

Crafton/Ingram Implementable Comprehensive Plan and Early Intervention Plan

Public Meeting No. 1 - Ingram - Meeting Notes

Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:00pm

Ingram Borough Building – about 75 people attended the meeting

1. Introductions.

Jim indicated that the two boroughs, Crafton and Ingram have hired Pashek Associates to facilitate a planning process, called a Comprehensive Plan. He introduced his colleague Claire Matway who would be working on this plan. He also mentioned that Pashek Associates was working with other subconsultants with special expertise and would bring their unique skills to the project on an as needed basis. Pashek Associates was also be working closely with Grass Root Solutions who was evaluating the efficiency of services provided by the Boroughs.

2. What is a comprehensive plan, what makes it implementable, and why do we do it?

Jim explained that a comprehensive plan is a long-range “map” for the community’s future. Typically, a Comprehensive Plan would look at issues focused on economic development, housing, community facilities (like parks), transportation and infrastructure. The borough is joining with Ingram to complete a multi-municipal comprehensive plan. They have also opted to have Pashek Associates provide an Implementable Comprehensive Plan. Whereas the traditional Comprehensive Plan is a broad brush review of most things in the communities, the Implementable Comprehensive Plan focuses on a few key issues in the communities and strives to provide greater detail on how those plans can be implemented. Comprehensive Plans are typically done every ten years, acknowledging the changes that have taken place since the last plan.

3. Listing issues and prioritize them.

Jim and Claire led the group through a group process of listing issues that the plan might want to address. Then the group was asked to rank those issues by placing dots on the three most important issues raised that evening. The issues are listed by priority on the following page. Jim indicated that all of the issues were important and would be given consideration as the process proceeded.

4. Jim listed next steps.

Meet with Steering Committee on January 18. Continue to work on Plan. Will report back/check in with community.

VOTES	ISSUE
32	The fire department is an asset to the community
22	Concern that Ingram stay a municipality and not merge
22	More emphasis on property maintenance, review and update ordinances, focus on more enforcement
16	Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center needs improved, updated, perceived as a vast wasteland in the center (plant some trees)
16	Encourage new businesses, especially restaurants
15	Fire department needs new trucks (one is 40 years old) and more volunteers
8	Continue to improve Ingram Park, add more activities
7	Develop a Community Center for all ages
7	Would like to see Decorative lights on Foster Avenue
6	Desire to have better information about council actions; maybe broadcast on cable tv or posted to YouTube
5	Develop strategies to protect the beautiful older homes (historic)
5	The Montour School District is an asset to the community
4	Hire another full-time police officer to be more visible in the community
3	Add lighting in the alleys, feels dangerous late at night
3	Provide more activities for seniors
3	Don't remove the cobblestones in the streets
3	Speeding on Borough streets a concern
3	Develop strategies to encourage home ownership and discourage absentee owners
2	Reopen the park at Runnymede Avenue
2	Work toward improving the urban forest
2	Add a left turn light on Linshaw and Steuben Street
2	Need to improve the roads, repair streets with potholes
1	The community is very family oriented which is an asset
1	Remove the large slide at the park, it is a hazard
1	Eliminate cut-through traffic
1	Obtain more federal dollars
1	Littering is a concern
1	Get people to clean up after their dogs
1	Improve senior accessibility to areas like the shopping center – golf cart route from senior high rise to the shopping center?
1	Concern with housing blight (not a major problem but could be on the increase)
0	Ingram is a great location near the City and not far from the airport

VOTES	ISSUE (continued)
0	Raise taxes to ensure better property maintenance
0	Remove cobblestones in the street
0	Street department is an asset in the community/does a good job with snow removal
0	We need to beautify the community
0	Better maintenance in the alleys
0	Open up the grade school that has been closed for several years
0	Forest Grove Elementary School is an asset to the community
0	Ingram is a "Helping Community"
0	Concern with Hodgson traffic