Direction 2030: Your Voice. Your Choice
Technical Task Force
April 11th, 2012 Meeting

Attending: Samantha Brown, Mike Schoettelkotte, Dan Allen, Tara Ford, Mike Bezold, Thomas Witt, Jim Kreissl, Emi Randall, Tim Bender, Rebecca Weber, Steve Wieland, Mary Singler, Jerome Bowles, Hensley Jemmott, Preston Wilson.

Staff: Keith Logsdon, Sharmili Reddy, Edward Dietrich, Martin Scribner, Brian Sims.

The meeting started with introductions and a review of the March meeting minutes. One mistake was found with a statement describing 200 percent above the poverty line as 200 times above the poverty line. The error has been corrected.

Agency Presentations

Northern Kentucky Chapter of the NAACP – Education is a major concern particularly post secondary education. Supporting community colleges is a primary focus. Accessible and affordable transportation to secondary educational institutions and to jobs is also a major concern. NKY should be recognized as a prosperous place but there are concerns about funding for projects that can help this area move forward. The additional funding does not appear to be coming from tax revenue. Neighborhoods are also a focus. Neighborhoods should improve and thrive but this prosperity should not come through displacement of current residents.

Policy Discussion

The following topics were selected for discussion based on multiple comments made at the first round of public meetings.

Green Space
Most everyone agrees that green space is important and plays a vital role in our community. TTF members pointed out the health, economic and environmental benefits that green spaces provide. The health and environmental benefits are fairly obvious; however the economic benefits are becoming more apparent with studies that show the value of homes increasing when they are close to a well maintained park. Also, it is thought, that large natural areas increase the desirability to live in the area. Accessibility to large public areas in the southern part of the county is a concern. Members expressed a need for more parks in the urban and suburban areas. Along with this there is strong interest in a large connected multi-
use path system throughout the county. The Licking River Greenway is considered a good start towards this. The Banklick Creek valley could be a potential component of this concept.

Along similar lines the widening plans for Hwy 536 have an eight foot wide multi-use path on both sides of the road from the Boone Co. line to KY 17. The issue of green spaces owned by homeowner associations (HOA) is a concern. A considerable amount of land is owned by HOA’s with little benefit being gained from them. Most local HOA’s do not have the money to maintain their green spaces. TTF members discussed the potential for these pieces of land to be incorporated into a larger green space system. Community gardens are also a concept that should be given consideration. The Task Force recommends that instead of focusing on just one concept that each is a part of a larger park/green space concept that is necessary for the well being of the county. How to obtain funding for these projects is a big issue. Acquiring land and then maintaining it is costly. Using incentives is considered a good idea to improve this potential green space system. It was also pointed out that for these endeavors to succeed there needs to be strong political support.

Southern Kenton County
The consensus was that the southern part of the county should remain rural. Having a rural area in such close proximity to an urban area is considered to be a good thing and rather unique in a major metro area. It is used by real estate agents as a selling point for the area. It was pointed out that keeping the southern part of the County rural supports the concept of keeping development in the urban area. Dan Allen said that the number of farms is increasing in Kenton Co. but the size is decreasing. There is growing interest, mostly among young people, in smaller farms producing goods for a local market.