

**Downtown Revitalization
Association Advisory Team
Meeting Summary ~ April 13, 2009**

More than 60 people attended the first Downtown Revitalization Association Advisory Team meeting. The 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 and said there is a lot of momentum right now that we need to build upon. We know these are challenging times but we must continue to be aggressive and come to an agreement on where we need to go and how we are going to get there.

Jeff Fluhr presented information on the Case for Downtown, outlining what's going on now and revitalization benefits:

(<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/newsletter/041309%20Association%20Advisory%20Team%20Notes.pdf>)

- We have an opportunity to see some great things happen.
- Cities across the country are having this same conversation.
- Downtown is the community's identity.
- Wichita has been doing a lot of things right over the years.
 - 1989 RTKL plan
 - 1999 River Corridor plan
 - 2007 Arena Neighborhood plan
- The foundation has been laid for us to build upon.
- We can learn from other communities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, Raleigh, Kansas City & Oklahoma City.
- This is a competitive environment.
- The goal is how to take a 20 year vision and make it happen in 10 years.

The Mayor invited everyone to share their dream for downtown Wichita. We want to create an environment where people will want to live, work and play downtown. We need to take this city from good to great.

Co-Chairs John Rolfe and Jon Rolph asked the group for their ideas for downtown and input. Themes of the discussion and ideas, included:

- Important to access some of the other visions that are happening
- With knowing plans need to be fluid, make certain new efforts not side-tracked
- Be conscience of aesthetics.
- Performing arts center
- Convention center must be addressed
- Plazas, retail
- Connection is important, especially adequate transportation.
- How secure essential services for residential – dry cleaner, grocery, laundry
- Arts and culture important, including foreign film, arts district, theatre district
- Make streets 2-way
- Need accessibility
- Keep affordability
- Security and safety is important
- Address signage, coordinated physical features of downtown when entering

The group was overwhelmingly in favor of developing a new comprehensive plan for downtown.