

Outcomes from September 10 Crossroads II Forum

About 60 people attended the September 10 forum, the second session to look at the future of Carroll County, identify critical issues and develop a plan of action. The evening was spent identifying the critical issues that surfaced from the discussions the previous week. Priority issues were then established.

To establish priorities, each person had three “votes” with color dots that were assigned points (3 points for most important, 2 points for second most important, one point for third most important). After everyone voted, the points were counted with the following results.

1. Jobs – create opportunities – more diversity, use of technology, more retail (108 points with 30 first place votes)
2. Planning for critical issues – long-term vision, goals, and action (46 points with 6 first place votes)
3. Infrastructure – GIS, Internet, roads, bridges, sewer & water (42 points with 4 first place votes)
4. Youth and Family recreation (27 points with 3 first place votes)
5. Tourism – more entertainment and recreation (19 points with no first place votes)
6. Marketing the county (10 points with 4 first place votes)
7. Emergency and social services – drug/alcohol abuse – youth-families (12 points with 2 first place votes)
8. Development of HHH (10 points with one first place vote)
9. Working toward consensus (10 points with one first place vote)
10. Promoting current and new businesses – “shop local” (9 points with no first place votes)
11. Increase financial base (9 points with no first place votes)
12. Governmental unity (9 points with no first place votes)
13. Protecting natural resources (7 points with no first place votes)
14. More interaction, more involvement, more unity (6 points with no first place votes)
15. Diversity – people (5 points with no first place votes)
16. Lodging (4 points with one first place vote)
17. Youth involvement (3 points with one first place vote)
18. Education of workforce (3 points with no first place votes)
19. Zoning (no votes)
20. More regional efforts with surrounding counties and Purdue (no votes)
21. Leadership – government level (no votes)

Some issues were then combined and people were given an opportunity to go to a table to discuss the issue about which they had the most interest. The groups were asked to decide if a taskforce should be formed to set goals and identify actions. (The overall objective is to develop a plan of action like the one in the 2005 brochure.) The following is a summary of the small groups.

1. **Create Job Opportunities** – facilitated by Daryl Smith. Although the EDC and County Chamber are actively pursuing this objective, there are new ideas and people to involve. It is worthy of continued discussion. Yes, they want to continue the discussion on Sept. 24.
2. **Youth and Family Recreation** – facilitated by Sandy Shafer. Yes, they will continue to discuss possible actions. Olivia Wenisch will facilitate the discussion on Sept. 24
3. **Marketing the County** – facilitated by Bret Hanaway. Not sure if this will be a taskforce as marketing is the mission of the County Chamber.
4. **Tourism** – facilitated by Lynn Corson. Yes, this discussion will continue. Existing tourism committee will be expanded to include additional people.
5. **Infrastructure** – facilitated by Dick Bradshaw. This will not continue as a taskforce, but there are issues to discuss on Sept. 24.
6. **Government Unity with a Vision** – Randy Strasser facilitated. Several actions were identified. Yes, this discussion will continue.
7. **Diversity** – Michael Gonzalez facilitated. Yes, this discussion will continue.

People who are interested in helping to set goals and actions for the above issues will meet next **Thursday evening, September 24, 7-9 pm at the Burlington Community Center.**

Refreshments will be served, but not a meal. Please come if you'd like to be part of identifying solutions to important issues regarding the county's future.

Please make sure that you also have the following date on your calendar: **November 12, 7-9 pm at the Canal Center.** The taskforces will make presentations on their proposed goals action plans at that time. Everyone is encouraged to attend this important meeting.