

**Downtown Revitalization
Business Advisory Team
Meeting Summary ~ April 6, 2009**

More than 60 people attended the first Downtown Revitalization Business Advisory Meeting. Purpose of the meeting was to begin the dialog about our vision for downtown and to determine the direction we need to get there and how.

Mayor Carl Brewer welcomed the group. Jeff Fluhr presented information on the Case for Downtown, outlining what's going on now and revitalization benefits.

(<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/newsletter/downtown%20revitalization%20final.pdf>)

- We are building our identity and have a lot of "wins"
- We are building upon our investment
- We need to determine how to keep moving forward; how to connect the assets we have built – Old Town, INTRUST Arena, River Front, Water Walk
- We need to identify strategic development initiatives
- We can learn from other communities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, Raleigh, Kansas City, Oklahoma City
- We need to create the environment businesses can build upon
- The goal is how to take a 20 year vision and make it happen in 10 years.

Jody Horner and Harvey Sorensen asked the group for their ideas for downtown and how to increase the business investment in downtown. Dozens of ideas shared, with themes including:

- Connecting the various areas
- Residential is important plus the amenities to support residential (grocery store, retail)
- Help people get to different areas, including pedestrian and transportation (trams, etc.)
- Big ideas are needed
- Consider parks, green spaces, bike access, etc.
- More activities throughout week, including arts, film, etc.
- Take all residents into consideration
- Help eliminate confusion over going downtown and parking (one-way streets)
- More high-paying jobs downtown
- Need a comprehensive downtown plan

The overwhelming consensus of the group by comments and show of hands was that we need a comprehensive downtown plan so that we are ready for when the economy turns. Individual ideas are hard to consider in isolation, without an overall plan that is specific to our market. .