

Prestonsburg High School Students
Listening & Design Session
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mayor Les Settles explained why the students had been brought together. He shared with them how the planning progress will help the city in the future and that he and the City Council wants the students to be involved in the process. He invited them to the public meeting to follow later in the evening at the MAC. Michael Ellis, the city's comptroller and alumni of Prestonsburg High School was also on hand to work with the students and take photographs.

Tad Long and Bobbie Bryant, community consulting advisors for the Kentucky League of Cities, facilitated the students' discussion.

Best thing about living in Prestonsburg (strengths)

- It's homey
- Know everybody
- Everything is close – restaurants, entertainment
- Lake is pretty – needs to be cleaned up
- Sense of community
- Friendly people
- Mountain Arts Center – events
- Parades
- Jenny C Wiley SP
- You can walk everywhere

What do you not like about Prestonsburg (Weaknesses)

- Nothing to do
- Nowhere for kids to hang out
- Have to go to Pikeville or Paintsville – movies
- No restaurants to hang out
- Not enough residents to be financially feasible to open a business
- Limited activities/opportunities for elderly people

What does the city need? (Opportunity?)

- Open the Strand
- Escape Room
- YMCA
- Work out/play basketball
- Youth center – arcade
- Small mall
- Like “The Hub” in Danville
- LAN Parties/Gamer Tournaments
- More businesses – small town businesses, scaled-down Wal-Mart
- Target/BDubs/Texas Roadhouse – better food/atmosphere

- Alta
- What kind of jobs?
 - Tech jobs
 - Research facility – pharma/biological
 - Tutoring Center/teacher
 - Alternative to coal
 - STEM Companies – need incentives
 - Too much competition for high-paying jobs
 - Medical jobs – surgeons, PA
 - Corporate law, Defense attorney
 - Neurologist, Psychologist, Physical therapist, anesthesiologist
 - HVAC

Housing – Stone Crest, but most housing is older

What do you do on weekends?

- Park and talk

School – sports/don't really have a lot other than sports at the schools

What does the city need to do if it is to prosper? (threats)

- Although there is a lot going on, it isn't unified. Not going in the same direction. Undeveloped project that never did happen because the direction of the city changed.
- Need more advertisement, we may not even know what is available like a bounce house.
- Create an advisory council to join in the work of city council
- Give people a reason to come back to Prestonsburg. Pushed our young people to leave so they could make more money. Need an incentive to bring people back.
- Get rid of reputation that eastern KY is filled with drugs.

How do you want to be communicated with?

Social media

Is anyone involved in the community civic life? 2 students.

When asked about jobs at the MAC (lighting, sound, etc.), no one seemed to know what might be available. One student suggested that they don't think about what behind the scenes jobs/trades even exists.

Charrette

- New housing in town
- Organize athletics – a YMCA for something to do
- Fun things for all ages (challenge park and the like for all ages – cool stuff to do)
- More trails or things to do at Jenny Wiley
- Aquatics fish protection – pollution

- Traffic lights control congestion
- More promotion about the Farmers market and local foods
- More national chains
- Hi tech – place to repair place
- Small businesses are often not known about, need to help promote them.