

Janesville Comprehensive Brownfields Program

Public Meeting Agenda

June 6, 2012; 6-7:30pm

Janesville City Council Chambers

Agenda

1. Introduction
 - a. Brief overview of the brownfields program
 - b. Brief, general description of the focus areas
 - c. Description of how the community issues relate to the program
 - d. Definition of what community issues are/could be

2. Individual identification of primary community issues
 - a. Participants will individually review list of community issues, add to them, and select their priorities

3. Group determination of primary community issues
 - a. Participants will sit in small groups, and jointly determine 6-7 primary community issues
 - b. Groups share back their results with all meeting participants

4. Narrowing of primary community issues
 - a. Small group rankings will be placed for everyone to see and select from according to their preference. The top 5-6 issues will be the focus for grant efforts, HMC efforts. The PMT and City staff will score brownfield sites according to primary community issues



**Janesville Comprehensive Brownfields Program
Community Issues Inventory and Prioritization
Public Meeting
June 6, 2012**

The initial public meeting for the Janesville Comprehensive Brownfields Program was held on Wednesday, June 6th from 6:00pm until 7:30pm in the Janesville Council Chambers. In all, 18 people signed-in; however, about 25 people attended the meeting in total including City staff, Committee members and three consultants. Specific members of the Brownfields Project Management Team that were present included:

- Al Hulick, City of Janesville
- Terry Nolan, City of Janesville
- Duane Cherek, City of Janesville
- Vic Grassman, City of Janesville
- Scott Wilson, Ayres Associates
- Scott Harrington, Vandewalle & Associates
- Celia Benton, Vandewalle & Associates

The purpose of the meeting was to identify the priority community issues to be addressed by the Brownfields Program. Specifically, the priority issues will be used as criteria to score brownfield sites during the site inventory process and as the primary issues of focus by the Health Monitoring Committee in setting up its Action Model to track changes in community health over time as brought about by brownfield redevelopment.

The meeting agenda included four tasks: a brief introduction to the brownfields program; individual inventory and ranking of issues; small group rankings; and a large group final ranking. During the individual inventory and ranking session, people were asked to review a list of possible community issues, add to or edit them, and rank their top 6-10. The results of the individual ranking exercises are varied, but show a great deal of interest in the preservation of the Rock River and its use as a destination, as well as more economic issues such as the expansion of businesses. This information is based on a total of 17 collected individual worksheets.

In the group session, participants were asked to narrow issues into their top 6-7 through combining individual rankings with group voting (see corresponding worksheet). During both the individual and group sessions, several participants wrestled with the prioritization of issues because of the distinct needs and characteristics of each of the four brownfields focus areas. In addition, several groups indicated that protection of human health and the environment was very important to them but that they assumed these would inherent in the Brownfield program and therefore they did not specifically include them on their list/rank them very high. However, all groups seemed satisfied with their ultimate selections as well as the final selections at the end of the meeting. Following are the results of the group rankings:



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Group One:

- Fix up/remove rundown properties
- Create new jobs
- Create opportunities to retain/expand business
- Contribute to civic development
- Protect River
- Create new entertainment venues
- River as a destination
- Provide opportunities for County uses
- Create livable neighborhoods
- Create natural areas
- Enhance use of River
- Reduce spread of pollution

Group Two:

- Redevelop properties
- Fix up/remove rundown buildings
- Preserve historic sites
- Protect River and water quality
- Create opportunities to retain/expand/recruit businesses
- Create new entertainment venues or opportunities
- Provide opportunities for community uses or activities

Group Three:

- Redevelop properties quickly
- Fix up/remove rundown properties
- Improve safety and reduce crime and vandalism
- Create opportunities to retain/expand/recruit business
- Increase property tax base
- Create new jobs
- Create or maintain livable neighborhoods
- Build neighborhood unity and identity

Group Four:

- Protect groundwater
- Reduce human contact with pollutants
- Protect river, improve water quality
- Create/maintain livable neighborhoods
- Create new jobs
- Preserve historic buildings/sites
- Retain/expand/recruit businesses

Group Five:

- Protect groundwater
- Create/maintain livable, walkable neighborhoods
- Increase diversity – housing choices
- Build neighborhood unity/identification
- Protect River – water quality
- Reduce pollution spreading to other properties
- Create diversity of use: residential, commercial, recreation
- Fix and remove rundown properties



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Group Six:

- Health
- Reduce human contact with pollutants
- Protect groundwater
- Reduce spread of pollutants
- Protect river, increase water quality
- Preserve historic buildings or sites
- Create/maintain livable neighborhoods
- Create new jobs
- Retain/expand/recruit businesses

Group Seven:

- Redevelop properties quickly
- Fix up/remove rundown properties
- Increase property tax base
- Improve safety and reduce crime and vandalism
- Create opportunities to retain/expand recruit business
- Create new jobs
- Create or maintain livable neighborhoods
- Build neighborhood unity and identity
- Preserve historic buildings and sites
- Continue to civic development
- Increase diversity of housing choices

Near the conclusion of the meeting, each group shared their outcomes with all other groups. All participants were then asked to select their top five priorities from the lists prepared by all of the groups, with the results shown below. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of participants who selected the issue as being among their top five. Note that several similar or identical issues were included by multiple groups and these were combined and slightly rephrased as appropriate.

- 1. Create opportunities to retain/expand/recruit businesses (14)**
- 2. Enhancement, protection, and quality improvement of the Rock River (13)**
- 3. Redevelop properties quickly (11)**
- 4. Create or maintain livable, walkable neighborhoods (11)**
- 5. Fix up/remove rundown properties (9)**
- 6. Increase diversity of housing choices (6)**
- 7. Preserve historic buildings or sites (5)**
- 8. Reduce the spread of pollutants to other properties (4)**
- 9. Provide opportunities for community uses or activities (4)**
- 10. Protect groundwater (3)**
- 11. Increase property tax (2)**
- 12. Reduce potential human contact with pollutants (2)**
- 13. Create new entertainment venues or opportunities (2)**
- 14. Improve safety and reduce crime and vandalism (1)**
- 15. Create new jobs (1)**
- 16. Contribute to civic development (1)**
- 17. Build neighborhood unity and identity (1)**
- 18. Preserve and increase natural areas (1)**

Following is a copy of the worksheet that was handed out at the meeting.

Introduction

The City is seeking your input about which community issues should be a focus of our new Brownfields Program. Through the extensive public outreach we conducted with our many planning efforts over the last several years, we have a good understanding of the community's general issues of concern. In fact, the creation of the Brownfields Program itself is a direct result of that previous input. We want to be sure, however, that the program achieves meaningful results to residents and property owners.

Step 1: Individual Priorities – 10 minutes

On the back of this page is an initial list of issues that could be addressed in some way through the assessment, clean-up, and reuse of brownfield sites. Please take about 10 minutes to look them over and do the following:

- Add to the list anything else that you would like to see addressed
- Make notes next to those that you think need more explanation
- Revise the description on those you think are important but need clarity
- Select the six to ten (including any that you've added) that you think are the most important
- Prioritize your top selections by either ranking them in order or breaking them into three groups such as high, higher, and highest

Step 2: Small Group Priorities – 40 minutes

Once everyone at your table has completed their individual review and ranking of the issues, select someone to record the discussion outcomes on the large flip chart. Be sure to write legibly and leave some space in between issues. Begin the discussion by going around the table and having each person share two of the priority issues they identified on their worksheet and a brief explanation as to why they think they are important. Allow some time for discussion but keep moving so everyone has an opportunity to provide their ideas. Try to avoid repeating someone else's selections by offering any others that you've identified as priorities. After everyone has had a chance to provide their two issues, review the list and go around the table one last time giving each person the opportunity to add one more issue that they believe strongly should be included.

Once the list is completed, tear off the flip chart pages and lay them on your table. Everyone at the table should then place their yellow stickers next to their top five priorities. Each person must select five issues – do not use more than one of your five stickers on a particular issue.

Once everyone has placed their stickers, tabulate the results and re-write your top eight issues on a new flip chart sheet (use only one sheet) and, again, be sure to write legibly and leave some space in between issues. Select someone from the table to present these to the rest of the participants at the meeting in Step 3.

Step 3: Final Priorities – 25 minutes

The spokesperson from each group will read their top priorities and then stick their sheet on the wall for everyone to see. Once each group's list is on the wall, duplicates will be eliminated by the moderator. After that, everyone at the meeting will place their red stickers next to their top five priorities (again, place only one of your stickers next to a particular priority). The moderator will then quickly tabulate the results and share them back with a brief wrap-up discussion.



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Community Issues

- Redevelop properties quickly
- Fix up/remove rundown properties
- Increase property tax base
- Protect groundwater
- Protect the river and improve water quality
- Reduce the spread of pollutants to other properties
- Reduce potential human contact with pollutants
- Preserve historic buildings or sites
- Improve safety and reduce crime and vandalism
- Create opportunities to retain/expand/recruit businesses
- Create new jobs
- Contribute to civic development
- Increase the diversity of housing choices
- Create new entertainment venues or opportunities
- Create new shopping choices
- Create new recreation amenities
- Create or maintain livable neighborhoods
- Build neighborhood unity and identity
- Provide opportunities for community uses or activities
- Provide opportunities of youth
- Provide opportunities for seniors