



Building a Better World
for All of Us®

MEETING SUMMARY

RE: Richardton 2019 Comprehensive Plan

Date of Meeting: 1/23/19

Project Manager: Toni Haider

Time of Meeting: 6:00 MDT

SEH No.: RCHTN 148555 16.00

Location of Meeting: Richardton City Hall

Attendees: John Schutt, Lea Floberg, Carmen Bohn, Jason Kostelecky, Mark Aman, Les Alpert, Kevin Remington, Josh Resineaur, Frank Kirschenheiter
SEH - Bob Kost, Beth Dooley, Brandon Myran

The first Project Advisory Committee meeting was held for the development of Richardton's first Comprehensive Plan. The following items were discussed:

I. **INTRODUCTIONS and REVIEW of CITY DATA**

A. Member of committee agrees with approximate 2017 population of 769

II. **STRENGTHS**

- A. Grocery Store is 5 years old. Hours: 6-8 Mon-Sat. Sun closes earlier.
- B. Swimming Pool is summer time entertainment. Lions donated considerable amount of money.
- C. Accesses – Railroad, I-94, Hwy 10, Hwy 8. Routes can be attractive to businesses and industries.
- D. Strong industrial tax base that support the town.
- E. Striking distance to oil activity.
- F. Very innovative people
- G. Multiple businesses that serve the community and a variety of businesses. These businesses provide the essentials for the community. (Drug store, bank, etc.)
- H. Health center
- I. Infrastructure Improvements
- J. Brand New School is a strong asset. The school was a big reason the town had attracted a Nurse Practitioner. The school has had state awards.
- K. Assumption Abby draws people which support the Downtown businesses.
- L. Richardton hasn't had a Butcher for some years
- M. Town is community minded and friendly
- N. Fire & EMS Department
- O. Young Families
- P. Diverse economy
- Q. Nursing home

III. **WEAKNESSES**

- A. Oil slowing down has had some families left
- B. Adolescent engagement groups. Things for kids to do is limited.
- C. Run down and unused buildings. There are not many empty lots though.
- D. Aging infrastructure and streets are in rough shape
- E. Available housing
- F. Average income prevents grants from projects

- G. Core businesses (energy, ag sectors) when their economies are down the town is too.
- H. No local police department to enforce ordinances. (lawns not mowed, weeds, feral cats, garbage or junk in yards.)
- I. Employment isn't as diversified as it could be - too much industrial.
- J. Used to have two butchers, but there are none now.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES

- A. Diverse Jobs
- B. Health & Fitness Center
- C. Car Wash
- D. More Housing – What type
- E. Land that can developed? Redevelopment
- F. Business Development – Challenges may be recruitment and enticing of new members
- G. Use the road and rail networks to the communities advantage
- H. Recreational
- I. To become one minded and honest
- J. Proximity to Dickinson is good and bad. Dickinson can attract or drive people away.
- K. Recently there is a rapidly changing demographic from one to two people per household to families.

V. THREATS

- A. Political – Support from the County and State may be missed if not proactive. If the community can't draw people, it will not receive the funding.
- B. Per pupil funding but you don't get property taxes
 - 1. Note that the town of Gladstone – 60% of their students come to Richardton but their property taxes don't come to the school, only per pupil
- C. Timeline for Aging Infrastructure aligning with new school
 - 1. Taxes may be overwhelming
 - 2. City – 20-22 mills; Specials are where they people are filling the most pain

VI. FURTHER DISCUSSION - REVIEW OF DRAFT SURVEY QUESTIONS

- A. Separate 10c question into police, and then fire/EMS
- B. #12 – Reword "downtown" to Business District
- C. Condense or get rid of word "attractive" from 12b
- D. Address to have all family members
- E. Mailing out Questionnaire
 - 1. School Newsletter, Richardton Merchant, Facebook, Lion's webpage and place in stores.
 - 2. SEH will draft Press Release to gives people a heads up

VII. PLANNED NEXT MEETING

- A. Tentative for 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of March 2019.