

CITY OF BARRY

PUBLIC PLANNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

In 2014, the City of Barry started the process of developing a comprehensive plan for the city. City staff and officials dedicated much of 2014 to hosting a number of public planning meetings to collect feedback from local residents and businesses. The city hosted 3 separate planning meetings by ward, and also a meeting for local businesses.

Participants provided feedback to the following 5 broad based questions. These questions were asked to be able to get a variety of responses. These responses were then tallied and prioritized based on votes received in the planning sessions by participants. The results of these findings are below as well as goals and strategies.

1) Why do people live in Barry and what do you like about the community?

RANKED RESPONSES (combined from all ward meetings)

Small town feel -5

Location – on interstate, proximity to larger communities – 4

Low crime rate – 4

Residents support the community - 4

The friendliness of the people – 3

Good quality of life - 3

Recreation opportunities (YMCA, Golf Course, WYRA, Pool...etc) – 3

Affordable housing -2

Community offers a number of conveniences/amenities for its size - 2

Close to my job – 2

Good Fire Department – 2

Local health care available (doctor, dentist, nursing home...)

Grew up in Barry

Cost of living

Close to friends and family

School system

Fiber optic broadband

New Infrastructure

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACCOMPLISHED OR UNDERWAY
Work to maintain the small-town feel of the community.	Continue to assist entrepreneurs and volunteers that provide community amenities enjoyed by residents.	UNDERWAY
	Keep residents informed of community events and happenings, as well as city business. - City Website - Social Media - Community Notification Network - Local News Sources (TV, Radio, Newspaper)	UNDERWAY
Work with local law-enforcement to help keep a low crime rate in the community	Develop of a neighborhood watch group for community residents.	
	Ask local law enforcement to become more visible to the public.	UNDERWAY
	Enforce city ordinances	UNDERWAY
Make more affordable housing options to residents.	Develop new residential and housing rehabilitation incentive programs.	
	Make city property available to housing for apartment development.	UNDERWAY
Continue to support organizations that improve the quality of life in the community.	Provide community support funds to these groups	UNDERWAY
	Work with local groups to plan new special events that draw visitors to the community.	UNDERWAY
	Work with the organizations to secure grant funding if needed.	UNDERWAY
	Help promote the efforts of these organizations and businesses through city controlled methods (website, social media, and community notification network).	UNDERWAY
	Make improvements to city parks and swimming pool.	UNDERWAY

2) What are the most pressing issues facing the community?

RANKED RESPONSES (combined from all ward meetings)

Job opportunities – 19

School District (sustainability) – 11

Keeping businesses and services – 9

Deteriorating properties and quality housing stock – 8

Street and Alley conditions – 8

Preservation of the historic downtown building district – 6

Need residents to support businesses and buy local – 4

Burning leaves, wood burning stoves – air quality – 3

High Property taxes – 3

Sidewalk conditions -2

Need a pharmacy – 2

Attract new residents and keep existing residents - 2

Business incentives

Broadband internet

Need to take advantage of location on Interstate highway

Lack of new construction

Seeing little money from county government

Age of water and sewer lines

Need more community activities for residents and to attract visitors

Rising crime/domestic issues/lack of police presence

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACCOMPLISHED OR UNDERWAY
Enforce city ordinances and state statutes to clean up deteriorating properties around the community.	Use all necessary municipal police powers to address properties.	UNDERWAY
Improve the conditions of streets and alleys throughout the community.	Develop a streets and alley maintenance plan to better budget for improvements.	UNDERWAY
Create new job opportunities for local residents, young adults, and attract new people to the community.	Utilize city incentive programs to attract new jobs.	UNDERWAY
	Assist in guiding local residents to training opportunities that may help lead them to employment opportunities	
	Work with local stakeholders and outside investors to attract new businesses to the community.	UNDERWAY
	Work with entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses in our community.	UNDERWAY
Work to retain existing businesses and help them grow.	Work with businesses to grow their businesses in our community. Assistance: Marketing, Financing, and Business Planning	UNDERWAY
Find a way to keep and attract more money in/to the community.	Develop a “Buy Local” program and promote it aggressively.	UNDERWAY
	Increase our community marketing efforts to advertise local businesses to people outside of the community.	UNDERWAY – Social Media, and TV Ads
	Assist existing businesses to expand their market base through cooperative marketing efforts.	UNDERWAY
	Attract businesses that have the potential to generate more sales tax revenue for the city.	UNDERWAY
Develop more community activities.	Work with local organizations to develop more activities	UNDERWAY

	and events for residents and visitors.	
Improve the quality and availability of housing and build-able lots.	Pursue state and federal housing rehabilitation funding opportunities	
	Work with local property owner(s) to develop a site for a new residential subdivision	UNDERWAY
	Re-use lots in the community that have been cleaned up.	UNDERWAY
Use the cities influence to help strengthen the local school district.	Work with the school to make structural facility decisions to ensure the longevity of the school district in the community.	
	Provide technical assistance to the school district to assist in finding solutions to problems.	UNDERWAY
Preserve the buildings in the historic downtown business district.	Utilize reasonable avenues to get funding to preserve the buildings in the downtown (grants, low exposure city funding participation, TIF).	UNDERWAY

3) What can be done to improve our community?

RANKED RESPONSES (combined from all ward meetings)

Need more jobs in the community – 12

Improve streets – 5

Presence of law enforcement and enforcement of laws – 5

Voice the positives of the community/Build up pride in the community – 4

Keep residents better informed – 3

Animal control (cats and dogs) – 3

Clean up dilapidated properties -3

Promote housing growth through incentives – 3

Extend fiber optic broadband to the community – 3

Better parking in business district – 3

Improve visibility at dangerous intersections – 2

Enforce property codes – 2

Clean out drainage ditches and tubes – 2

Become a home rule community to develop laws that better serve community – 2

Clean up trash – 2

Lower property taxes – 2

We need more playground equipment in parks

Document shredding for residents

Continue to work on revitalizing downtown business district

Plant more trees and control electric utility right-of-way trimming quality

Improve police presence

Develop maintenance plan for streets

Attract Pharmacy to town

Attract Dollar store (general merchandise) to town

Keep the existing businesses and attract new ones

Early childhood services are needed

More amenities at the swimming pool

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACCOMPLISHED OR UNDERWAY
Bring more jobs to the community.	Offer incentives and land to companies willing to create jobs in Barry.	UNDERWAY
	Work with local organizations and investors to lure companies to the city.	UNDERWAY
	Assist local businesses in expanding with the hopes they will create more jobs.	
Better promote the benefits of the community to people outside of the community in an effort to entice them to visit and move to our community.	Work with local media sources to share the positives of the community to the outside world.	UNDERWAY
	Develop a marketing campaign for the community that improves community pride.	
Offer high-speed fiber optic broadband (video, voice, and data) to the community.	Work with local telecommunications companies to entice them to install this technology.	ACCOMPLISHED
	Pursue grant funding opportunities to develop a community owned network.	
Explore the adoption of a home rule form of government to better respond to local issues.	Educate residents on the issue	
Improve the condition of streets and right of ways/ditches.	Develop a streets and alleys maintenance plan	UNDERWAY
	Purchase or rent equipment that eases the work of cleaning ditches.	UNDERWAY
Attract retail and service businesses desired by community residents (i.e. Pharmacy/Dollar Store.	Research and recruit entrepreneurs to start these businesses in the city.	ACCOMPLISHED

4) What city services or programs are important to you?

RANKED RESPONSES (combined from all ward meetings)

Recycling – 9

Community activities – 4

Downtown snow removal – 4

Library - 3

Yard waste dump site – 3

Side street maintenance – 3

Fire Department & First Responders – 3

Grants/Loans for home improvement – 3

Citywide cleanup twice a year – 3

Pay with credit/debit cards /Bank draft/electronic deduction for water bills - 2

YMCA Youth Programs – 2

Swimming Pool - 2

Snow Removal - 2

Assistance for housing

Ditch cleaning

Museum

Revolving loan program for businesses

Cemetery

Water & Sewer systems

Great City Employees

City Website and Facebook page

Progressive and aggressive leadership

TIF District

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACCOMPLISHED OR UNDERWAY
Develop more community activities and activities for local youth.	Work with the school and local organizations to learn the needs of local youth.	UNDERWAY – Working with YMCA and School on an After School Program and Youth Group
	Research and pursue funding opportunities to provide resources to these efforts.	UNDERWAY
Comprehensive plan development and follow through.	Review the comprehensive plan quarterly to evaluate the city’s efforts in meeting defined goals.	UNDERWAY
Maintain the operation of the library and swimming pool for future generations	Work with management of these facilities to increase users and revenue.	UNDERWAY – Depends on marketing and weather
	Work with the library to explore the feasibility of developing a library district to improve its financial stability.	UNDERWAY
	Approach local residents about the development of an endowment fund to provide funding that will ensure the sustainability of these facilities.	ACCOMPLISHED through the Burkhardt Trust donations to the Library and Pool
Continue to keep residents informed through website and social media and other avenues.	Work with residents to include everyone on the communication chain.	UNDERWAY
Provide residents with a community recycling option.	Work with the county or local waste management firms to offer a recycling program (possible franchise negotiation point).	UNDERWAY
	Pursue funding opportunities to be able to offer this service to residents.	
Continue yard waste and city cleanup.	Communicate its date with residents to ensure it is used.	UNDERWAY
Strive to provide the following Public Works deliverables: Snow removal all	Work with the public works department to develop a yearly work plan than addressed these items.	UNDERWAY

<p>throughout the city along streets and downtown sidewalks, Maintain good condition of water and sewer infrastructure, maintain the good condition of city parks.</p>	<p>Pursue funding opportunities to help the city achieve these goals.</p>	
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5) What kind of development would you like to see in the community?

RANKED RESPONSES (combined from all ward meetings)

Youth Activity Center – 13

Manufacturing/Industrial Development – 9

Pharmacy – 7

Become Home Rule – 6

Ice Cream Stand – 3

New residential subdivision lots – 3

Dollar Store (Gen. Merchandise) – 2

Multi-family housing/ Seniors & Widows – 2

Movie Theatre – 2

Bed & Breakfast

Clothing store

Laundromat

Single Family Housing

Strip mall close to highway

Downtown parking lot development

Specialty Shops

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACCOMPLISHED OR UNDERWAY
Develop a youth activity center.	Identify and work with partner organizations to assess the needs of local youth.	UNDERWAY – Working with YMCA to provide this need.
	Research and pursue funding opportunities to develop this offering.	
Attract more manufacturing and industrial development to the community	Promote the community to, and recruit these types of firms.	UNDERWAY
Attract desired retail and service businesses desired by residents (Pharmacy, Gen. Merchandise Store, Ice Cream Stand, Clothing Store, Laundromat, Specialty Shops)	Work with existing businesses to see if they can fill these voids	UNDERWAY/ ACCOMPLISHED
	Attract entrepreneurs to the community to offer these services and goods.	UNDERWAY/ ACCOMPLISHED
Create more parking options downtown.	Work with local property owners to provide more parking options.	ACCOMPLISHED
Develop the area around Illinois Highway 106 and Interstate 72.	Work with local property owners, entrepreneurs and outside developers to invest in areas along these routes.	UNDERWAY
	Market the strategic location of our community along these major routes to those that need access to major roadways and good infrastructure.	UNDERWAY
Develop a new residential development area.	Work with local property owners and developers to identify new locations where residential development can occur (lot re-use and new subdivision development).	UNDERWAY
Develop a multi-family, senior housing development.	Work with local property owners and developers to identify new locations where residential development can occur (lot re-use and new subdivision development).	