

Community Forum #1
May 12, 2010

Table Facilitator: Tim Short
Scribe: Brian Karraker

Picture about favorite thing about Fairborn?

- Own back yard, next to Community Park East, and it's wonderful
- The parks, sixteen, parks and house.
- The old swimming pool, and park. Misses the pool. Kids didn't want to leave because they loved Fairborn so much.
- Downtown area. Small town-type downtown.
- The water tower. Fortunate to have plenty of city water.
- The flowerpots downtown.

What do you believe are the strengths of the city of Fairborn?

- Water resource (don't have to borrow, as other communities in Greene County must do)
- Easy access to interstate and highways, proximity to Wright-Patt
 - Means a lot of many retirees
- Wright State, fortunate to have it, good employer
- Proximity to bigger cities, regional location within the state
- Small town feel, friendly, good atmosphere
- Good volunteer activities with school and parks
- Great annual festivals and commemorative events, Sweet Corn, Halloween, 9/11, Christmas Parade, etc. (many because of great downtown and parks)
- "Free on Friday"
- Diverse community
- Patriotic city, good patriotic values
- Good commemoration of patriotic events, with good participation from neighboring communities and the Air Force base.
- The approachability of city council members, mayor, departments. Good employees that are friendly and responsive
- Strength of the schools, good broad base of teachers and volunteers
- Different type of school district, transient students, civilian and military.
- Attractiveness of Wright State and public schools to other schools and institutions (even though scores might be the best)
- Possibly the highest concentration of National Board Certified teachers in the area (check statistics for accuracy)
- Proximity to many nice golf courses (Greene, AFB courses) and recreational areas
 - Bikeways, and other many good recreational facilities

- Fishing areas, boating areas
- Oaks Quarry Park (fossils, good resource for local schools and universities)
- Good library and YMCA, good for citizens of all ages, especially children
- Beautiful historical district, and good history
- THE ONLY “FAIRBORN” IN THE WORLD!
- A “family” COMMUNITY (not just a city)
- Accessible to shopping areas (in and around)
- Safe city!
- Calamityville
- Partnerships with the base (Hope Hotel, Marathon, events in other communities that are near the area that draw people near the city)
- Mutual aid with other communities that help the city (Fire, Police, city-level operations)
- Parks (acreage and numbers), we have more than any other community in the area. This presents many opportunities to draw people (health, events)
- The strong senior citizens center, and it’s involvement in the community
- Fish Pantry, Community Center, good outreach programs
- Air Force Institute of Technology
- Giovanni’s

How can we keep those strengths strong?

- To be positive and demonstrate good communication. Show your praise of the schools and WPAFB. The thoughts of the citizens need to be heard since there are so many families coming into the area from WPAFB. Get the word out in a positive manner.
- Stress good schools and the positives of the school. Don’t discount test scores, but highlight the positive aspects. Put the issues in the school into perspective.
- Advertise the accolades that the community has received. (Academics, extracurricular awards, community leaders)
- Promote the strengths we have to support other strengths
- Keep key people involved with all facets of the community
 - Publicize where the volunteer opportunities are... publicize what we already have.
 - Need broader and more types of communication to reach out within our community and beyond
- Need to gain attention from Dayton publications and Dayton public that Fairborn exists in Greene county, not just Beavercreek
- The wealth of knowledge that exists in Fairborn (from WPAFB, the school, former GM employees) needs to be tapped into further to help develop the community and to get them involved
- The marketing of Fairborn, getting the word out beyond Fairborn (our astronaut in Greene county)

- Integration into the rapid transit system

What do you love most or what excites you most about Fairborn? Why?

- Corn festival, 4th of July, food, fireworks, and all of the events in the city.
- The family aspect of Fairborn, down-home feel but close to the big city and urban environments
- The problems of other communities don't seem to exist in Fairborn (bad water, street lights, infrastructure)
- Atmosphere that can draw people (small-town Americana), you know your neighbor, and you know your street...a holistic feel.
- We are a united city, a single unit, and not just made up of segregated plats with different interests. It's what sets us apart.

What attracts others to Fairborn?

- The parks and recreational opportunities and facilities.
- The positives of the schools
- Low property taxes (lowest in the county)
- Housing, no matter rentals or buying a house, we have a diverse schematic for whatever someone is looking for (new and old communities).
- Very diverse availability of churches.
- WPAFB, the proximity and opportunities that exist.
- Wright State, and moderately close to the new hospital that is being put in Beavercreek
- Opportunities for entertainment, mainly at Wright State (theater program) and the Nutter Center
- The attractiveness of Wright State, for highly regarded study programs and accessibility for disabled students and faculty.
- Air Force Museum and Nutter Center
- Hotels and lodging, restaurants that could attract people that are visiting the area for the Nutter Center and Air Force museum
- Returning citizens that were stationed elsewhere
- Big companies that are positioned along Colonel Glenn.
- Full service city (utilities are tied together), attorneys, dentists, grocery, hardware, and homeowners take care of their property. Good beautification committee.
- Property available (constructed and vacant lots) for business development, and the resources to do so.
- Base realignment (hopefully will be to the cities advantage, bringing more people into the city)
- The direction that Fairborn is moving for opportunities in technology growth
- STEM school.
- Tax abatement program for new business.
- Good roads, infrastructure, drainage.

- Fairborn in good at the little things.
- International ties (base, educational opportunities)

Table Facilitator: Gary Siembab
Scribe: Fran Keeley

If you could take a picture of your favorite thing about Fairborn, what would it be and why? (question wasn't asked)

What do you really like about Fairborn?

- Looking for their home. Retired military and will live and die in Fairborn
- Property taxes are very low
- Great parks
- Low violent crime
- Have 2 grandchildren that live in Fairborn, enjoy the schools, wife volunteers at the schools.
- Enjoys the park system. More parks in Fairborn than in Greene County (19 total). Grandchildren will enjoy the parks
- Lower taxes
- Friendly town
- Small town
- Likes the downtown makes us unique in the county
- Would like to see more businesses
- Like the community overall
- Family ties
- Lives in township...Fairborn is where I choose to shop...barber, work at WPAFB, summer job
- The only community that is self-funded for the 4th of July. Sponsored by Rotary...not primarily city funded...Community involvement
- Grandfathers were business partners in Fairborn
- Business taxes are very low...lowest (compared to Dayton, etc)
- Small town atmosphere, friendly people, downtown w/character, the Nutter Ctr (world class events), location 70, 75, 675, 35, etc, Giovanni's...and Tickets,
- Low income taxes
- Library is a strength
- The cohesiveness of the community is unusual for anywhere in the Miami Valley
- Very prompt services from the police, fire and city offices
- Safe city
- Good racial diversity
- Good water supply
- Housing market is better than surrounding areas
- Base is a huge asset, BRAC
- WSU also a good asset

- Wonderful churches
- Best of both worlds...small town w/big city amenities
- Safety
- Don't worry about going downtown or to the parks
- Sense of pride
- Wonderful neighbors, wonderful neighborhood...I love where I live
- Calamityville, w/bring hotels, buildings, etc
- Things are simple...if you need to see the City Manager-you can get into see, police-same situation
- Community involvement
- Developable land (for business, housing, etc)
- Small town feel with the mall right around the corner... without the congestion or people...
- STEM school
- City is getting "younger" ...schools don't have the big bunching of classes...more one-on-one attention
- Re-development opportunities are many
- Senior center...very active. Center is used by other entities...brings many to the center
- Central schools...affordable education
- Rental properties are well maintained (city is 53% rental properties) (due to military/WSU)
- City does a good job keeping the rentals well maintained
- Fairborn is very large
- Discussions about expanding/annexing Fairborn further on to National Rd
- Fairborn Community Center is a big asset...help people with issues on multiple levels (mortgage, rent, etc) Love and tenderness, respect and dignity...
- Historic homes
- Saving the theatre
- Living in city (WalMart, etc) w/rural amenities (wetlands, wildlife, etc)
- Low homeless rate...possibly attribute that to the Community Center

What attracted you to Fairborn?

- Friend said that Fairborn and surrounding areas were testing for the police/fire...too the tests and Fairborn was the first to call with the job!

Opportunities

- 444 being re-routed will be a great opportunity
- Going to upset a lot of people
- To renovate and populate the strip-mall @ Kaufmann & Funderberg

- Re-route earlier to Kaufmann than Dayton-Yellow Springs. that area could have such a positive impact on the population...opportunity in the making.

Table Facilitator: Rob Degenhart

Scribe: Deb Leonard

What is your favorite thing about Fairborn?

- Downtown
- Community park- clean pretty new play area says family
- Parks in general, granite signs, 20 parks in Fairborn 200 + acres for community and Oakes quarry
- Kauffman ave. greenway 1444 miles around the state, scenic trail, buckeye trail, several states,
- quaint towns and old houses, restoration has been great, serene.
- Parks first, downtown second
- Downtown, uniqueness, Celtic shop, Giovanni's
- warm feeling of a small town, Norman Rockwellesque feeling
- water supply, river; lower Beaver Creek; Fairborn while it is a large city there are places you can go in the city limits where you don't even know you are in the metropolitan area. Loves beaver dams. In a town of 35,000 near an air force base, be in town and only hear birds chirping
- parking lot issues- items not within questions tonight, concern stated- water flowing through the original channel of Beaver creek and not the current path it is on.
- historic scenic places to visit here, Huffman prairie
- parking lot, rich in resources, quarries, rocks everywhere, limestone

What do you believe are strengths here in Fairborn?

- Beaver creek wetlands, geological, enriched geological history, Wright brothers, historical parks,
- schools- needs to be considered
- location 675 access, hwy 70, prime for development, access, Wright Patterson AFB, airports close-by, prime for development
- availability of water, treatment plants for waste water
- availability of lowest rates on air travel with close proximity to several airports.
- close to several cultural locations within an hour, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis.
- Center of over a million people.
- Be specific to Fairborn, not the region. Ethnic restaurants, work because of the diversity of our city, ethnic and independent
- unique workforce, diverse, retiree population
- city is small enough that one person can make a difference, the goldilocks situation

- affordability- housing, natural resources available for outdoor activities, new playgrounds, Handyman Ace
- place to come home to- move away for several years and then return
- close enough to metro areas with peaceful environments
- !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fairborn- the hometown you never had!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Green space, not a suburb of Dayton
- like Mayberry
- distinct seasons, plants, seasons to change for new beginning.
- -boost for change through seasons

Infrastructure

- Railway, roads, easy to get around in Fairborn, strong thorough fares, sidewalks
- comprehensive plan
- active senior citizen community, active fraternal organizations and service organizations.

How do we keep the strengths strong?

- educate the community
- keep communication open
- increased awareness of the strengths
- religious community is a strength
- community involvement
- patronize the local stores
- -purchase gasoline in Fairborn
- support our schools

PARKING LOT ISSUE-schools!!

- city's website and facebook
- streaming on the website for satellite subscribers
- don't exclude different age groups
- encourage participation
- strong chamber of commerce

What do you love most or excites you the most?

- this forum, people here to make the city better
- this wave of energy
- new leadership
- DFBA revitalization committee for downtown
- strategic plan
- live, love, scrap

- volunteering, can't be a part of the problem without being a part of the solution
- interesting people, relaxed feeling with discussion
- safe town
- potential and future
- calamityville
- investment possibilities
- growth and positive attitudes
- great people, skilled workforce
- exciting time to live in Fairborn
- bikeway will be extended to Dayton

What attracts people to Fairborn?

- WPAFB
- great regional hospital for retirees
- Wright State University
- affordable housing
- Foy's in October, Halloween
- sweet corn festival
- parades
- festivals

Table Facilitator: Lisa McCain Null Hart
Scribe: Linda Riffle

Why they are here

- Heard it was very important, grew up here, want to build conservation, see opportunities, teach in the schools, work at WPAFB, want a good town for their children
- What do you believe the strength of Fairborn are
- Diversity of population
- Low tax base
- History
- Association with WSU and WPAFB
- Excellent police, fire and school system, parks system
- Free on Friday concerts
- Worked downtown with some of the town's 'builders'
- Good place to be
- Small town feel, community comes together
- Schools, good dedicated teachers
- Community projects such as concerts, 4th of July , family events
- Small town charm

- As a teacher have gotten to know entire families
- Park recreational facilities
- Hear good things from folks who don't live in Fairborn about our parks
- Small town charm
- Festivals
- Security, low crime
- Because I do a lot of volunteering

How do we keep those strengths strong?

- Relationships (developing and keeping relationships)
- With WSU, Fairborn City Schools,
- Being on committees, looking for grants
- We need a rec center
- For kids to play basketball, swimming, track, gym, volleyball, handball, climbing walls, family recreational center
- Brag about ourselves more, we've got low cost housing, business spaces,
- Getting the community out to come together and talk about Fairborn, having leadership willing to listen to the people will help us grow
- Very important that everyone feels they have a voice
- We have endless opportunities that we need to take advantage of
- Remember Elder Beerman, Yum Yum tree, need to support the Fairborn businesses, give them all the business you can
- In Greene Co. need a rec center, none around the county, our residents drive to Kettering Rec Center to use their facilities
- Working with WPAFB for the schools, mentoring, new base personnel want to stay close to the base
- We're a hidden pearl
- WPAFB/WSU
- Elections mean something
- My own backyard

What do you love the most about Fairborn and what excites you and why?

- Small town community, nice place to live, no big city crimes, feel safe
- Giovanni's
- Excited about the Library
- Feel safe, know your neighbors, neighbors care and will help when needed
- Small town community – you know people, nostalgia, don't want to lose the value of our history(excites)
- Love the 4th of July parade
- Excites – the next generation has a group of people working to make their future better
- Job opportunities close by, don't have to move to change jobs, easy commutes
- The people and our location, can get many places in one day, the east coast, the south, we are centrally located,

- People are friendly, helpful, nice
- Opportunity, we're at a cross roads, so many things happening, schools and city are looking up, the northeast corner of the Dayton region is ready to 'blossom'
- A lot of quality people in Fairborn

What attracts people to Fairborn?

- Close to the base
- Foy's – unique, fun
- New businesses (such as Abby's Donuts) that people talk about
- Tickets
- Giovanni's
- Low priced housing, affordable housing
- The Air Force Marathon
- You know people – keeps you here
- Housing, location of the housing, near the interstate
- Feels like a family
- All the local universities in Greene Co.
- Can go to various colleges from Fairborn
- Location to 70, 75 go east, west, north or south
- Low tax base
- School districts – we have special needs programs that attract people from the base, all day kindergarten, our high school classes with STEM, project Lead the Way, land lab, JROTC
- Base hospital
- Permanent resident, temps, visitors, events at Nutter Center, Sweet Corn Festival
- Base commissary
- Little league and Wee Hawks

Parking Lot Issues

- Transportation
- Need to attract higher end home buyers
- City Manager needs to put a sign on Kauffman Ave to advertise Fairborn to the trains that pass by, home of WSU, WPAFB and Calamityville
- Don't toot our own horn enough
- Need to get people into the schools to see how good they are
- Keep the small town feel at the top of the list
- Our most valuable asset is our children
- Our schools are missing a big element that is the Parks as an element of education
- We're adding Frisbee golf
- City Manager is sold on the idea of a rec center, but we need the funding to make it happen

- We need to develop pride, i.e. Family (good friend), military moved away, promoted to general, came back heard Fairborn is not a good school district for the military, we need to stop talking negatively about ourselves
- We were always considered a great school district, Beaver Creek developed houses and claimed to be the best which helped them to sell their houses
- Tax pay for services, low taxes mean low services, city/school income tax scare people away
- Pedestrian bridge over 675
- Oakes Quarry park is a gold mine
- Air Force Museum and Young's Dairy each attract 1.2 million visitors a year

Table Facilitator: Bob Lorenzetti
Scribe: Joannie Hendricks

Reasons for attending this event

- Volunteer for parks and rec and wanted representation
- Lend support to parks & rec
- Business owner with vested interest
- City council rep
- Resident
- Interested in community and how can keep progress moving forward

Picture of favorite thing in Fairborn and why

- Moved to Fairborn for location close to doctor
- Centrally located to I-70 & I-75 – proximity to family – take picture of their home and park nearby Relaxed area with low crime but near city
- Traffic circle I center of town – like the historical prospective park w/ bandstand and patriotic nature of flag
- Historical part of Fairborn- fascinated w/ history
- Community park – accessibility to restaurants, shoe repair, shopping w/ I walking
- Downtown Fairborn – have moved all over through military life but no - where else has a homey friendly atmosphere like Fairborn. Also active in church, loves parks, 4th of July parade, calamityville, But most important are friends
- Home town feel, safety, parks, corn fest and Giovanni's

Strengths of Fairborn

- Sense of Community, Festivals, small town life, low crime rate, relatively low taxes, air force base
- Safety, small town, easy to navigate, broad base of economic

- Close proximity to Cincinnati, Columbus – closeness to 70 & 75
- Teachers who strive to make the school system the best (a lot of good teachers)
- Wonderful Senior Citizens center which is funded from many sources –not as vulnerable as other areas dependent on levies; no real traffic problems, reasonable housing; wonderful police dept.
- Pretty town with lots of trees and parks, variety of homes (maintained older homes-pride of ownership; city willing to try new things-progress
- Proximity to colleges- 2 yr. 4 yr. Technical, etc.; EMTs; people in town interested in Theater

How could we accentuate the positive things in Fairborn?

- Have Halloween more often or at other times of year – Foy's Halloween in April for example
- Theme park based on Foy's
- Take old Elder Beerman and make indoor theme park-perfect place when traffic re routed-could have indoor miniature golf; arcade; bowling – someplace for the kids to hang out- would need security and to be well maintained
- Theater is key to drawing people in get people to come down Main St. – make it more “small town “ feel
- Fix up the things right outside of the base – NICE things for them to do
- Not enough publicity; don't realize the opportunities available- for example monthly furniture auction
- Safety and easy to navigate- have to support keeping fire, police and street maintenance strong
- Historic – needs to document the history; too many residents don't know the story of Fairborn – historical gathering
- Reenactment of the Osborn move
- City could collect historical information, data
- Builders continue to take the wide range of economic into effect with growth
- Keep seniors in mind- affordable housing availability; safety
- Education- get behind the alumni move to raise funds
- Apartments beside Baker need to be cleaned up
- Need new school buildings within the next few years
- Work with alumni foundation with tutoring, begin with speakers who have graduated from FHS and speak about their success
- All of these ideas need \$\$funds – need to look at the money making ventures and directing the funds
- Woodright downtown-with spinning wheels, wooden bowls,
- Make it more appealing for business to come in to town- build not only local incentives for business, but Statewide attraction of businesses
- Communication – every body has got there hand out these days but we need to show them concretely “what's in it for them” – Civic responsibility doesn't appeal to all generations – need to show the benefits to all

- More modernization – like downtown but seems a little run down – would like to see things spruced up

How would we market Fairborn?

- Truly have a local not for profit community newspaper – the Fairborn Herald prices for advertising are HIGH; articles would be submitted by community ; business owners would be more willing to place advertisements; the articles would be only about the community - no advertisements for Xenia, the mall, etc. Weekly paper – Springfield paper is good example most businesses in town are small businesses that can't afford to buy the ads to let everyone know what is available. Could use students from the WSU to work on this but would come with a cost
- Need to reach out more globally; need to market outward
- Start internally – don't have 30,000 people supporting Fairborn businesses
- Need to involve the University and the Base to shop and eat and stay in Fairborn – not tapping in to these “golden opportunities” Need to be a part of the orientation program at the Base and lots of opportunities to interact to the Base
- National park in Fairborn-not many cities have a National Park- should have a grand entrance
- Signs that say “Home of “; Welcome to Fairborn
- Need a brochure with highlights of city – parks, etc.
- Fairborn where the world is taught to fly A Family Friendly Community – should use this picture and motto in marketing
- Need tourist website – with happenings, places to see
- Ohio Tourism bureau
- Local advertisement – tell us what's downtown, what's happening ; some of the outlying businesses
- Advertise with AAA
- Need business to come to Fairborn – give tax incentives, etc.

What attracts people to Fairborn and Why?

- People
- Decent taxes
- Nice looking town- green, well maintained
- Ideal place to raise a child
- Housing options
- Friendly
- Small town close to the University
- Corn festival
- It's the amount of low income housing available – good for seniors on limited income

- Need to increase the tax base – higher level of housing inventory; would like to see the city approach a developer to revamp foreclosed homes- could rebuild an entire area
- Christmas in Action program- take low income primarily elderly and rehab homes (landscaping, painting, etc.)- local business donate \$, food, materials to help- workers would wear t-shirts to advertise; could get on local television and other media coverage which would generate additional advertising. In one day you can make a big difference. – why couldn't the base and WSU to become involved. Organization to be run out of the senior center
- Pride of the citizens

What do you love most or excites you about Fairborn?

- Location
- View from 675
- Positive Atmosphere of city at large- city offices, downtown
- Location, location – I love where I live
- Local transportation not conducive to get to everywhere want to go but location to Shuster Center, shopping, etc. positive
- Great place to live
- Diversity of housing options
- There is a faction of people in Fairborn that are negative – need to reach out to those people and work with them that the positive route needs to be taken

How can we improve local transportation?

- Connecting bike trails
- Tuesday night at open forum for city council - Community night – need as many positive (happy) people to attend to overwhelm the negativism. Know that the negative faction will be there to speak out but need positive input to counter balance them.
- Need to be connected with the University
- Can use the Greene Co. transportation but are limited to where you can go. If they took you to WSU, you could get anywhere on the RTA. Need connect to WSU.
- Too many people aren't aware of those people who need transportation, not everyone has that luxury
- When people start coming to Calamityville, it could be beneficial to have a bus to take people around town.
- Bike bridge across 675 will take business away from Fairborn; need bike trails into Fairborn to support the city

Table Facilitator: Mike Foy
Scribe: Brenda Kraner

If you could take a picture...

- SonSet Café been around for ten years – community – collaborative – indicative of community
- Main Street – down main street – Main and Street – it says Main Street America/USA
- The library
- Downtown Fairborn
- Historical district – the amount of work it took and the people who are keeping it up
- Community Park – gives me a sense of home – wrought iron fences – nice entrance into the city, especially when the grass is cut – inviting – presents a nice community
- A picture that includes the Flight line
- The 4th of July Parade
- National Park – Huffman Prairie
- Community garden up the hill by the fire station beside Wright Elementary School – sunflowers in bloom – bright and inviting, located in a obscure place – a collaborate effort of folks working together – says Fairborn is a “happy town”

Strengths

- Stellar police department – quick response and accessible
- Great public safety
- Schools are people friendly
- Staff at the City if people friendly - You don't get passed around – you can talk to who you need to talk to
- Situation of Fairborn – location – plenty of opportunity for all ages
- Shift in leadership within the City – progression, passion, new ideas for moving Fairborn Forward
- Collaboration between WPAFB, WSU
- Can get anywhere you want to in a short amount of time. Can do small town and big town stuff and not have to travel that far.
- The way we treat our military is a strength
- After being away on vacation, then loves coming home to small town. Streets are clean, houses are nice, flowers blooming. Feels welcoming to come home to Fairborn.
- Schools – great schools despite the bad hype – great teaching staff - schools make strong efforts to accommodate all levels of learning within a classroom
- Diversity of our citizens

How do we keep our strengths strong?

- Keep funding going – we need to keep our public safety personnel to keep our strengths strong
- Educate the community at large
- Being educated and informed on the issues – educate the public on the great things we’re doing and the things that do exist...education, safety, etc.
- Work with WPAFB to get welcome packets into the hands of potential residents
- Bring more businesses and jobs to the area – attract more people – make more tax money available
- County funding is lopsided – we need to elect more officials who support funding based on need
- We have emphasized how cost effective our services are and we can only do that for so long until people have to pay for the public service they have become used to.

What excites you most about Fairborn?

- Our citizens rally around a cause, the needs of the community – when people know what is needed – people step up and support – people need to know what to do and how to contribute
- The people – though there is reluctance to take on long-term commitments, i.e. support of a levy, but in small increments, they’re supportive.
- Many people come from WPAFB and then come back to retire. Benefits of being retired from the military is WPAFB.
- Economy in Fairborn is pretty stable; weather is not bad at all; close to Base
- People are for the most part friendly – not too small; not too big and if you want big or small you can get there quickly.
- From a police perspective, you must understand the down home person who has been here 50-60 years; professors; lt. col. Spectrum of high professional to down home person. Living here you have to relate to some aspect of that. Our community is different from other communities.

What attracts people to Fairborn and Why?

- Outside of the military, Foy’s – people want to see THE STORE, especially at Halloween.
- People come here and don’t realize they are in Fairborn – i.e. pyrotechnics training they come and say they are coming to Dayton. Don’t realize they are here.
- WSU; WPAFB; the museum; Sweet Corn Festival – Festivals and Activities in Fairborn; sports – leagues that play – softball is a big deal.
- They come to Fairborn because they were stationed then retire due to Base Amenities.

- New draw is Calamityville
- People come here or come back because family is here; many retirees move to where their kids are as well

Parking Lot

People think they can get low rent and come here for HUD housing; high rental. Drug issue – possibly because they are coming for cheap housing.

Apathy of the citizens

***Table Facilitator: Al Molnar
Scribe: Paul Keller***

What do you like most about Fairborn?

- Football field at high school
- Recreation facilities and Parks in Fairborn
- Definitely the Parks
- Nutter Center
- Downtown Fairborn
- A real downtown
- Main Street
- Old Central School on Central Ave
- Aviation history
- Close to AF Museum
- School Class size is good
- Calamityville
- Multiple universities
- Talents from retirees

How do we keep it going?

- Base is most important to Fairborn
- WSU is also important
- Contractors in the local area
- Continue offering support services to base/WSU
- Continue supporting the school sports programs
- Tape into senior population

Why tell someone to move to Fairborn?

- Location – close to interstate, airport, Cincinnati, Columbus
- Economically feasible

- Affordable housing
- Potential high-speed rail
- Divisibility of housing
- Unique shops
- Specialty shops
- Diverse make up of people
- Community involvement/can make a difference in local area
- Opportunities for success at ground level/involvement
- Rapid emergency response time
- High quality Police Department
- Excellent job on snow plowing
- City leaders are accessible
- Long-term citizens – commitment to Fairborn, involvement
- Networking in the local churches
- Good selection of Vets for pet care
- Wright Executive Center brings in jobs
- High School sports
- Good family community
- Low crime
- Good work experience in the area
- Lots of opportunity for development – land available
- Great ROTC program

Table Facilitator: Donna Mowles
Scribe: Debbie Downes

Why did you decide to come tonight?

- Grew up in Fairborn, left and came back, it had changed and I wanted to help work to improve
- Grew up in Fairborn, Pres of Performing Arts and numerous other committees – I enjoy living in Fairborn
- Grew up here and children grew up here. Fairborn is home and we need to step up as the new generation and be leaders.
- Retired here from military – here 37 yrs now. Here to voice concerns about clean-up of Fairborn
- I want Fairborn to look like it did 30 yrs ago
- I'm hear to listen and talk about what I love about Fairborn
- Grew up here. Would like to be part of this and would like to lead a hand.
- Children went to Fairborn schools. Retired military. Live downtown. Served on various committees. Fairborn is really home – we came here on purpose. Clean-up is a concern with me two.

- (Many committees were mentioned, Parks and Rec, Heritage Days, DFBA, Performing arts, school board,

If you could take a picture of your favorite thing about Fairborn what would it be and why?

- 4th of July Parade. Beautiful community event. Beautiful event. Wonderful
- The Fairborn Theater. Because we are attempting to restore. It's a landmark.
- The Main Street – I've spent so much time there. There is something about it. Foy's
- Downtown – Main St especially. You don't see them as much. It's nice to see the old buildings.
- Community Park East – nice walking trails. just like it. It is one of the things in Fairborn that has been improved.
- All the parks in Fairborn. All our green space.
- Mill Pond Acre B&B – adds a little green space in the city
- I like to use the pavilions – it's easy

What do you believe are strengths of the City of Fairborn?

- It seems like a small town, but it isn't really – there are other things around. Larger town with small town feel.
- Wright State University – I remember when it was just one building.
- The base gives us strength – keeps us stable
- Churches – active
- Calamityville
- These things will put us on the map
- Our history – the combining of two cities
- Near 675/70/75
- Close to crossroads
- Good schools – most number of nationally board certified teachers in the state
- I like the way the schools reorganized
- Bike paths
- Affordable housing
- We have a library
- Our roads are being fixed
- Strong administration now – forward thinking – positive
- DFBA is working on improvements
- Chamber is re-invigorated
- USAF Marathon
- Qualified fire and police dept
- Senior Center, as one example the community dinner at Thanksgiving.
- We take care of our people
- Community Center
- Rehabing of the old Central School

- Historic buildings
- Farmer's market – local CSAs
- YMCA
- 444 re-alignment
- Quarry Oaks Park/Cemex reserve
- Sweet Corn
- Festival

How can we keep those strengths strong?

- Need good leadership
- Participate where we can and use the facilities
- Vote the levies
- Support downtown/shop downtown
- Get involved/join/support/vote
- Build new schools to enhance the perception of schools – need lots and lots of community support to make that happen
- Stimulate community involvement – How do we stimulate the average “Fairbornite”?

What do you love most or excites you most about Fairborn? Why?

- History – and my family is part of the history
- The future – Fairborn is stagnate, but the fact that we have Wright State investing infrastructure. I think the future is exciting. When they come to Calamityville we need something to get those people to stay here and shop and eat.
- Base – lots going on. Dorms being built.
- The base -- It's a shot in the arm
- We have a lot to be proud of
- I feel safe. I can walk in the evening.
- I'm excited that more people in the historic district are fixing their homes and gardens
- So easy to meet people – friendly – people talk you. People are contented.
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Potential for even rough (blighted) areas. Not beyond redemption.

What attracts people to Fairborn? Why?

- WPAFB
- Wright Patterson
- We came for the schools
- We came for the housing – I was able to get a house that backs-up to a farm.
- Convenient to Dayton, Cincy – can go down to see the Reds, Springfield too – Kuss Theater, easy to get to airport. Location.
- Not a huge city, can step out the door and see the country, the downtown.

- Free Parking
- Specialty shops – Bookery, Foy’s
- “If I go to a conference, I have time to eat lunch, do a little shopping...We need to give people something authentic to the region/area when they come for conferences or training”
- Currently we have Signature’s, Foy’s, Bookery, Giovanni’s, Needful Things – maybe they need to stay open later.
- We need an Ice Cream shop
- We need outdoor seating for restaurants
- We are going to have some new housing

Table Facilitator: Bill Lambert
Scribe: Mike Riley

Favorite Pictures

- Parks are well groomed
- Still have a downtown area
- Parks are a big asset especially for families with children
- WPAFB: without it, there wouldn’t be much good about it.
- Parks improve the quality of neighborhoods, untapped resource
- Tremendous amount of community spirit. A lot of people care about the community.
- Block party, 4th of July Parade, Sweet corn festival
- Bike trail.
- Zoning rules that ensure uniformity across the community.
- The assurance that homes built are built according to applicable codes.
- Fairborn is a historical town (history of Fairfield and Osborn)
- Foy’s stores.
- Location, property values.
- Access to 675; quick travel to bigger cities.
- Beneficial for families that work in different communities
- Nature reserve and proximity to wildlife
- Proximity to Dayton Airport
- Rail access
- Opportunities for businesses that may benefit from rail access.

Strengths

- Wright State
- WPAFB
- Water
- Ball Aerospace
- Wright Laboratories

- Close to Base Hospital
- Base Exchange
- Interstate highways with access to 675
- Water reclamation center
- Low crime rate compared to Dayton or other cities.
- Lower property tax and income tax is an opportunity for business and residential development.
- Bundled services: water, sewer and trash disposal.
- Honeywell (energy management systems)
- Sports Plex: location is close for other communities. It is very busy.
- Softball fields and Baseball fields are very busy. We have a shortage of available parks with ball diamonds. Ball diamonds are hard to maintain.
- The ball diamonds off of Pierce Dr. could improve N. Broad St. if the entrance was moved to N. Broad.
- A sporting goods store might be a good asset, however it has to be big.

What can we do to keep the good things in Fairborn?

- Help WPAFB with access to the base
- Help WSU with development
- Improve our schools
- Improve housing stock
- Good housing stock
- The STEM program is an opportunity to keep families here
- Its expensive to keep parks operational, although it needs taken to the next level to improve our image.
- We have the assets (parks) they need to be a priority
- Neighborhoods could utilize parks to get to know their neighbors
- Neighborhood watches seem to be a thing of the past.
- We could get to know our neighbors. It seems like no one knows their neighbors anymore?
- Could waste management improve upon recycling?
- Green Programs: are there opportunities for improvements
- There are opportunities to improve upon sit down restaurants.

What excites you most about Fairborn?

- The improved city streets
- Calamityville project
- Senior citizen center
- Halloween events downtown
- Christmas events downtown
- Signatures Coffee is nice except it has unusual hours.
- Waterford Landing
- The Nutter Center

What do you think attracts people to Fairborn?

- Taxes
- Affordable housing
- Location
- Plenty of land for development
- Proximity to WPAFB
- Families without children are more attracted to Fairborn because of the Base.