Gladwin PRT Round Table Discussion
Thursday, June 21, 2018 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- Bob Balzer - Introduction and overview
- Chelsea - Larger overview of the program.
- Jack Abernathy will be interim city manager
- Roundtable Discussion
  - Community Assets
    - Hired a blight officer and are working on cleaning up the blight (cars/junk)
    - Would love to see Gladwin have signs on businesses near the road. North side businesses have awnings and flower boxes, rails and décor in front of dining establishments, outdoor dining, streetscape improvements. - BluePrint Stude with MISHDA (ASK FOR THIS)
    - Working on bike path extensions (half mile), will tie into regional trails.
    - Working on Iron removal plan with the City's water.
- Riverwalk Place
  - People who are willing to put on events- Parades, rodeos, festival of lights, ORV rides
  - Riverwalk Place does strong marketing. Big stakeholder. People coming from the city for weddings and spa.
  - Outdoor recreation and boating is a strong asset.
  - New office building with primary care doctors.
  - Airport, many commercial flights and private jets are coming in.
  - Gladwin Community Arena- Ice arena/sports complex
  - Youth programs and support for those programs helps bring people in
  - Theater- Strong community theater
  - Artist Guild - 40 years - additional arts, music, artisans
  - Library with genealogy department
  - Great city parks with campground, city parks
  - Cedar River that runs through the city
  - RSD Kid working to build skills/job training
  - Students can take college courses through high school at MidMichigan Community College
    - Can get an associates degree by graduation
  - Starting a young professionals group and a 40 under 40.
  - Housing Commission is working to help seniors age in place, provide transit for them
  - Challenges
    - Money, retention, employee shortage
    - Challenges, trying to get industry without tax abatements.
    - No tax abatements for commercial businesses. Need to help commercial builders to create commercial jobs. Taxes are too high on commercial businesses.
    - Hard to retain employees because it is hard for spouses to get jobs. They're not staying for very long. They are working to recruit locals to be doctors so that they'll stay.
    - Maintaining the schools and making them attractive - Need support for the schools.
    - Issue retaining the youth - average age of residents is rising
    - Post high school education attainment levels
    - Need for living wages - 60% of community lives on limited income (ALICE)
    - Challenges- transporting seniors from one county to another
    - Need business community to invest in the community- give people jobs- hire locally- make people come back
    - Childcare- there is small business daycare but more childcare is needed.
    - Need more occupational training- cannot find qualified people who will show up and stick with it. Need training at all different levels. Doesn't seem available in the area.
• Trying to get people to change their attitude about work. People need to want to work. People aren't lasting.
• Need incentives for people to work, some people don’t qualify for assistance but still need some help.
• Transportation challenges. Some households only have one car.
• Unemployed veterans between 18-24.
• Traffic Calming: Too many lanes of traffic in downtown, hard to cross the street, can't take a bike up town right now. Want a stop light. Want to slow the cars.
• Want a left turn lane on M-61 or more stop lights - think people need to die before they’ll get a light
• Amish population and the buggies in town getting into crashes with cars
• Amish builder are "taking jobs" form licensed builders.
• Having lights on the buggies- need reflectors- better identification.
• Need middle and higher end rental housing. Missing middle housing. Hard to get low income rental housing in the 3 bedrooms and up. Private landlords can be difficult.
• Have been working with landlords and are working to keep it up.
  • Opportunities for Improvement
• Meeting the Amish where they're at and getting them to make some progress with their buggies- Jason Wentworth with working on a collaborative approach. Working on a bill to modernize the Amish.
• REDS- Skilled Trades resources need more finances more quickly
• Transportation from the schools to the skilled trades centers- satellite facility in Gladwin but it is only for building.
• Need skilled trades classes in the schools- there is a need for more co-opp opportunities and/or kids who are interested in co-opp, plastics class, drafting, wood shop, auto shop, welding. Making kids interested in the trades.
• Kids that go to college have to work hard to catch up to other college students.
• Schoolers need councilors
• Young professionals group- Mandy can help.
  • Existing resources and solutions
• Need to keep getting the group together to work on issues
  • Next steps
• Ask for volunteers to get in touch with Bob Balzer to continue to work on PRT group in Gladwin
• Ask that Gladwin and Beaverton schedule a join meeting in July to discuss overlapping issues and resources, and solutions.
• Bob Balzer will continue to head up Gladwin
Community Issues:

- **Housing** - The shortage of available housing has become a major issue in the area. There is old housing stock in the community but it is in need of repair, which will be expensive.
- **Long term care facilities** - Seniors have to be exported out of the community for long term care, their relatives are then forced to drive to visit them regularly.
- **Proximity to Midland** - Beaverton is close to Midland which presents an opportunity and a challenge:
  - Dow is a big source of competition for talent
  - Most of management level workers for local employers commute from Midland, hourly workers lives in Beaverton
- **Restaurants** - There are few choices in terms of food in the city. If people want to eat somewhere other than their 3 options they have to go to another city.
- It is a difficult environment for **small business owners**, lots of turnover in the downtown area
- **The lake in the middle of the community is a great resource**, one that could attract some tourism, it is not being promoted effectively, most passerby have no idea its there until they happen upon it.
- **Pre-school options** for all income levels - not just low income families - is in high demand
- **Childcare** in general is lacking for employees in the area.
- **Attracting** families to the school district is a need, as well as creating instructional planning that is enticing to families.
  - Both communities have FIRST robotics teams, which is a start
  - The Beaverton school district is at 1,027 students currently. About 5 years ago there were 1,300 students. A recent study found they would lose ~44 students per year - last year they lost 70.
- **Blight** is an issue - there needs to be more beautification efforts to attract and retain residents.
  - Sen. Stamas just helped get some funding passed to assist with blight, this is possibly something Beaverton could look at.
- **Housing** - The city needs to be a better partner with the schools to stop losing families. Beaverton could pursue grant funding to improve and increase housing and demolish houses that are below code enforcement levels.
- **In order to grow**, **Beaverton needs to expand** its border through some arrangement.
  - The city hasn’t used planners in the past to effectively scale up.
  - MSHDA can provide a solid assessment of housing in the area.
  - Some communities are using their local tech centers to rehab blighted homes - Beaverton CTE students are building a new home in the city this fall.
  - There is a great program now with MMC to secure land and build new houses, it just needs more funding.
- **Infrastructure repair** is a challenge, even though they have gotten some assistance from the state.
  - Next year, the city has a plan in place to repave quite a few streets in Beaverton. They need more assistance to make sure this plan is effectively implemented.
  - **Broadband** - fiber connections have been difficult to establish because of regulation issues with the telecommunications act. They have Charter and hughes.net service.
  - **Water Infrastructure** - there is iron in the water that needs to be removed, Beaverton would like to follow the same model that was used in Gladwin.
• The **farmer's market** is an asset to the community, but they want to make sure they are getting the most out of it.
• **Disaster Recovery** - There is no infrastructure in the county for disaster recovery. Clare County has disaster recovery system in place and is willing to allow Beaverton to tap into it, but they need to sit down with them to talk to them about how they can create an agreement.
• **Recreation** - Young people feel they have to leave the area to go and have fun, they usually go to Midland.
  • 42% of Beaverton is 26 and under. They don’t have much to do and this is another reason young people are leaving the area.
  • Having a movie theater would be a great option
  • More sports competitions and sports related activities outside of school would be an attractive idea.
  • They are in the process of updating the Parks and Rec plan.
    • A survey that was recently completed found that community members would appreciate having access to a swimming pool, or splash pad would be a great thing for families.
• **Talent Development** - Building the workforce in the area for the future.
• **School Resource officer** - someone to provide more guidance to students is a need locally
• **Programs in schools for talented students** - Special programming that focuses on the gifted students in the area, not just students that face barriers to success
• **Industrial park property**
• **More public access to the water** - There is only one main area of access
• Generational poverty issues
• **Advertising and Marketing** - Creating messaging that appeals to a younger population and highlights all that the community has to offer.
• **The Marshall Plan for Talent** is a great option for developing local talent early and giving them the skills they need.
• **Workforce training** for the low-income and working poor.
• **Redevelopment Ready Community** assistance
• **Downtown Development Planning** - creating an ambiance and walkability that encourages residents and visitors to stop and shop.