



---

## Fort Worthington Elementary

### Workshop, October 23, 2014 Meeting Notes

The first INSPIRE workshop for Fort Worthington Elementary was held October 23, 2014 at the school (2701 East Oliver Street). A total of forty-six people participated in the workshop, including parents of Fort Worthington students, community association's representatives, and City Planning. Participants learned about the INSPIRE process and collaboratively examined the existing conditions of the area surrounding Fort Worthington Elementary, specifically identifying strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

The following themes and topics were discussed in the workshop:

#### **COMMUNITY:**

##### Strengths:

- Weekly community dinners at school
- Active community groups
- High voter turn-out
- Long-term residents
- School manages a recycling program that engages youth in a positive community activity

##### Opportunities:

- Better promotion of weekly community dinners to get more participation

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

##### Weaknesses:

- There is low car ownership and many in-zone students live outside of a ½ mile radius but not further than 1 mile so they don't qualify for school busing.
- Need for more alternative transportation options due to safety concerns and during bad weather. This will be even more important if Dr. Raynor Brown students transfer to Fort Worthington since they will be coming from even further south and have to travel through rough parts of the neighborhood to get to school
- Need more crossing guards and stop signs
- Need more enforcement of truck routes, especially along Oliver and Federal
- Marked crosswalks needed (Reservoir/Brookfield, Linden/Lennox, and Brookfield/Lennox)
- Sidewalks & streets in fair condition/Improve sidewalks (not ADA complaint, people in wheelchairs use the roadbed)/improve streets and drainage/improve alleys since kids will likely use them to get to school

#### **CRIME/NUISANCES**

##### Weaknesses:

- Major drug activity on eastern edge of the neighborhood, especially along Milton
- Gang activity southeast of school
- Trash disposal and dumping
- Dogs off-leash

## **RECREATION & OPEN SPACE**

### Strengths:

- Recreation Center at school is an anchor for the community and residents don't want to lose it

### Weaknesses:

- Frank C Bocek park is over-run with drug and gang activity

### Opportunities:

- Want to expand opportunities for positive recreation for all ages
- Interested in opportunities for community gardens or other community managed open space

## **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING**

### Weaknesses:

- Need to address high vacancy along Milton Ave. and east side of neighborhood

### Opportunities:

- Nodes of commercial along Milton need to be strengthened
- Several large old, industrial buildings throughout the neighborhood (some may be vacant)