

Community Input – Notes from Community Meeting

Village of Ontonagon

M-28 Visual Enhancement
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 12, 2004

Vision 2024- We Picture This

- Grand Entrances on the East and West end of the Corridor
- Uniform Design through highway relocation area consistent with downtown including lighting and walkway
- Lots of trees throughout town
- Public restrooms downtown
- Downtown year-round recreation “Center” (Summer and Winter Sports) (Bayfield Concept)
- Central visitor Center (Town Square)
- Pulled together: Snowmobile Center – Fishing Center – Tourist Shop Center
- Tour destination
- Village connection with Lake Superior
- Utilizing the Lake as an attraction
- Public access to the Light House
- The rail yard relocated out of town
- Cohesive view
- Island developed
- Bike Trail up river to marina and Rockland and Victoria
- Theme depicting “Historic Village” or “Maritime Use”
- Downtown Marina shuttle to light house (A tour by water)
- Community events with outside participation
- Play grounds and parks
- Band shell
- View of mill, coal disguised
- Common theme for promotion
- Theme “Year Around Activities Begin in Our Historic Downtown”
- Blend of Tourism, 2nd Home, Retirement Homes and Light Industry
- More High-Tech Job opportunities
- Young people active and involved in community (+Jobs)

Current Conditions/Issues/Visual Invaders

- Fewer young people see the value of staying here
- Small retail base in downtown
- Empty old buildings downtown
- Back sides of old buildings and vacant run down buildings
- Back sides of buildings along the river
- Media – poor attitude

- Lake Shore building blocks the Lake Superior View
- Need to create a sense of Community “Pride”
- Old crumbling railing along US-45
- Too many overhead wires
- Lack of higher level dining (Lots of Diners, but no fine dining)
- Need a modern Hotel/Motel in town (With Conference Center)
- Poor condition of Main Street roadway (Potholes)

Roadblocks

- Limited Dollars
- Limited Bodies
- Missing Generation
- Everyone wants the other guy, government or group to take the lead and/or do the work
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- Lack of local resources, manpower, expertise etc.
- Funding \$, Staying dedicated to a project
- Lack of commitment and follow through

How do we get there?

- Create an awareness of the areas beauty
- Create activities for young people (Youth presentation/play at theatre – Asset Building activities)
- Become more open to newcomers – more welcoming (Form a Welcome Group)
- Realize vision through organized plan (vision, grant, study, implement)
- Emphasize Lake Superior
- Coordinated planning