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### News

#### Community gives input on Brownsboro plan

By Nathaniel Kissel

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The room filled with people was completely silent as images passed before their eyes. One was an entrance sign at a subdivision, another a parking lot, and yet another a large brick home.

With each image, participants at the Brownsboro Community Center made their mark on the survey of visual preference, just one of the tools the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission will use to develop a plan for the Brownsboro area.

On Monday night, planning staff joined residents, business people and developers to give input on the formation of the Brownsboro master plan.

Project manager Emily Liu has said a master plan will detail existing conditions with maps and reports and provide a plan for the next 20 to 25 years. Liu said while zoning is law, the master plan will be a recommendation.

The master plan will guide the planning commission and legislative bodies in making decisions about development, Planning Administrator Louise Allen has said. The guidelines it outlines will be more specific and unique to the area than the comprehensive plan.

In addition to two surveys and a presentation on master planning, the group broke into eight smaller groups for further discussion. Groups discussed things they liked and disliked about their community, as well as things they would like to see in the future and their vision for the year 2030.

Among the features residents want to keep, the rural community feeling of Brownsboro was one of the most popular. Open space was also a repeated topic.



The Oldham Era/Nathaniel Kissel: Facilitator Doug Wampler leads a group at Monday night's community meeting at the Brownsboro Community Center.

“I think it's important to keep large untouched tracts of land,” said resident Foster Northrop.

Residents also want to keep the reputation of quality schools and small owner-operated businesses.

Many residents asked for more walking and horse trails. Developers and residents alike called for the preservation and expansion of the village or “hamlet” area of Brownsboro, and the retention of small, locally-owned businesses.

Negatives for the area include small shoulders and speed limits that are not obeyed, as well as the need for better roads and cleaner water.

These discussions led to the creation by each group of a vision statement for the project. Individual vision statements were then combined.

In the final version, the future of Brownsboro was described in this way:

“A unique environmentally sensitive rural community, with connected greenways, paths, and trails with designated growth areas that implement well planned infrastructure, having village centers compatible with small town living, with diverse housing and preserving small businesses, farmland and scenic views.

The Brownsboro Master Plan shall:

€ Protect the entire Harrods Creek Watershed.

€ Promote design that respects local character.

€ Promote transit oriented development in the village center.

€ Encourage open space with equine, walking and biking trails creating a community that provides recreation and is wildlife friendly.

Brownsboro is a community where people have a voice in leadership and are ready to meet the challenges of the future.”

As residents finished the vision statement and began to leave the community center, resident Ed Kalmey said he attended because he wants to be involved in planning Brownsboro's future.

“We have an opportunity to have a say-so in these things,” he said.

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