

**Hart County Listening and Design Session  
Hart County Planning Commission  
Horse Cave Fire Station  
May 1, 2014  
6:00 p.m.**

**What is the one thing you think of that you value the most, or that makes this county unique?**

- **Amount of jobs in jobs, particularly no larger than we are**
- **The people**
- **Natural beauty**
- **3 exits on 65**
- **The Caves**
- **Proximity to universities**
- **Agricultural heritage**
- **History of civil war**

**What are the strengths of this community?**

- **Ability for everyone to work together**
- **Cities within Hart County**
- **Location**

- Mammoth Cave National Park
- Lakes
- Cost of living
- I-65
- Climate, have all four seasons
- Leader in Me school leadership program

### **Weaknesses – what should we work on?**

- Keeping people advised about what's going on in the community
- Empty buildings downtown
- No public transportation
- Low median income
- Negative attitudes
- Lack of safe trails for walking, biking,
- Lack of activities to keep young people
- Housing – need for new 2, 3 bedroom, and rentals
- Inability to keep supply companies (lumber, plumbing and the like)
- Grocery stores
- Getting volunteers to participate and replace those that have been at it for a while
- Lack of restaurants
- Need for assisted living closer to home

- **Large population at poverty level, dependent upon public assistance**
- **Drug problems**
- **Can't fill the jobs we have open and available right now**
- **Statewide matching dollars for tourism marketing has been lost entirely**

### **Opportunities – what is possible?**

- **Got a lot of empty buildings**
- **Great empty theatre building**
- **Huge cave that is underutilized**
- **More opportunities for youth – recreational, exercise, etc.**
- **Under-utilized museum**
- **There is interest in our community to create business**
- **Opportunity to market buildings on our website**
- **Collectively put properties together for advertising and marketing to the outside**
- **Collective incentive programs for small businesses**
- **State incentives are available for small business growth**
- **WKU has a program along with the local chamber to assist business development**

- **Job opportunities need to be diversified**
- **Creative marketing efforts**
- **Cave is a job creator/economic development tool**
- **Museum can be used as an attractor for young people if hands on elements can be developed**
- **We have people that really care about our efforts and may be willing to invest**
- **Interchange opportunities for more development**
- **State and federal tax credits are available for rehab and renovation costs on older properties**
- **Liquor by the drink for restaurants is available**
- **Internet connections are great here**
- **We are in the ARC, we are eligible for the SOAR initiative and their support**
- **Childcare opportunities**
- **Create an approach to leaders of industry to entice them back to live in this community**

### **Threats –what will keep us from success?**

- **Cut backs from state funding is hurting us**
- **Community negativity**
- **Aging population which effects our tax base and other things**
- **Lack of understanding of the importance of a strong infrastructure**

- **Gas prices impact on transportation/travel/tourism**
- **People that manage or own the industry no longer live here – take their resources elsewhere**
- **Lack of involvement in community**
- **We don't always work together**
- **We are our own worst enemies, we don't support our own businesses**
- **Threat of new growth – lot of people don't like to see growth...happy with the way things are. People are afraid of change**
- **People don't like to see you make money**

## **Design Session**

### **Table #5**

- **Retirees/community**
- **Single family housing – rental especially**
- **Small businesses – support and encourage**
- **Local crafts – county-wide**
- **Art – include performing arts**
- **Green space at rest areas**

- **Viewsheds – all cities beautify natural open spaces**
- **Groundwater protection especially cave areas – surface water, runoff**
- **Tourism**
- **High tech development**
- **Challenge park**

### **Table #6**

- **Gateway signs – entries to Hart County (more fun)**
- **Senior citizen centers**
- **Safe trail system – connectors between cities**
- **Shop local – grocery store, hardware store**
- **Crafts – countywide outlet – co-op**
- **Small business development – particularly downtown**
- **Groundwater protection – problem is larger than Hart County**
- **Farmers Market –**
- **Raparian buffer around Green River**
- **Surface water protection**
- **Viewsheds – rural sites – Northtown**
- **Wildlife at Kentucky Down Under**
- **New development – between I-65 and Hwy 218 – so it does not impact residential areas**

- **Arts – downtown Horse Cave – performing arts – combining tobacco warehouses – Midway Wholesale Warehouses**
- **Public Art**
- **Single family housing – Windy Hill Road**
- **Organized athletics – revolves around the schools**

#### **Table #4**

- **Surface water protection**
- **Ground water – Green River protection**
- **Raparian buffers around rivers and streams**
- **More youth activities**
- **Tourism development**
- **Single family housing**
- **More ways to display local art**
- **Working with the arts community**
- **More \$ for Bed & Breakfast development**
- **Farmers Market – needs more support**

#### **Table # 3**

- **Focusing more on interstate development**
- **Utilize greenspace around the cave – parks**
- **Develop cave more fully**
- **Trails and walking areas – already have downtown walking trail committee to develop and plan**

- **More small businesses in downtown Horse Cave**
- **More things for young people to do**
- **Tourism countywide needs a bigger focus**
- **Additional small business development in Munfordville**
- **Aviation Tourism – hobby airplanes**

## **Table #2**

- **Shop local – capture out of town \$\$**
- **Welcome to Hart County signs on all four roads**
- **Crafts – market more effectively – need space**
- **Kids – place for them to gather maybe Brandstetters – like facility in Glasgow**
- **Need more places to stay off the interstate interchange**
- **Walking trail construction**
- **Need more recreational opportunities (indoor facilities)**
- **More signage promoting local business**
- **Downtown Wi-Fi (Free)**
- **Downtown small businesses**
- **Small family housing – all over Hart County**

## **Table #1**

- **Emergency housing shelters**
- **We have children who can't afford food and don't have a place to live**
- **Need a YMCA or community place for young people to learn how to get a job, be responsible and feel safe**

**What is one thing we could do that would have positive long-term impact?**

- **Schools – greatest impact on young people**
- **Get people to work together**
- **Positive attitude – support one another**
- **Work across artificial boundaries – county, cities, river**
- **Build a community from the ground up - schools**