**PROCESS**

The City of Worthington is launching a process to update the community’s vision for the United Methodist Children’s Home property at 1033 High Street. The process is expected to result in an update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a land use policy document for the city. Its primary role is to create a vision for the city and provide recommendations to guide public policy, particularly in terms of land use-related issues.

The City has selected the Columbus-based planning and design firm MKSK to lead the effort. MKSK is a highly-regarded, Columbus-based firm which brings together landscape architects, urban designers, graphic designers and certified planners to help communities plan vibrant places. Their work includes the Arena District and Scioto Mile in Columbus; the “Imagine Charleston” Plan for Charleston, West Virginia; Cheapside Park in Lexington, Kentucky; and Riverscape Phase III in Dayton.

The goal of this initiative is to envision and evaluate potential redevelopment scenarios for the UMCH property that is located along the High Street Corridor north of downtown Worthington. The UMCH site was identified in the 2005 Worthington Comprehensive Plan as a key opportunity site for our land-locked city should it be sold and redeveloped in the future. The potential availability of this 41-acre property presents a rare opportunity for Worthington to experience redevelopment on a very visible site near the heart of Worthington. Starting in the fall of 2013, MKSK will meet with stakeholders, potential developers, and members of the Worthington community in order to determine improvement opportunities, economic development needs, and anticipated market demand for the site.

This planning process will involve opportunities for the public to engage in the discussion through both public meetings and a web interface. The City and MKSK aim to gain consensus around a range of acceptable redevelopment options that respond to market potential, community priorities, site-related infrastructure needs, and appropriate planning and urban design goals. The resulting Vision Plan will facilitate future development and illustrate possible benefits for the community, city, land owner, and developer.

The Vision Plan will be presented to the Worthington Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation to City Council as an update to the 2005 Worthington Comprehensive Plan. Currently, MKSK is gathering background information related to the site. Once that work is completed, the City will provide additional announcements regarding input opportunities as this project moves forward. Individuals are encouraged to sign up to receive email updates via the City of Worthington website at worthington.org. Click on the “e-News Sign-Up” icon in the middle of the home page, enter your email address and select the “Visioning UMCH” option. New information about the process and opportunities for public participation will be updated online as it is available. If you have questions, please email VisioningUMCH@ci.worthington.oh.us.

**SCHEDULE**

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Worthington Planning Commission Meeting

Worthington City Council Meeting

**Visioning UMCH**

go to the city website for project updates

e-mail us your questions or comments

www.worthington.org/visioningUMCH

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