

Dover Borough/Dover Township

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Athletics Outreach Meeting

December 4, 2018

Representatives of Dover Youth Basketball, Baseball, Football, Lacrosse and Soccer were present at the Senior Center from 6-8 PM to meet with the Dover Borough/Township consultant, Tim Staub of HRG. Attendees included: Teri Marlowe, Doug Shoemaker, Todd Irwin, James Ehrlinger, Chris Hake, Ryan Thomas, Jeremiah Arevalo, Brian Davis, and Travis Hoover. Also, present were Laurel A. Oswalt, Township Manager and Chalet Harris, Recreation Director.

Welcomes and Introductions were provided by Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager. Ms. Oswalt informed that group that this was a joint plan between the Borough and Township for the next 10 years of growth and to establish priorities for the communities. Ms. Oswalt stated that their organizations are excited about the process and hearing what other organizations and groups, as well as the community as whole would like to see. Several breakout sessions are being held with Athletics, Non-Profits, Emergency Services, Businesses and HOA's, before public meetings are held.

Tim Staub discussed what a Comprehensive Plan is and how it has changed over the years. Municipalities conduct Comprehensive Plans approximately every ten years. In the past these documents have been large and filled with facts and demographics. They were often used to determine growth areas and changes in Zoning regulations. Today's versions are being labeled as Implementable. The goal of these plans is to focus on projects, partnerships, funding, etc. so that true progress is made in seeing the vision developed into tangible projects.

Those present were asked to provide Issues that could be developed into Opportunities. These were ranked by the group once developed. The list and ranking are as follows:

! -Most crucial

\$ -Financial Aid

👤 -Volunteer Time

1. **Indoor Facility (existing school not ideal).** All groups either need indoor facilities for their sport or could use an indoor facility for the off season. !!! \$\$ 👤
2. **School District Scheduling/Cost/Gate Keeper.** All the groups appear to have issues gaining access to using the facilities and felt that the person in charge of the facilities was resistant to their use. !!!! 👤
3. **Stable Field Location.** !!! 👤 👤
4. **Field Space/Teams need to share.** !!! \$ 👤 👤
5. **Lighted Fields would open-up the scheduling.** ! \$\$\$ \$ \$ \$ 👤
6. **Too Many kids/Not enough space/the Community still growing.**

7. **Outdoor Basketball.** \$ 🧑
8. **Scheduling/Many Teams/Don't want to turn kids away.**
9. **Parking at facilities.**
10. **High grass/outsourced mowing/line painting grass.** \$ 🧑
11. **Storage on-site.** \$\$\$ 🧑 🧑 🧑
12. **Restroom Facilities.** \$
13. **Vandalism.** 🧑

The next part of the discussion focused on Opportunities for the organizations to work together to address some of the previously developed Issues. Suggestions and their rankings were as follows:

! -Most crucial

🧑 -Volunteer Time

1. Youth organizations working with H.S. Teams.
2. Planning/Communicating (Ex. scheduling, sharing space, buying lights) !!
3. Kids having ownership in the space through volunteering time. 🧑
4. Outlet for Kids. 🧑 🧑
5. Fundraising together.
6. PTO/Sports Night at schools/Township. !!! 🧑 🧑
7. Communicating for Program Awareness. ! 🧑 🧑 🧑
8. Cross Promotion. !!
9. Tournaments-to bring in revenue.
10. Joint website.
11. Political Influence is increased with combined effort. !!!! 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑

The group then was encouraged to develop a list of Characteristics of the Dover Community. These Characteristics were formulated on a NOW and 10 YEARS FROM NOW basis. The list included the following:

NOW: Rural, used car lots, Pizza Shops, Strong Sports presence, Large Non-Profit Presence, Growing, Lack of Business, Dry (No bars), Seen as farm community with no sport that is considered excellent.

10 YEARS FROM NOW: Pride in the Community, Community Engagement, Innovative, State Championship Sports Team, Awareness of Achievements, Inclusive/Diverse, Tournaments to promote the area in bring in business, Eagle view Built.

Discussion then turned to whether the group considered any spaces in the community to be Sacred or Untouchable as they are landmarks or associated with the area. The list developed consisted of the Log House, Blacksmith's Shop, Fenstamacher Field, Churches/Cemeteries, Mack's Ice Cream, Lehr Park, HS Stadium.

The last list developed consisted of Where People Connect with others in the community. The group all listed places they meet and connect with others, which included: Employment, YMCA, Sports, Ball fields, School, Sports functions, Church, and Coaching.

In closing the group was encouraged to fill out a questionnaire about their sports activity which would provide demographics about the numbers served and the organization itself. Mr. Staub asked the group to review what was discussed with their Boards and return the survey along with any ideas that were missed to him. He gave them a flyer about the upcoming meetings on the Comprehensive Plan and asked that they talk about the project and help get the word out to their organizations as well as anyone they associate with in the community.