

**Fairport Public Library Strategic Planning
Community Meeting #1: Saturday, January 21, 2012**

Pt 1 -- Envisioning the ideal future of Fairport/Perinton community ten years from now

The Vision for 2024. The Fairport/Perinton community is known as a caring community, with excellent schools and recreational opportunities for all ages. There is a visually appealing, vibrant downtown, with a mix of popular shops, businesses, restaurants and a well-used public library. People of all ages appreciate being able to walk safely throughout the community. Convenient public transit links all parts of the county and beyond. Teens enjoy a variety of safe and fun spaces, including a skate park. A healthy and affordable mix of housing makes this community very appealing to families and young professionals. Seniors find a variety of assisted living as well as “aging in place” options. All ages enjoy a wide range of lifelong learning and intergenerational programs, continuing education and off-campus satellite opportunities. Boaters appreciate the easy access from the Canal to downtown services and find many choices of lodging. The community respects and celebrates its heritage through festivals such as Canal Days; it offers gallery and performing art spaces for amateur artists and musicians, as well as professionals. As a result, Fairport-on-the-Canal has become a well-known tourist destination similar to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Who Benefits?	Vision
Children	Opportunities for safe and fun activities.
	Recreation facilities.
	Place for display and performance for amateur artists, art shows.
	Affordable, high quality child care.
	Walkability.
	Excellent schools.
	Homeschool and alternative education opportunities
Teens	Skateboard park.
	Performance space for teen bands.
	Excellent schools.
Young families	High quality child care.
	Playgrounds.
	Vibrant downtown.
	Safe places for kids.
	Walkability.
Young professionals	Affordable housing and property taxes make people want to move here
	Public transit options especially to other parts of county for arts and entertainment.
	Vibrant business community.
	Social hub for techies.
	Consolidated government services.
Adults	Feel proud of “tax value” -- that taxes are well used.
	Lifelong learning opportunities
	Intergenerational activities and opportunities
Seniors	More assisted living and aging in place options
	Transportation assistance (intra-community, door to door).
	Recreational facilities.
	Value for dollar.

	Tech for seniors (use Skype for face-to-face meetings with lawyers, doctors, financial planners, etc.)
Businesses	Good blend of industry, retail, small business, restaurants, etc.
Small business and non-profits	Centralized resources, meeting space, office equipment (incubator opportunities)
Unemployed/underemployed	Opportunities for training.
Residents and tourists	Coordinated progressive planning.
	Performing arts center like Niagara on the Lake eg “Fairport on the canal”.
	More events like Canal Days
Visitors	Feel welcome
	Outdoor recreation opportunities, hiking trails, parks, biking, canal.
	Convenient parking
	Boaters have easy access to and from canal, info kiosks to orient them.
	Boating marina
	Four seasons of recreational opportunities
	Lodging, hotels, B&Bs, restaurants
	Visual appeal
	Safe.
Everyone	Appeal to diverse populations
	Respect and pride in past, celebrating history.
	Known as a caring community
	Respect religious opportunities and diversity
	Continuing education classes and satellite classes from colleges and institutes offered
	Hunger needs met so no more need for Food Shelf
	Welcoming, embracing community.
	Foster assistance and evolution for families to move from low to mid income
	Coordinated and collaborative efforts of a variety of community organizations working together
	Better promotion and public relations to market community strengths
	Many methods of communication to all parts of community
	High tech, but face to face for education
	Flexible property tax system.
	Employment opportunities and training.

Pt 2 – Community SWOT Analysis

Strengths that support achieving the Vision

- Fairport Electric
- educational community, good schools
- strong volunteer component
- Canal
- village center
- good parks and park department, good rec center
- faith community provides strong support services
- proximity to downtown city and rest of county
- Good library

- sense of place, sense of history
- strong demographics (median incomes strong, housing prices are good, quality schools)
- authenticity (not Disneyland-like)
- festivals and events
- walkable/sidewalks
- Caring people
- appearance of community
- Trail system
- community facilities
- Good athletic teams in the schools
- Library location as village anchor, where the kids are and like to be.

Opportunities that support achieving the Vision

- Aging population – volunteers
- HP Neun and American Can Company are newly available buildings
- Leveraging private sector funds
- Create a Bed and Breakfast district
- Aging in place – there are organizations in place to support this
- Higher education opportunities – remote satellite campuses
- Wine connection – target funding for the smaller community business district
- Public/private partnerships
- Ability to be nimble/flexible
- Arts and theater, professional sports teams, strong colleges in area, transportation (get anywhere in 15 minutes by car)
- Get a train stop in town

Weaknesses that obstruct achieving the Vision

- Mismatch of recreational opportunities (may or may not meet needs)
- need for more senior housing and assisted living
- ability to age in place
- public viewscape is not uniform in center of village (architectural style)
- absence of neighborhood pride (town)
- losing population, school population declining, changing demographics
- Deteriorating infrastructure (roads, sewers, utilities)
- duplicative government (town/village)
- less disposable income
- Inability to change
- single parent households
- limited access to use school buildings by outsiders
- aging population
- Limited space to develop
- Limited public transportation
- Library location, small and bad landlord

Threats that obstruct achieving the Vision

- State and county mandates
- Loss of income from landfill
- Threat of IDA being dissolved
- State oversight of local decision making
- Potential loss of Fairport Electric

- Library/Village Landing landlord and manager
- Worrisome economic climate
- Lack of trust in public officials
- General un-ease
- Security and safety
- Dysfunctional state and federal govt
- New property tax cap
- High taxes compared to other states

Needs to address to reach the Vision

- Strong and focused leadership
- Resources
- Very high participation rate of residents
- Open government discussion and communication
- Measurable progress toward plan goals
- Strong relationships with key stakeholders in Rochester community
- A plan to attract and keep residents
- Youth involvement/citizen participation
- Communication in all directions
- Advocates to meet with elected state officials
- Cooperative political leadership, not polarized

Pt 3 – Library Service Responses that would help to meet the needs and Vision, ranked by number of votes

Create young readers	15
Lifelong learning	14
Stimulate imagination	14
Connect to online world	12
Visit a comfortable place	9
Be an informed citizen	9
Understand how to evaluate and use info	8

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Get facts fast	8
Know your community	7
Make career choices	7
Express creativity	6
Learn to read and write	6
Build successful enterprises	4
Make informed decisions	3
Discover your roots	3
Succeed in school	1
Celebrate diversity	1
Welcome to immigrants	1