



Strategic Planning: Looking at the Past; Building for the Future

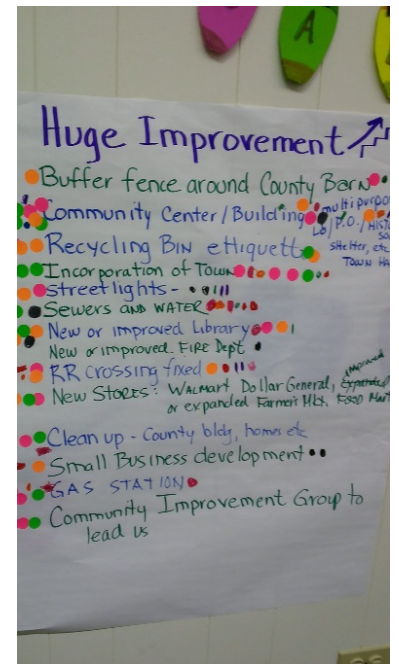
Strategic planning enables people and networks to think and act strategically. Communities and organizations are facing increasing number of complex issues that they need to respond to in a timely manner. Purdue Extension anticipated this need and has coached communities and organizations through strategic planning. By using the Asset Based Community Development and World Café models, participants created and catalogued lists of assets and opportunities for their communities and organizations.



Purdue Extension collaborated with the Hanna Community, Hanna Lions Club, Unity Foundation and other community organizations and

individuals to facilitate a Hanna Community Forum. Individual members of the Hanna Community determined what they valued and what they would like to pursue in the future. They developed a list of assets including individual, business, physical, and organizational that will help them grow in the 21st Century. More than 50 people have attended these meetings and have become the leaders of the Hanna Community. Work has been ongoing during the three-meeting Community Forum on topics of branding, economic development, beautification and partnerships.

Purdue Extension has also collaborated with the Drug Free Partnership of LaPorte County to host a strategic planning session for their board and community members. Extension conducted exercises to expand the organization's seven strategic directions and goals. Members determined the organization's direction by giving input on what they valued, concerns that needed to be taken care of, and what they would like to



pursue in the future. The process allowed the board to formulate, implement and control the strategy for the organization's expectations going forward. This organization through the strategic planning process was able to work together as a board to continue to work on the substance abuse problem in LaPorte County.

Strategic Planning for these organizations and communities helped analyze their mission, visions and values to help produce long lasting results that will help them go forward and thrive into the future.