

What is your vision for the future of downtown Mantua?

In the last Mantua Matters, you read about plans for a “streetscape” to “revitalize” downtown Mantua. Since then, the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee has been busy:

- ♦ interviewing consultants to find the one who will do the best job for Mantua,
- ♦ learning about government grants as a way to fund large portions of a streetscape project, and
- ♦ speaking to community groups to get more input on what should be done to help downtown Mantua.

Everyone we talk to reminds us that downtown did not get to its current state overnight and it cannot be “fixed” overnight. Revitalization is an ongoing process that requires physical changes as well as changes in attitudes and behaviors. It requires cooperation among local non-profit organizations, government, property owners, business-people, and residents.

Pending contract approval, the revitalization committee has selected a consulting firm that will help gain consensus by interviewing downtown merchants and property owners, participating in community meetings, preparing examples of alternative “looks” for downtown, and encouraging everyone to share their thoughts.

The firm, E.G.&G., Inc. out of Akron, was selected because of their emphasis on community input, their success in other communities, and their relationships with grant-making authorities. E.G.&G. has a proven track-record, yet they’re a small company with people who truly take an interest in each community.

The focus this summer will be one-on-one conversations with “key stakeholders” along with fundraising activities to pay for the assessment and planning phases of downtown revitalization.

If you’re approached by Rod Garrison or John Grossman of E.G.&G. and asked for input, SPEAK UP! This is your opportunity to make your needs known. If you don’t share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, they can’t be incorporated into plans. Your opinion counts!

Go to www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com and click on Downtown Revitalization on the right side to brush up on the revitalization process, comments from consultants, suggestions from other communities, and resources for revitalization and historic preservation. Then get ready to share your thoughts. Call or send an email to any Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee member (listed on the web), watch for news of community meetings, attend Village Planning Commission meetings, and make your voice heard.