



TASK FORCE MEETING #2

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: Best Western

The following are ideas collected from each Task Force member to address issues identified during Community Meeting #1.

Code Enforcement Issues

More enforcement officers are needed. To date, we only have one officer. Not enough.

Transportation Options

We need more bike lane options.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Better relations between renter/homeowner. Landlords need to be held accountable.

Property Maintenance

Fine homeowners.

Trash and Noise

Fine homeowners.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better education for new residents regarding our codes.

Transportation Options

Implementation of "complete streets" projects.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Mediation program to bring parties together immediately when conflicts arise.

Property Maintenance

Grant program to encourage repairs and maintenance.

Trash and Noise

Continued education and enforcement.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better communication throughout.

Transportation Options

Better communication throughout.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Better communication throughout.

Property Maintenance

Better communication throughout.

Trash and Noise

Better communication throughout.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better communication and education about codes.

Transportation Options

Relax parking limitations where possible.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Clearer communication of expectations between landlords and renters.

Property Maintenance

Community cleanup days.

Trash and Noise

Change or improve trash pick-up schedule.

Code Enforcement Issues

Develop a code enforcement guide to better explain items that are reportable. Increase code enforcement officers.

Transportation Options

Establish bike lanes and bike paths.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Assess a landlord fee for rental properties of more than one apartment/unit. Use funds to increase code enforcement.

Property Maintenance

The landlord fee should help provide resources for code enforcement.

Trash and Noise

Develop a "good neighbor" guide to encourage good practices.

Code Enforcement Issues

Seems to be a staffing issue. Plenty of regulations already in place.

Transportation Options

Parking garage could allow you to turn on-street parking into bike/walking lanes.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Block party at start of semester to introduce and hear neighbors' concerns.

Property Maintenance

Block or neighborhood clean-up days.

Trash and Noise

Maybe offer incentives to a street/block for beautification efforts (like a contest).

Code Enforcement Issues

Offer jobs to BGSU students to walk the streets and identify code enforcement violations.

Transportation Options

Bike sharing programs. Initiate community to community rides or from rural areas to BG for work purposes.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Institute ordinances with stronger penalties for violations.

Property Maintenance

"Neighborhood share" program for mowers, leaf blowers, ladders etc. so everyone has access to needed equipment.

Trash and Noise

Bottles/cans for cash program.

Code Enforcement Issues

Need full and easily accessible information on codes and contacts in city government.

Transportation Options

Bicycle lanes on major streets.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Promote more owner-occupied residences on east side.

Property Maintenance

Inspection of rental properties for safety.

Trash and Noise

Strict enforcement of pertinent ordinances; police seen as issuing too many citations and not arresting repeat offenders.

Code Enforcement Issues

Yearly rental inspections of all rental properties to hold landlords accountable.

Transportation Options

Create bike lanes on main streets/high traffic streets or create bike lanes on streets with less traffic to promote bikers using streets with less car traffic.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Property Maintenance

Citations, equipment rental? Employ college or high school students to maintain properties. Volunteer/community service opportunity to improve curb appeal.

Trash and Noise

Stronger enforcement of littering laws or citations.

Code Enforcement Issues

Put option to file a complaint online.

Transportation Options

Work with BGSU to get buses moving earlier and later in the day/evening. Help with mobility of nonstudent passengers. Offer more stops.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Have a prosecuting attorney willing to take landlords to court. Hold BGSU accountable for its students.

Property Maintenance

Fine deteriorating housing and make the process through the Health Department quicker. Hold people accountable for following through.

Trash and Noise

Have a prosecuting attorney prosecute and fine landlords. Make fines expensive.

Code Enforcement Issues

Providing grant money to those wanting to update or renovate property to make it up to code.

Transportation Options

Create a parking garage for public parking.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Offer a percentage back of rent for those keeping a neat appearance in their property.

Property Maintenance

Trash and Noise

Code Enforcement Issues

Educate people/students on the codes of the city.

Transportation Options

Parking issues – parking garages. One at Thurstin and Court. One behind SamB's.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Make landlords aware that their not keeping up with codes/appearances is bothersome and will not be tolerated.

Property Maintenance

Landlords must keep appearances/properties up! Fix deteriorating walls, paint, landscape.

Trash and Noise

More fines given out. Make sure kids know the rules.

Code Enforcement Issues

Hire another code enforcer.

Transportation Options

Bike lane that runs next to railroad?

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Property Maintenance

Codes enforced, have a grant for people to paint, landscape, etc.

Trash and Noise

Code Enforcement Issues

Consistent enforcement to a high standard ("best practice").

Transportation Options

Improved pedestrian and bike paths.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Hold all landlords to a consistent high standard.

Property Maintenance

Improved streetscape and open spaces everywhere.

Trash and Noise

Enforce littering laws.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better education codes and who does what. Revise code to all maintenance laws.

Transportation Options

Build bike lanes – connect city with sidewalks.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Landlord registry.

Property Maintenance

Establish mechanism to address maintenance.

Trash and Noise

Crack down on underage partying.

Code Enforcement Issues

Ensure property owners are aware of relevant code prior to moving to enforcement.

Transportation Options

Increase safety of pedestrian and biking pathways in key areas (around university, route to downtown, route to groceries, route to services (JFS, Health Dept., etc.)).

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

This seems like a policy or code issue 1st and then an area that may require mediation assistance – clear steps and resources to mediation.

Property Maintenance

Love town/gown; mayor/resident engagement in creating more positive welcome on Wooster – use this model to address other challenges.

Trash and Noise

Enforce littering lawn post public refuse containers more widely.

Code Enforcement Issues

Code enforcement guidelines/FAQ.

Transportation Options

Clear, yet non-obstructive bike path signage.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Accountability measures for landlords and property owners, especially absentee landlords and rental houses.

Property Maintenance

Low cost yard/lawn maintenance service for renters to hire.

Trash and Noise

Early year police presence in as positive manner as possible.

Code Enforcement Issues

Enforce through education, then enforcement, including fines.

Transportation Options

Create new and/or extend current bike/walking paths connect parts of the city.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Hold landlords accountable to same expectations of home owners.

Property Maintenance

Incentives to well-kept properties/property owners.

Trash and Noise

Periodic "clean" neighborhood days having volunteers, i.e. adopt a highway concept.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better enforcement with current staff will result in better compliance.

Transportation Options

Widen Thurstin Ave all the way to Poe.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict**Property Maintenance**

Incentivize landlords or renters to care for property (grants, etc.).

Trash and Noise

Bike/pedestrian police patrols to deal with party, noise violations, and littering.

Code Enforcement Issues

Awareness – pass out flyers door to door.

Transportation Options

Walking bridges over Wooster.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Hold renters accountable/background checks.

Property Maintenance

Hold renter accountable. Place to review apartment companies.

Trash and Noise

Hold renters accountable/law enforcement. Make tenants aware of laws.

Code Enforcement Issues

Stricter enforcement of policies.

Transportation Options

Bike lanes.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

More onsite management.

Property Maintenance

More onsite/in-town management.

Trash and Noise

Stricter enforcement.

Code Enforcement Issues

Better education/outreach.

Transportation Options

Better education about BG transit.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Neighborhood clean-up (landlord/renter and community).

Property Maintenance

Opportunity for organization like Habitat?

Trash and Noise

Continue enforcement of Ch. 94 changes (trash).

Code Enforcement Issues

Focus on exterior issues so personnel has more time to examine entire city.

Transportation Options

Coordinate with other government entities to coordinate transportation opportunities.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Mediation option for quick resolutions in order to get around court action.

Property Maintenance

Strict penalties which include occupants not just landlords.

Trash and Noise

Nurture relationship between enforcers and offenders.

Code Enforcement Issues

Invest in more enforcement officers.

Transportation Options

Seek grants for new modes of public transportation.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Increase communication between both groups, i.e. student or renter/landlord advisory group.

Property Maintenance

Offer grants to owners who have limited resources for the purpose of property upkeep and maintenance.

Trash and Noise

Community policing! Stop blaming – work to build neighborhood relationships.

Code Enforcement Issues

Regular mailing and other outreach to educate.

Transportation Options

Intercity train and bus.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Owners much reach out to new renters regularly.

Property Maintenance

CDC and municipal finance incentives.

Trash and Noise

Regular mailing and other outreach to educate.

Code Enforcement Issues

BGSU student orientation day/week “friendly reminders.”

Transportation Options

More cabs.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Lack of homeowner accountability. Lots of rental properties look better than owner-occupied homes. Make funds available to citizens.

Property Maintenance

BGSU service project for clean-up days. Take pride as community members.

Trash and Noise

Code Enforcement Issues

List of Codes, prioritized, number of citations issued.

Transportation Options

Sidewalks added where needed and maintained.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Refer back to code enforcement. Last time it was stated, some issues aren't against city code but health code, so there is nothing the City can do. Pass the violations onto Health Department to handle.

Property Maintenance

Community days where volunteers can “help” spruce up places.

Trash and Noise

Getting University involved with violations among students.

Code Enforcement Issues

A review of existing code, “beef up” to include nuisance properties, additional staff to be proactive to protect property value.

Transportation Options

Wider, more well-lit sidewalks/alleys to accommodate pedestrians and bikes.

Renter/Homeowner Conflict

Encourage property owners to adhere to rules, fine when necessary.

Property Maintenance

Educate property owners on the “why” of property upkeep, couple with tougher code.

Trash and Noise

Additional large item pick-up, brush pick-up. Stiffer warnings and fines for violations.