

Phoenix Next enters a new phase: Planning team reports on progress in Northwest Dayton

The City of Dayton, Premier Health and CityWide Development are moving forward with their partnership work in the neighborhoods surrounding the Good Samaritan Hospital campus in Northwest Dayton. Phoenix Next, a new initiative of the 15-year-old Phoenix Project, will support the creation of a strategic investment plan for the Phoenix area neighborhoods and a re-use strategy for the 13 acres comprising the current Good Samaritan Hospital campus. Over the past month, the effort has been advanced in several key ways.

Public forums bring the community together

Two forums were held on Thursday, March 22, for community members to learn about the Phoenix Next planning process and to contribute their insights. The format for the forums was highly interactive. The forums, and an online survey that followed, yielded 750 ideas from approximately 220 community members. The most prevalent actions or outcomes that community members indicated they would like to see related to the topics of health, housing and economic development. Satisfaction rates were very high with 96 percent of participants who responded to an exit survey indicating they were comfortable working in the small groups and 98 percent who said they felt their input was accurately recorded.

A summary of input gathered from the community forums can be found on the project webpage at www.daytonphoenixproject.org/resources. As follow-up to the forums, the planning team will reach out to other key constituencies in the community.

Advisory committee appointed

A citizen advisory committee has been appointed to bring insight and perspective to the planning process. Their ideas and recommendations will provide guidance to the Phoenix Investment Committee and Board of Trustees. For a summary of the committee and engagement structure for the project, please visit www.daytonphoenixproject.org/resources. Confirmed advisory committee members include representatives from the following organizations:

- City of Dayton
- College Hill Neighborhood
- Dayton & Montgomery County Department of Public Health
- Dayton-Montgomery County Port Authority
- Dayton Police Department
- Dayton View Triangle
- Fairview Elementary School
- Fairview Neighborhood Association
- Fairview United Methodist Church
- Five Rivers Health Center
- Harrison Township
- Human Relations Council
- Huntington Bank
- Miami Valley Golf Club
- Northwest Priority Board
- Northwest Dayton Library Branch
- Omega Baptist Church
- Premier Health
- Regional Transit Authority
- Salem Avenue Business Association

At the first meeting of the advisory committee, members were asked to share one word about their mindset coming into the process. Words and phrases identified demonstrated that members are generally coming into the process with an open mind and a desire to be part of a constructive dialogue: anxiously hopeful, cautiously optimistic, curious, energized, excited, expectant, growth, hopeful, inspired, involvement, lemonade, opportunity, skeptical, and visionary.

Next steps

The planning team is working to inform the conceptual direction for the investment and re-use strategy. Conditions and trends information is being collected and analyzed. Moving into the summer, developing a community vision will include additional public engagement opportunities meant to give the community a significant role in shaping the area's future. A multi-day conceptual planning workshop will take place in late June. Check the project website at www.daytonphoenixproject.org for more details about the upcoming workshop soon.

About Phoenix Next

The City of Dayton and Premier Health have partnered with CityWide for 15 years on the Phoenix Project. Together they have invested more than \$20 million and leveraged \$45 million in additional private investment. Projects include the Five Rivers Family Health Center, the Dayton Metro Library Northwest Branch, and the Salem Avenue Gateway Expansion, among others. The Phoenix Project has partnered with many organizations to concentrate on civic participation, crime and violence, education, employment, environmental conditions, food insecurity, health, housing instability and quality, and transportation.

Phoenix Next is a new initiative of the Phoenix Project that was launched in February 2018 to support the creation of a strategic investment plan for the Phoenix area neighborhoods and a re-use strategy for the 13 acres comprising the current Good Samaritan Hospital site.

The public engagement and planning process will be overseen by the Phoenix Board of Trustees, which is comprised of representatives of the City of Dayton, Premier Health, CityWide and the community. On April 25, the Dayton City Commission appointed six members of the community to the Phoenix Governance structure. Joining the Phoenix Board are: Rev. Sam Winston, Tom Maultsby and Michael Colbert. Joining the Phoenix Investment Committee are: David Greer, Sharon Taste and Jeff Cooper.

CityWide, which has provided steady leadership since the inception of the Phoenix Project, will continue to use its expertise in community and economic development to guide the next wave of planning and investment. Planning NEXT, a nationally known community planning practice based in Columbus, Ohio, will facilitate the public process and creation of the plan.

A website at daytonphoenixproject.org has been created to keep the community informed about the process and to provide information about how to get involved. Planning is expected to conclude in late 2018.

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