

WELCOME!

**Community Listening and Design Session
City of Prestonsburg
Thursday, February 16, 2017
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

What are the things that set Prestonsburg apart from other cities or places?

Strengths

- **Home**
- **Personality**
- **Heritage**
- **Music**
- **Community**
- **The MAC**
- **Jenny Wiley Theatre**
- **Community**
- **Science Center**
- **Lake**
- **Our kids**
- **Art**
- **Battlefield**
- **Samuel May House**
- **Cultural Things**
- **Championship Golf Course**
- **Big Sandy Community College**
- **Walking Trails – Adventure Tourism**
- **Bridge that needs repair**
- **Mountain biking**
- **Number 6 School District**

Weaknesses

- **Lack of good paying jobs**
- **Too much emphasis on tourism**
- **Unity**
- **Communication**
- **Short-sidedness**
- **Lack of economic director**
- **Lack of a community and regional Master Plan**
- **Economic Diversity**
- **Lack of concentrated development**
- **Stereo types of people in the region**
- **Lack of cultural preservation**
- **Lack of opportunities for those that can't afford it**
- **Drug and alcohol free activities for kids**
- **Lack of parking downtown**
- **Lack of a strong central business district**
- **Lack of a planning director**
- **High number of vacant homes**
- **Too many vacant buildings**
- **Absentee ownership of buildings downtown**
- **Not enough age appropriate activities**
- **High average age of population**
- **No independent living for elderly**
- **Zero transitional living**
- **No public transportation**
- **No homeless shelters**
- **Lack of garbage cans, not enforcing laws**
- **Apathy, lack of community involvement**
- **Lack of quality rentals, upscale**

Opportunities

- **More parent involvement in school**
- **Expand the positive things**
- **City should embrace the state park and college more**
- **Equine center underused**
- **Get an education are extraordinary here**
- **Jenny Wiley seems to be slipping away from the community**
- **MAC to be used more for a hub for arts and music, particularly for those who can't afford it**
- **Skating rink at Archer Park open to the public**
- **Make Big Sandy a four year college**

- **Create training center for people coming out of transitional experiences – after care**
- **Movie theatre**
- **More activities for tourists**
- **Work with other communities to package activities – create 3 day packages**
- **Put together an economic task force to promote the area regionally, for specific age groups to impact businesses – market the area as a place to live and retire**
- **Community gardening, get young people involved in the cultural side of the community**
- **Connect nonprofits to community service hours thorough court system**
- **SOAR Task Force**
- **Ensure that no grant monies go untapped**
- **Show young people this is a place to stay**

Threats

- **Having conversations and not doing anything**
- **Negative attitude of people that are here, must overcome this feeling**
- **Drug addiction is huge**
- **Community involvement**
- **Volunteer basis – how can citizens be more involved?**
- **City’s working with Comp Care, trying to address the problems (Unite is another assistance program)**
- **Smoking related diseases**
- **Health and wellness are threats**
- **Degradation of natural resources**
- **Limited economic development sites**
- **Infrastructure to support**
- **Missing infill opportunities in the downtown**
- **Local recreational complex similar to the sports complex in Knott County to facilitate tourists**
- **No shovel ready industrial sites**

One thing we can do right now?

- **Hit the lottery**
- **Find more revenue streams**
- **Money needs to be left here – community investment – locally grown and owned**
- **Generate new money**

Design Session

Table # 1

- Mouth of Trimble Branch at City Park, enhance into a village green area
- Garfield Trail from mouth of Abbotts Creek to Prestonsburg

Table #2

- Racetrack is in, need north to south annexation
- Develop a four-year college (we have lowest density per square mile)

Table # 6

- Expansion of Farmers Market, possibly space behind City Hall, under roof
- Small business, development on Water Gap Road

Table # 5

- Transitional Housing
- Professional greenhouse training – use property behind stone crest, work with drug court and rehab to get people involved
- Downtown, local business incubator and encourage businesses to hire people in transition

Table # 4

- Recreational theme, enhance river activities, convert the music Carter Hughes building and put in a theatre, enhance parks, stronger connection among parks and recreational activities. Look at Greenville, South Carolina
- Think regional rather than just local.

Table # 9

- Indoor farmers market, there is a building available old Food Land Building
- Empty buildings downtown need to be utilized for local businesses

Table # 8

- Strengthen regulations and design guidelines and enforce them.
- Correct sanitary sewer and storm water systems
- Entice businesses to locate within the city with incentives

Table # 7

- Development of Tremble branch
- Grade school property
- Development of at mouth of Abbott Creek
- Development of southern end of town where businesses have been lost

Other Thoughts

- **Broadband**
- **Developing Urban Sprawl**
- **Enhancing along the river**

Next steps – Before the next meeting:

- Citizens will
 - Invite 5 more people to the next meeting
 - Participate in follow-up team meeting(s)
 - Continue the discussions within your own sphere of influence (at home, work, school, church, and community meetings)
 - Determine your role in implementing the community's strategies
 - Reflect on your work
 - Share additional thoughts with KLC staff
Bobbie Bryant, bbryant@klc.org or Tad Long, tlong@klc.org or call either of us at 800-876-4552
- KLC Staff will:
 - Analyze the comments
 - Identify key themes and core values
 - Develop initial strategies and priorities
 - Report back to the group
- The Leadership will:
 - Set a date, time and place for the next meeting
 - Determine how to take ownership of the plan
 - Consider the benchmarks for success
 - Talk about this effort at every opportunity