

One Lenawee is...a collaboration of concerned people dedicated to the **Vision of making Lenawee County a Great Place to live, work, learn, worship, play, and invest.**

We bring attention and action to important community issues.

Uniting and Connecting partners and committed people, we identify, support, and develop initiatives and projects that optimize community resources to **The Vision.**



2021 OBJECTIVES

- * **Continue to work on the seven Focus Areas**
- * **New priorities:**
 - **Public Transportation**
 - **Attainable Housing**
 - **Communications**

OUR PROCESS:

- **Evaluate**
- **Educate**
- **Engage**

Steering Committee Notes January 21, 2021 Zoom Meeting

Present: Don Taylor, Chris Miller, Dave Maxwell, Joe Williams, Madeline DeMarco, Tim Kelly, Tim Robinson, Lynne Punnett, Mark Haag, Sue Lewis, Marty Marshall, Dan Swallow, Randy Yagiela

Welcome to all who have been away.

Lenawee County School Enrollment and School of Choice:

Mark shared a summary spreadsheet of the 2020-2021 Schools of Choice and the Head Count Comparison (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020). He reported that all county schools came back after the holidays but at the same time they continue to offer other options in addition to in-person learning. The spreadsheet reflected that Lenawee County is down in enrollment in all our schools by 656 students, a 4% decline. The statewide decline is 3.5%. This may be the result of people moving out of the area, selecting online schools, birth rate, or some families not doing anything. Home schoolers do not have to register. Some signed up for virtual learning, then struggled with it, and eventually fell off. Mark's biggest concern is how many students are not being schooled at all. Chris Howard who works with truancy and the homeless is chasing people down in all the districts. The formula the State uses to determine the amount of money the school districts receive is still undecided. Regarding the School of Choice spreadsheet for fall 2021, we see that 24.4% are participating in School of Choice. Housing is an issue and ability to work from home has had an impact on these numbers.

ONE LENAWEE STRATEGIC VISION PRIORITIES 2021 AND BEYOND:

Joe led the discussion regarding the OL strategic priorities for 2021 by posing the question, "are we relevant?"

- Dave summed up what we do as OL by reiterating our process; to evaluate, to educate, and to engage.
- It was suggested that affordable Housing be added to the priority list. Our engagement must be a coordinated effort with others in the community also working on housing. We need to keep in mind that the cost of building materials is high, and we also lack trades people. Lynne recommended that when discussing housing that we stress 'attainable' housing which includes availability, accessibility, and affordability.

- All agreed to add housing to our priority list, holistically. Five years ago a housing survey was conducted and we may find that useful. Joe stated that we need to know our current state and then decide how many pieces can get us to the future state.
- Dan shared that Tecumseh will be utilizing the old school administration building and Tecumseh Products site for apartments.
- We need to determine what OL will do to move along what we've determined as high priority areas. A small group will meet to determine this.
- There is no need to delete any of the seven priority areas, but not all of our seven priority areas will need to report out on a monthly basis. Some priority areas don't require OL involvement.

Community Capital:

Chris is working on this statewide effort and would like to keep it on our list of objectives.

Non-motorized transportation:

It was suggested that we remove this from our 2021 objectives list since we have Connecting Lenawee and the Trail Authority. It makes more sense to put it under the Infrastructure priority area.

Communications/Marketing:

One Lenawee web site – The Hoyden group is working on this.

Daily Telegram – Lynne said we need submissions, that we need to educate our community and it may be a good idea to share the information that Mark reported on total enrollment and add some county demographics.

In March we should share with the public our new priority areas and then in April the results of the county health assessment.

WLEN – The next available time is March 20th, topic TBD.

REPORTS FROM FOCUS AREAS:

Cradle to Career/Whole Child Model:

Tim reported that a goal of the Whole Child Model is that every child in Lenawee County gets free pre-school so they're ready for kindergarten. He feels this is very important for economic growth. He is integrating the Whole Child Model which includes health, starting with the mental health of the child.

Infrastructure/Recreation:

Dan reported that the Tecumseh connection of the Kiwanis Trail needs to raise \$500,000. So far \$250,000 has been raised. He shared a video with a focus on Tecumseh. This project originated with One Lenawee and having a Trail Authority has helped.

Arts:

Art-a-licious is moving ahead with planning of the 2021 event. The ice sculpture event in Tecumseh was a huge success.

ONE LENAWEЕ STRUCTURE AND SUCCESSION: This topic needs more discussion and will require a special meeting.

Next meeting date: Thursday, February 18, 7:30am. Facilitator – Randy