

Public Engagement and Participation Plan

Update to 2009 City of Janesville Comprehensive Plan

The City of Janesville's Comprehensive Plan requires an update to comply with State of Wisconsin comprehensive planning law. An aspect of this requirement involves adopting written procedures to foster public engagement and participation including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings in every stage of the plan update (Section 66.1001(4)(a)). Actively involving community stakeholders is a key component of updating a comprehensive plan. The City has developed the following public engagement and participation plan to cultivate public involvement and ensure that the plan accurately reflects the vision of the community.

Participation Opportunities:

(All public meetings will be properly noticed.)

1. Comprehensive Planning Committee (Steering Committee) Meetings

The community will utilize a comprehensive planning committee comprised of the Janesville Plan Commission to provide policy guidance during the plan update process. A series of public meetings will be held by the committee to address each of the plan elements. Committee meetings will be scheduled immediately in advance of regular Plan Commission meeting times (first and third Monday evenings of every month). The committee will hold public meetings and solicit public input at every stage of the planning effort. As long as COVID-19 is a hindrance to in-person public engagement, alternative methods of participation, such as virtual meetings, may be provided to ensure that the community's thoughts are reflected in the updated plan. There will be multiple meetings held in this format to address each of the essential chapters of the plan.

2. Survey

The community will be surveyed regarding vision, goals, and objectives, and the results will be used to guide the adjustment of these elements within the plan.

3. Online Participation

To allow for public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, online commenting, discussion, and informing methods will be provided throughout the update process.

a. Website

Information will be provided through the City of Janesville website on the Planning Division webpage. This resource will provide meeting schedules, agendas, draft plan materials, and other information regarding the plan update.

b. Social Pinpoint

Social Pinpoint is an online tool that may be used to gather community feedback throughout the update process. This platform would allow Janesville citizens to

comment on documents and maps, provide new insights, and respond to survey questions in the same location. The City would distribute a link to this resource when it is available.

4. Open House

Once a draft plan has been completed, the City will host an open house to solicit public comment on the updated Comprehensive Plan prior to City Council's final review of the update. Following this input, revisions will be made as necessary with additional public hearing(s) where appropriate. The open house would provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about recommended plan updates and comment upon proposed changes to the plan.

5. Plan Commission Meetings

The Plan Commission will also be asked to recommend adoption of the draft Comprehensive Plan to the City Council. At that time, public comment will again be solicited during a public hearing as well as from adjacent and overlapping government entities to ensure that issues of mutual concern have been incorporated into the plan. If necessary, further modifications will be made to the draft plan prior to the public hearing that precedes final adoption of the plan update by the City Council.

6. City Council Meetings

The City Council will need to approve an update to the Comprehensive Plan with a majority vote. When the Comprehensive Plan is on the City Council's agenda for final approval, a public hearing will be opened for the community to provide any input regarding the proposed plan updates.