

APPENDIX FOUR

VISIONING SESSION SUMMARY

SUMMARY
EMPIRE TOWNSHIP
MASTER PLANNING
VISIONING SESSION
MARCH 22, 2004; 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Approximately 37 people attended the visioning session consisting of Planning Commissioners, Township Board Members, Township residents, and Village of Empire residents. Planning Commission Chair Carl Noonan opened the meeting and asked Consultant Suzanne Kelley, to facilitate the session.

Ms. Kelley explained the purpose of the meeting was to provide direction for the Master Plan update. She explained the evening's exercises were designed to serve as the framework for a statement of guiding principles. The guiding principles will be used for establishing land use policies in the Township.

The audience was asked: what is this place? Which characteristics best define the Township and what features are unique to the Township? The following were listed:

- Glen Lake
- Small & quaint
- Pristine natural beauty
- National Lakeshore
- Nice & clean beaches
- Lack of light
- Quiet
- Treed ridge lines
- Open spaces
- Walking to services & shops
- People who care
- Tourists
- Scenic roadways
- Clean air
- Nice sunsets
- Old Settlers picnicking ground @ Burkdickville
- Library
- Lots of wildlife habitat
- Clean & sparkling water
- Low density
- Agriculture
- Lack of industry
- Sand dunes
- Family-owned businesses/No franchise stores/restaurants
- Community

- Community celebrations
- Outdoor-oriented family friendly people
- Artists & authors
- Safe
- National Park Service
- Diversity of religion
- Great school system

The audience was divided into seven groups to answer the question: what does this place want to be (by 2025)? Each group recorded up to 10 ideas on half sheets of paper and posted them on the vision wall. The ideas were composed on the vision wall. Each individual was then given five colored dots to affix anyway they wished to indicate which five ideas best represented their vision for the future Township. The results follow:

Elements of Vision	# Responses
• Grow the Village, not the Township	19
• Ground/surface water protection including sewage	10
• Farmland preservation	9
• Controlled lighting/protect night sky	9
• Housing –affordable, condos, clustered, & townhomes	8
• Open Space-use of natural areas, development not to use rights-of-way, take inventory of natural areas, and more control over developers	8
• Sign limitations & size	7
• Need to promote agricultural uses	7
• Encourage family businesses, not national chains	6
• Make natural resource extraction a special use	6
• Protect scenic corridors (M-72 & M-22)	6
• Reduce density in agricultural district	5
• Zoning ordinance needs to be clarified, defined, and long-term planning that meshes with Master Plan	5
• Commercial and economic growth in the Village	5
• M-72 and M-22 overlays	5
• Transfer of development rights	4
• Preserve natural habitat for wildlife and plants	4
• Concentrate residential development around Village or current population centers	4
• Preserve natural resources, restrict mining operations, & have good reclamation plans	4
• Burkeville into a small community hub	4
• Limit height of structures to 2 stories	3
• Un-incorporate the Village of Empire	3
• Property rights-first right within the law	2

- Keep open space through controlled development 2
- Work with Village regarding tourism 2
- Reduce commercial along M-72 2
- No water or sewer in the Township 2
- Maintain forested environment 2
- National Park Service: more access to lakeshore & beaches 2
- Define open space (developers, homeowners, community needs) 2
- Keep open spaces 2
- Keep air, land, and water clean 2
- Center commercial development around Village 2
- Limit commercial growth 2
- Local jobs & family friendly 2
- Recreational activities 1
- Preserve the unique, pristine nature of the area 0
- Minimum lot sizes 0
- Control overbuilding on lakeshore 0
- Infrastructure: sewers bring sprawl, have strict septic rules, and water protection is very important 0
- Expand trail development 0
- Roads: minimize curb cuts, maintain scenic views, & protect private Property rights 0
- Village of Empire: cooperative recreational activities & strong working relationship with Township Board/Commissions 0
- No towers 0
- Preserve airport as is 0

While all were felt to be important to the realization of the vision, those elements receiving the largest number of votes were given priority by the participants. Guiding principles will be developed for the Master Plan for the items receiving votes.