City of Night—August 17th, 2013

Community Feedback—“TELL US WHAT YOU THINK”

Members of the One Region Forward team attended the second City of Night festival on August 17th, 2013. Team members distributed approximately 200+ palm cards out to the community that included information about the organization and One Region Forward’s upcoming November workshops. Additionally, 24 community members signed up with their email address to receive the monthly e-News that One Region Forward sends out.

The community was then asked to answer three questions, displayed on presentation boards, regarding sustainability in their neighborhood. For the first two questions, community members were instructed to write down their responses to the two questions onto post-it notes and to affix the post-it note to the appropriate presentation board. For the third question, community members were asked to choose between four options and to affix a sticker under the chosen answer. Community members could also choose the “other” option and affix their own response on a post-it note to the appropriate presentation board. All community member responses were displayed for the duration of the festival for others to see. Responses to the three sustainability questions are below.

- **What would you change about your community to make it more sustainable?**
  - More transparent government
  - Housing with walkable neighborhoods
  - Secede Western New York
  - Rehabilitate streets in Buffalo, starting with Main Street and working outward towards William, Genesee, and Broadway streets
  - Repair and love our existing building and housing stock and create new sustainable neighborhoods and communities
  - Promote optimism
  - Reuse our beautiful old buildings for new residential and commercial spaces
  - Increase jobs to keep young people in our region.
  - Make Buffalo more green friendly, through actions like increasing the number of bike paths
  - Create Bus Rapid Transit
  - Convert railways and waterfront into bike paths, parks, and useable spaces, and get the community involved in these efforts.
  - Increase the amount of green space
  - Incorporate food into planning efforts
- Privatize Buffalo! Let private companies spur economic development
- Foster people’s personal growth
- Improved public transit and light rails
- Greater representation of local, grass roots organizations in planning efforts
- Turn old brick buildings into hydroponic, multilevel farms and give the food to the community
- Reform schools
- Get rid of the 190 along the river. Make a parkway there and reroute trucks from the 290 to the 90 West.
- Develop parks along water and make bike paths in the city. That’s why people want to live or move back to a city-lifestyle.
- Expand public transportation and get rid of the transfer fee between bus lines.
- Increase the number of walkable neighborhoods
- Use and reuse the Silos
- Hire professional and innovative government officials.
- Utilize our resources to attract industry and jobs
- Protect our fragile and limited freshwater resources
- More regional government
- Stop the demolition moratorium. No more Lackawanna’s.
- Gather community input on new uses for deteriorating and abandoned spaces. Accommodate uses that are needed in the community, and not just any use to fill the space.
- Empower people.
- Stop tearing down good stuff to rebuild cheap, ugly stuff only to tear that down in a few years.
- Put stores downtown rather than in the suburbs
- Put people downtown and stores will follow
- Create ferry boat tours that would go down the river when the lake freighters are docked.
- Make the income ceiling to rehabilitate abandoned houses higher
- Increase investment in transportation infrastructure-rail, shipping, road, industrial, passenger and manufacturing. You have to spend money to make money!
- Extend the metro rail to the suburbs
- Increase recycling
- Increase walking and biking trails
- Increase access to the waterfront
- Clean up Lake Erie
- Bike sharing
- Make the grain elevators and all abandoned structures functional! Make Buffalo the “Queen City” that it has always been.
- When I see what apathy and laziness has done to this (region), I feel sad and angry. This is a warning of things to come. If you keep on guard.
- Care more about each other and our future
- Get rid of the skyway
- Make a multi-model skyway
- Contract the suburbs
- Repopulate Buffalo to the level it was at near the mid-1900s.
- Create a permanent state ban on hydro-fracking for natural gas
- Open up Main Street
- Improve Buffalo’s East Side
- Stop tearing down houses on the East Side
- Do for the East Side of Buffalo what has been done for the West Side of Buffalo
- Increase waterfront development by local businesses
- Increase access to frequent, reliable public transportation

• **What about your community do you want to save for future generations?**
  - Architecture
  - Art
  - Gardens
  - Grain elevators
  - Public access to the waterfront
  - Funding for the arts and culture
  - A living history of Buffalo’s long history: buildings, architecture, and other reminders of our past.
  - Our waterways and green spaces
  - Parks
  - Downtown living
  - Bike education and bike friendly streets and paths

• **If you could choose one thing to make Buffalo Niagara More sustainable, what would it be?**
  - Expand public transportation and increase alternative ways to get around: **37**
  - Grow more food: **25**
  - Limit fossil fuels: **15**
  - Reinvest in Communities: **58**
  - Other, write in your own:
    - Save our schools and our kids in Buffalo **2**
- Increase access to affordable groceries
- Lower taxes
- People who cannot afford to nurture and financially support children need to stop having babies
- Beautify more along the waterways