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Shelby - Utica News

Continuing the conversation

New Shelby Township master plan study is available online

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — After more than 70 residents showed up to a master plan open house Oct. 28, Shelby Township and its Planning Commission launched a new online survey using the mySidewalk portal.

The survey, which can be found at www.tinyurl.com/PlanShelby, is a continuation of the conversation about what the township should add to its master plan.

A master plan is a “living document” used to guide future land use decisions based on population, economy, housing, transportation facilities, environmental resources and current land use.

Topics on the survey range from, “Where is your favorite place to ride your bike in Shelby Township?” to “What community assets would you like to see improved or added in Shelby Township in the future?”

“We’ve been very pleased with the feedback we’ve received with the online tools, and we’re very excited about the possibilities represented by the open house,” Planning Director Glenn Wynn said. “Our goal is to make this an interactive process that engages the public through multiple techniques.”

He said the master plan update process has never been this interactive in the past.

At the open house, residents learned background information on the community’s characteristics and had a chance to talk to Planning Commission members, staff and consultants. Residents also provided suggestions to improve the township’s quality of life, housing, commercial development and transportation.

Kathleen Duffy, of LSL Planning, a firm hired by the township to help with the master plan process, said it is still early but that the township has a lot going for it.

“Residents are so happy here and love their township,” she said

in a prior interview.

Preliminary suggestions include creating a “town center” at 24 Mile Road and Van Dyke Avenue, a project that LSL Planning has worked on with the Shelby Township Downtown Development Authority, and making the township more walkable via sidewalks and trails.

“I’ve been very impressed with the many avenues Glenn Wynn and the Planning Commission have taken to get participation in this year’s master plan update,” Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. “Even more impressive, though, is the level of participation we’ve had.”

For more information, call the Planning and Zoning Department at (586) 726-7243 or email wynn@gshelbytwp.org.



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