, bicycles, etc., then we won't need as much parking space.
 - It was nice to get the ball rolling on this issue. But, it's way too soon to act upon until the school decides its opportunities or direction they'll be going in.
 - Disappointed that there wasn't a bigger turnout. All groups seemed to want the same things, open space - keep thing the way they are.
 - The concept of a civic campus that maintains open space, promotes education, physical fitness, and multigenerational uses while helping solve transportation/mobility is possible.
 - Well done meeting. Thanks to League of Women Voters. Concern not mentioned - the taxes and expense of all these "dream" ideas. Far-out to say the least. Everything for the kids is getting tiresome in Naperville. Too much concern on the festivals and fests.
 - Greatest take-away. The need to embrace the past/historical values that were and are embedded in the community. Do NOT create a future community without that foundation.
 - Take-aways. How important the process of deciding best use was said to be, but very few if any, under 30's were involved today. Ho strong the "status quo" option was expressed.
 - Many people desire to have the existing land uses remain the same. Also, the affordability issues are important. There is a dichotomy in the responses though, with some seemingly not considering this at all.
 - It surprised me how hard it seems to be to express possibilities (Hope and Ideas). Easy to express concerns and say "Don't change". Teach us how to dream positively, transparently, and with joy.
 - Better use of existing space. There is nothing progressive about the words "status quo".
 - Very little mention of renewable energy and sustainable buildings. By renewable I mean Solar, Wind and Geothermal. There needs to be more vision concerning use of diminishing resources.
- I would love to see a NEW Naperville Central High School building - A Green center of education using renewable energy and building products. I have no problem with reconfiguring the Caroline Martin-Mitchell property. PS - no one mentioned the lead at the Sportsman Park gun club.
- I'm glad to see that there is a shared hope for preservation of natural open space within Naperville. Let's not waste this opportunity. Naperville is a true gem partly because of the park space we have presently.