

## Summary of the July 31, 2018 Public Open House City of Dunkirk, NY Comprehensive Plan Update

### INTRODUCTION

Two public open house events were held in the City of Dunkirk on July 31, 2018. The first open house was held between 10am and 2pm at the Iglesia Getsemani, Asambleas De Dios, located at 115 Central Avenue. The second event was held between 4pm and 8pm at the Kosciuszko Club, located at 252 Nevins Street. A series of informational boards/stations were setup requesting input from the public on the following major topics:

- Downtown Dunkirk;
- Housing and Neighborhoods;
- Jobs and the Economy;
- Parks, Recreation and the Waterfront; and
- Traffic and Pedestrian Safety.

Members of Laberge Group Planning Team along with City representatives were present to assist the public, answer questions and provide additional information regarding the comprehensive planning process. Project staff also included two Spanish-speaking interpreters. In addition, all information boards were provided in both English and Spanish. Representatives from the City of Dunkirk were also present to assist with the Open House events. Community surveys in both English and Spanish were also available for the public to complete. Based on the sign in sheets, the two open house events were attended by over 111 individuals, with an assumption that some attendees did not sign in.



*Open House Event at Iglesia Getsemani,  
Asambleas De Dios*



*Open House at the Kosciuszko Club*

### RESULTS SUMMARY

All of the information received during the Open House events were collected and analyzed. The following is a summary of the input received, with the verbatim/raw results from each board provide at the end of this summary. For some topic areas, informal polls were given during the open house, asking for a “Yes,” or “No,” or “I Don’t Know” response. While the results have been totaled and summarized below, it is understood that the polls are

not formal surveys and were intended to gauge the opinion of each respondent for planning purposes. Many questions asked attendees to list information. When a particular comment or comments similar to others were provided more than once on a board, the results provided below include a “x” signifying the number of times the comment was repeated. The results of the formal community survey are provided in a separate document from the Open House summary.

The open house comments and recommendations received represent one of the many opportunities and tools being used to obtain public feedback during this planning process. The information obtained will be integrated with all of the input provided by the public and the City, including the Community Survey and the multiple Stakeholder meetings conducted. Combined, the results will help guide the overall development of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

## Downtown Dunkirk

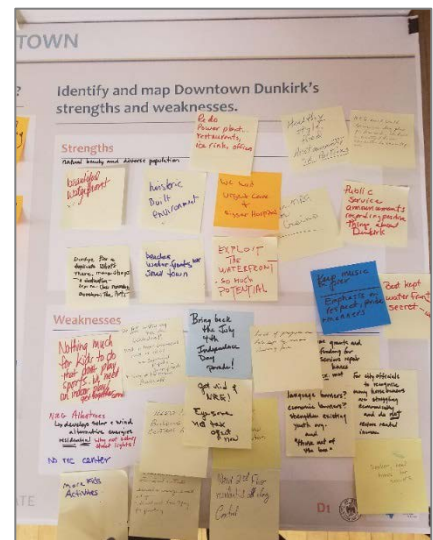
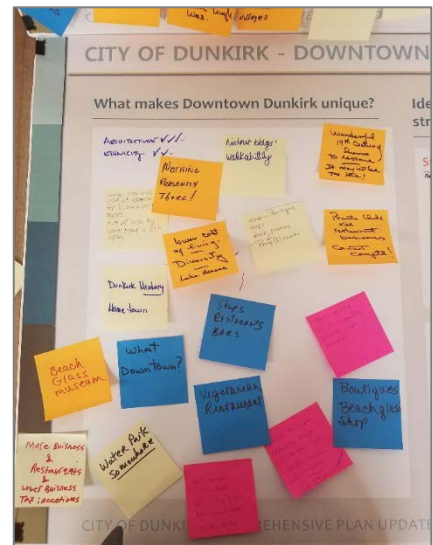
### *What makes Downtown Dunkirk unique?*

The first station asked attendees to identify what makes Downtown Dunkirk unique. Based on the input provided, architecture/historic buildings/history and ethnicity/diversity are the top two elements that make Downtown Dunkirk unique. Walkability was also mentioned along with the low cost of living, lake access, local shops, restaurants, and bars, and large areas for future development including along the lake. A few commenters observed that Downtown is relatively vacant, with “nothing there” that would make it unique.

### *Strengths and Weaknesses*

Attendees were then asked to list Downtown Dunkirk’s “Strengths” and “Weaknesses.” Based on the feedback provided, the waterfront and harbor were identified as Downtown’s major strengths followed by the areas natural beauty, historic buildings and the potential to repurpose the closed NRG facility. Downtown Dunkirk’s primary weakness identified by the public include the lack of activities for youth of all ages, including non-sports activities, the need for more structured youth activities and an indoor/outdoor recreation facility. These concerns are likely also City-wide issues then solely isolated to Downtown.

The poor public image of Dunkirk was identified as a weakness (which may also be a City-wide issue, but more relevant to Downtown) along with the feeling that there has been a lack of progress in filling the “hole” left by the former Masonic Temple building fire. The NRG facility dominating the waterfront was also mentioned as a weakness along with both economic and language barriers of residents. Based on the comments provided, a lack of restaurants and retail shops and loss of original buildings (older architecture and not necessarily historic buildings) were also identified as weaknesses.





## Housing and Neighborhoods

### *Desired Type of Housing*

Open House attendees were asked to identify the types of housing they would like to see more of in Dunkirk. Based on the results, Single Family was the most popular housing types followed by Mixed Residential-Commercial, Senior Housing, Townhouses, Apartments and Duplex/Two Family.

<i>What type of housing would you like to see more of in the City of Dunkirk?</i>	
Single Family	21
Mixed Residential-Commercial	19
Senior Housing	13
Townhouses	10
Apartments	7
Duplex/Two Family	2

### *Is there sufficient housing for recent college graduates, young families and seniors?*

The public was then asked if they believe there is sufficient housing for recent college graduates, young families and seniors. Based on the responses, the public does not believe the City has sufficient housing for these residents, with a total of 26 respondents saying “No,” four stating “Yes” and one “I Don’t Know.”



### *Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities of the City’s Four Wards*

Open House attendees were asked to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities within their City Ward or Wards of interest. The responses were a combination of observations based on perceived strengths, weaknesses and opportunities along with specific requests for improvements. Wards 1 and 4 were better represented than Wards 2 and 3.

#### **Ward 1**

*Strengths:* Wright Park (request to hold more events there), the waterfront (continue positive improvements), Lakefront Boulevard (request for additional improvements), and recreation opportunities (more opportunities for kids in all wards requested).

*Weaknesses:* Japanese Knotweed (needs to be better controlled), litter along the shoreline, vehicle speed limits, parking on sidewalks (needs to be clearly prohibited), and lakefront bathrooms (need to be improved).

*Opportunities:* Pangolin Park was identified three times as a resource that should be enhanced. It is currently described as a “wasteland” and could be better utilized for recreational or other purposes – a plan for improvements is needed. There is an opportunity to integrate recreation with youth activities which could also incorporate

childcare (which has been identified as significantly lacking in the City). There is also an opportunity to take advantage of positive growth and spinoff development from Athenex in this area. A welcome package for new Spanish speaking residents was also recommended.

## Ward 2

*Strengths:* Only two comments were provided: “God bless the sidewalk plow” and “Small concerts in Bicentennial Park.”

*Weaknesses:* No comments were provided.

*Opportunities:* The City’s street trees are seen as an opportunity and if sufficiently maintained, could contribute to an enhanced City character. However, there were requests for better management of existing street trees – trimming needed, replace trees removed by DPW, and maintaining/preserving tree-lined residential neighborhoods. There is a need to reduced vehicle speeds through residential neighborhoods, preserve Crooked Brook and better integrate into Bicentennial Park, provide attractive trash cans along walking routes to and from schools and provide more off-street parking.

## Ward 3

*Strengths:* No comments were provided.

*Weaknesses:* Trees and shrub maintenance, Dunkirk’s “slow roll” and the need to hold landlords responsible for safe housing. These comments may indicate that vegetation maintenance by the City needs to be improved, there is a perception that Dunkirk does not move fast enough to address issues of concern and that the condition of rental housing is an issue.

*Opportunities:* Create student housing (if affordable – it will attract students to the area), repurpose the NRG facility – if not a power source, build condos/residential.

## Ward 4

*Strengths:* No comments were provided.

*Weaknesses:* Street conditions need to be improved (including Liberty St., Franklin Ave., and Nevins St.), poor conditions of buildings and property (including Ruggles and Talcott areas), along with requests for the Code Enforcement Officer to improve enforcement (property maintenance concerns). There were complaints of an existing construction company and trash company that are negatively impacting surrounding neighborhoods. Flooding was identified as an issue along with a lack of parking in older neighborhoods where only on-street parking is available.

*Opportunities:* The City’s ethnic diversity and heritage should be embraced and capitalized upon (restaurants, festivals, retail, tourism, etc.) for the benefit of the City. More low cost housing was recommended and the City should institute a Neighborhood Pride Program and encourage/seek opportunities to have homeowners and renters take pride in their property. In addition, the City should pursue and encourage beautification projects, and provide dog waste stations throughout the City.

*Welcome package/webpage/orientation for new City residents*

When asked if a welcome package/webpage/orientation for new City residents would be helpful, **31 responded “Yes,”** and only **one responded “No.”**

*Vision Your Neighborhood in Ten Years*

Open House attendees were asked to describe their neighborhood in ten years. Responses provided were a combination of “vision” style statements along with specific requests for improvements.

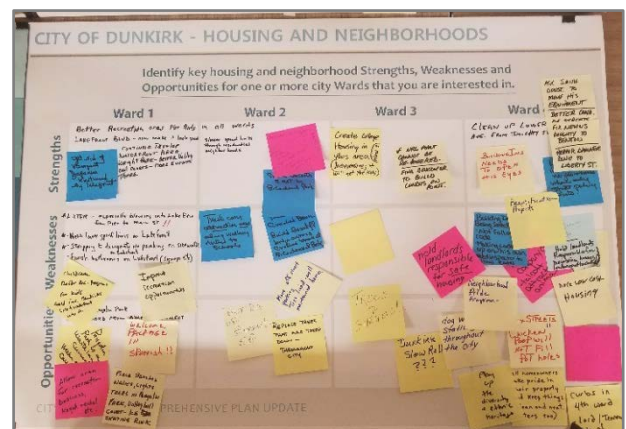
Based on the responses, neighborhoods would be bustling and economically stable, with young families, clean tree-lined and well-lighted streets, and good sidewalks along with well-maintained homes and yards with a mixture of historic and new buildings/infill, an active arts scene, pocket gardens and parks, and numerous youth activities.

Respondents also requested small eateries (food vendors) for Wright Park, a kayak rental business along the shoreline, more bus stops and safer bicycle routes along with more affordable and senior housing within walking distance of downtown. In addition, there were two specific requests for the City to move forward with the “Floramo Plan,” a previously-proposed a rental housing registration law.

There was a recommendation to create the Academy Heights Historic District with historic/decorative lighting and enhanced zoning regulations that would protect older/architecturally significant homes in the area of Swan and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. In addition, there was a request for the City to apply to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). To become a CLG, a community must prepare an action plan on how to preserve historic buildings and/or districts. A CLG is eligible to receive a variety of services from the SHPO, including, but not limited to technical preservation assistance, and legal advice, access to grants, training, and ongoing focused support by the SHPO. Overall, this certification would assist the City in preserving architecturally and historically significant structures and neighborhoods.

*Homeowner Repair Program*

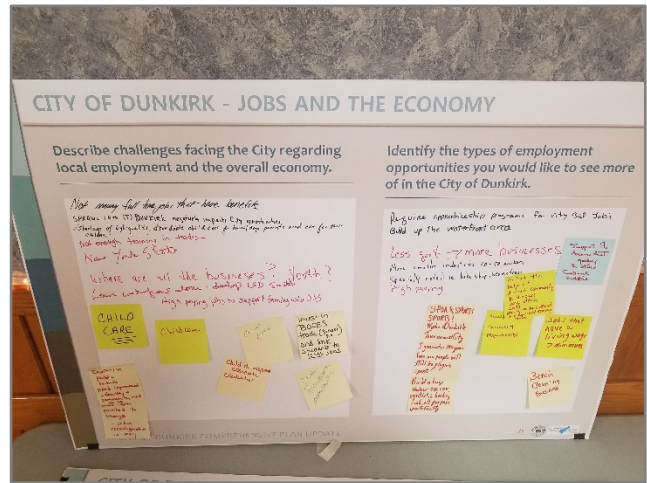
The final question for the Housing and Neighborhood Station asked attendees if they would participate in a homeowner repair program that provides financial assistance and repairs. There were 21 “Yes” responses and zero “No” and “I Don’t Know” responses.



## Jobs and the Economy

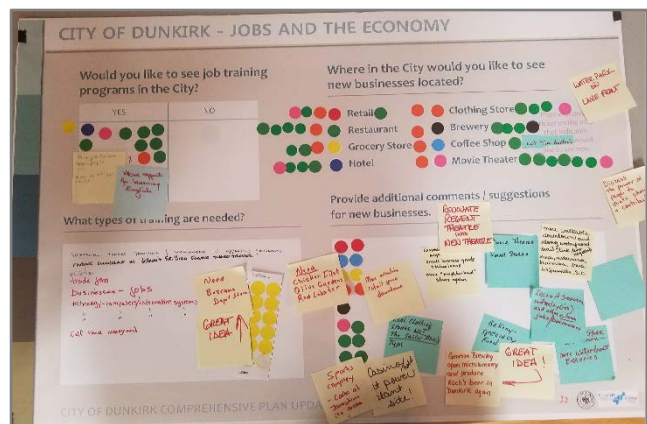
### *Local employment and Economic Challenges Facing the City*

The public was asked to describe challenges the City might be facing related to local employment and the overall economy. A lack of childcare was the primary issue identified followed by an overall lack of employment opportunities, concern that there are limited full time jobs that provide benefits and a lack of sufficient training. The sprawl of development into the Town of Dunkirk is negatively impacting the City. New York State was identified as challenge to the local economy, although no specific examples were provided. There were also suggestions for additional investments in BOCES related to local trades and a need to link students to local jobs. In addition, it was recommended that the Dunkirk Public School system needs to be improved in order to better handle the changing economy.



### *Employment Opportunities Needed in the City of Dunkirk*

The next question requested examples of new employment opportunities that would benefit the City. Responses included small businesses, businesses with apprenticeships, specialty retail and services (e.g., bike shop, seamstress, and a beach cleaning business) along with more arts and culture-focused opportunities including more support for Adams Art Gallery. It is important to note that arts and culture, including historic preservation have been raised previously during the open house.



Sports as an economic driver was also mentioned, with recommendations to embrace opportunities for sports through construction of an all-purpose sports facility. Similar to arts and culture, sports and the need for a recreational facility have been a reoccurring theme during the Open House.

There were additional recommendations to build up/capitalize on the waterfront area, a need for less government and more business (possibly related to taxes and regulation), suggestion to require apprenticeship programs for City bid jobs and to bring in speakers (local Amish community) to discuss work ethic, skills, and self-sufficiency.

### *Job Training Programs*

A total of 12 respondents selected “Yes” when asked in there should be job training programs offered in the City. There were zero “No” and “I Don’t Know” responses. The top recommendations were technology/computer/information systems along with vocational/trade jobs with a request to improve the City of Dunkirk Comprehensive Plan Update

apprentice programs (no details were provided). In addition, there was a request for career counseling in Jr. and Sr. High School, with a focus towards trades. More opportunities to learn English was also mentioned and language barriers may be negatively impacting some residents’ ability to secure good jobs.

*Where in the City Should New Businesses be Located?*

Open House attendees were then asked to identify locations for desired new businesses. Responses included:

- Restaurants on Central Avenue, West 4<sup>th</sup> street, East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and the NRG site.
- Hotel on Lake Shore Drive between N. Beagle and Genet Streets, the NRG site, East Front and Main Streets and the southern edge of Wright Park.
- Brewery on Lake Shore Drive, near the waterfront on Eagle and Washington Streets, and at the end of Deer Street.
- Movie theater at the corner of Park Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Casino and a sports complex at the NRG site.
- Clothing stores and coffee shops along Central Avenue and Lake Shore Drive.

Additional comments and suggestions were provided including requests for specific restaurants, more attractive retail space downtown, renovate the former Regent Theater into a new theater (this has been recommended previously during the Open House), a sports complex (also a reoccurring recommendation), water park, a more walkable downtown, microbrewery, and a bakery.

Overall, restaurants and movie theaters (including renovating the former Regent Theater) were the most popular recommendations by the public followed by the need for a clothing store, grocery store, breweries, more retail in general and hotels.

**Parks, Recreation, and the Waterfront**

*Most popular City Parks and Recreational Services*

Attendees at the Open House were asked to identify which City Park(s) or recreation services they visit most. The Dunkirk City Pier/Harbor was the most popular location followed by Wright Park, Point Gratiot Park and Beach, Wright Park Beach, Memorial Park and Washington Park. The full results are listed in the table below.

<i>Identify which City Park(s) or Recreational Service(s) you visit most.</i>	<i>Responses</i>
• Dunkirk City Pier/Harbor	29
• Wright Park	26
• Point Gratiot Park	24
• Point Gratiot Beach	17
• Wright Park Beach	17
• Memorial Park	15
• Washington Park	11
• Bike and Pedestrian Trails	9
• City Marina	7
• Bicentennial Park (Dunkirk City School District – Owned)	5
• Main Street Beach	5
• City Dog Park	4
• New York Avenue Playground	3
• Pangolin Park	2
• Veterans Park	2



## Public Open House Results

• Franklin Ave Blvd Park	1
• Fourth Street Park	0
• Kosciuszko Park	0

### *Desired Park Improvements*

Attendees were then asked to identify and describe improvements they would like to see at their parks. The results include more basketball courts, an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, sitting benches, a sun shelter at the City Pier, improved squash pad at Wright Park, soccer fields, improved bathrooms, better grills and picnic tables, and additional children-focused playgrounds.

### *Future Vision of City Waterfront Parks*

The majority of respondents listed desired improvements to the waterfront parks along with additional recommendations not specifically related to parks and recreation instead of providing future “vision” statements. The one vision-style response provided was: Beaches with attractive sand, restaurants with great food, entertainment, and children and teen activities.

Many of the requests provided are similar to recommendations previously recorded and may point to possible priorities from the public’s perspective regarding highly desired recreational and related uses that could be pursued in Dunkirk. These include a multi-purpose, year-round sports/recreational facility, additional recreational opportunities for kids (including non-recreational/non-sports activities), basketball courts, a swimming pool, children’s playground at Wright Park, more benches and better picnic tables and grills, canoe, kayak and bike rentals, bathrooms at all parks, and proper maintenance of trees and related vegetation.

Unique/new requests include increasing the size of the City Pier and not turning it into a park and that more restrooms should be available nearby. Conversely, a comment was provided requesting less parking on the Pier. Additional requests include attracting the historic “Tall Ships,” and bringing in roller derby and boat tours, an amusement park at the NRG facility, parking improvements at Point Gratiot Park, more walking and biking opportunities at City Parks, request to allow residents to help maintain and beautify City Parks and holding events to help clean up the beaches. The use of green infrastructure and providing educational opportunities at the parks was also recommended.

An additional unique request, not specific to City Parks includes providing employment opportunities for people to assist seniors with maintaining yards along with City greenspace. Snow removal assistance for the elderly was also recommended.

### *Concerns/Weaknesses at City Parks*

The final station for Parks and Recreation asked attendees to identify concerns and weaknesses at their City Parks. The primary concern identified was litter, pollution and beach health and maintenance. Additional dog waste dispensers should be provided (previously recommended), dog owners need more encouragement to clean up, and recycling bins are needed at parks. The pavilion rental rate at Point Gratiot Park should be more affordable and additional pavilions should be provided. Requests to make parks more children friendly including providing additional areas for them to recreate and not necessarily just sports-related. Additional parking areas for City



### *Popularity of the State Bike Route/Seaway Trail*

The public was asked if they use the NYS Bike Route/Seaway Trail, with eight indicating they do and six stating “No.” Associated comments provided included requests for more space for kids of all ages including a bike path and that the posted speed limit on Lake Shore Drive needs to be reduced and lowered throughout downtown (x2).

### *Public Transportation*

Twenty-two respondents stated that they did not use the Chautauqua Area Regional Transportation System (CARTS) bus service, with three stating “Yes.” For those that do use the bus service, parks and the lakefront were the top two destinations followed by City events, work, stores and medical appointments.

### *How to Improve the CARTS Bus Service*

The primary recommendation provided is to increase the hours of service (e.g., no way to get home after the movies on Saturday night). There was recognition of the need for public transit especially for college students which could increase the attractiveness of Downtown and the waterfront to Fredonia students. The idea of establishing an Amtrak station in Dunkirk was also popular. There was also a recommendation for a shuttle service that links the colleges with shopping areas and the waterfront.

## **Kids Input**

Children that attended the Open House were asked for recommendations on how they would make the City the “Best place for you, your family and friends.” There were four recommendations for playgrounds and two recommendations for recycling bins in parks. A Children’s Center (e.g., science, art, etc.), affordable educational activities, nature programs that get kids outside and into the environment were also recommended. A waterpark/pad was also suggested (it should be noted that Wright Park has a splash pad).

## **General Comment Box**

A comment box was also provided allowing attendees to offer additional comments, suggestions and complaints that may not be associated with any of the specific Open House stations. Comments provided focused on revitalizing the former Regent Theater (corner of Washington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) into a new performing arts center (repurposing this building has been recommended several times during the Open House), the need to enhance public transportation including connecting Downtown Dunkirk with SUNY Fredonia, and the need for wayfinding (no wayfinding/directional signage is provided in the City) to direct visitors to the City’s parks and other attractions. Additional comments include a request to revive the Central Connections project (the City is continuing to implement the project), request to stop “wasting tax payer money” although no specifics were offered, a request for maritime, shipwreck and fire museums, and a need to provide bicycle repair stations, advertise side trips for visiting cyclists and adding more recycling and trash containers in public areas.

## Verbatim/Raw Results from the July 31, 2018 Public Open House City of Dunkirk, NY Comprehensive Plan Update

### Downtown Dunkirk

#### 1. What makes Downtown Dunkirk unique?

- Architecture X4
- Historic buildings
- Wonderful 19<sup>th</sup> century homes to restore, it may not be too late
- Dunkirk History, hometown
- Lower cost of living
- Ethnicity X3
- Diversity
- Lake access
- A lot of area by the waterfront is still open.
- Large area with a lot of opportunity for business or townhomes
- Shops, Restaurants, bars
- Walkability
- Nothing presently there
- What downtown?

#### 2. Identify and map Downtown Dunkirk's Strengths and weaknesses.

##### Strengths

- Beautiful waterfront X3
- Beaches, waterfront and small town X2
- The waterfront
- Waterfront, affordable, diversity
- Exploit the waterfront it has so much potential
- We have a beautiful harbor make the lake work for us.
- Natural beauty and diverse population
- NRG land could become a big plus for Dunkirk.
- Redo power plant with restaurants, ice rink and offices
- Keep music on pier, with emphasis on respect and manners
- Historic built environment

##### Weaknesses

- Poor public image
- No recreation center
- Strengthen existing youth organizations and “think out of the box”
- Children need more structured activities
- More kids activities
- Nothing much for kids to do that don't play sports. We need an indoor play/get together area
- The waterfront is the best kept secret
- NRG Albatross
- City officials need to recognize many homeowner are struggling economically and do NOT receive rental income
- Economic barriers,
- Language barrier,
- Need 2<sup>nd</sup> floor residential along Central
- Lack of progress on the hole left by masonic building fire
- Do not destroy any more old architecture
- We need urgent care and bigger hospital
- Less government buildings, more shops and places to eat

**3. How would you improve Downtown Dunkirk? What do you want to see: Businesses, Restaurants, Street improvements, events, etc.?**

- Hospital to remain in the City of Dunkirk, yes, absolutely X5
- Use NRG for Casino X2
- Would condos generate more tax revenue than a casino?
- NRG: develop solar and wind alternative energy for residential use
- Get rid of NRG, eye sore and no tax offset now
- Emphasis on historic downtown X2
- New restaurant like McDonalds in Dunkirk
- McDonalds by Tim Horton's on route 5
- Healthy style food restaurant
- Should encourage small shops
- Need large building on Central Ave
- Vegetarian restaurant
- More small shops like Fredonia or other small villages
- Stores, all kinds, bakery, movie theater,
- More grants and funding for senior house repairs
- Smaller new homes for seniors
- Work to lower commercial rents or offset commercial property if repaired
- More restaurants at the waterfront, southern tier brew pub?
- Develop Pier or duplicate what is there, more shops, a destination- especially for class
- Develop the arts
- More business, restaurants
- Boutiques, beach glass shop
- More mixed use-restaurants, specialty shops, recreation
- Small boutique, shops, more parking with a small ramp
- Business, food vendors next to bank (empty lot)
- Businesses-small, restaurant, more events but not all in Memorial park, not empty streets/store fronts
- Don't move a big box, capitalize on what our region offers
- Bars
- Full active support for rehabilitation of Adams Art Gallery
- Small businesses, restaurants that utilize the local goods, more arts, theater, music,
- More unique shops and other ethnic restaurants
- More private schools
- More shops, restaurants, walkable downtown, bike paths
- Help keep existing businesses alive
- Move boardwalk model up central one block at a time and raise rent on boardwalk (do not pass go)
- Better maintenance of roads and sidewalks
- Central Ave made into more of a boulevard and tree from lake shore drive to 5<sup>th</sup> street
- Paint the train/road viaducts- a nice rust color will so clean up 3<sup>rd</sup> street embankment
- More walkable/restaurants/things to do
- Better street and sidewalks
- Daycare adults and kids combined
- Full public discussion of future use of hospital building (there is 0 transparency in the board discussion)
- Infill building on property where masonic temple was X2
- More seamless main street design on Central Ave
- Renovate to bring back historic feeling
- Redevelop Stearns Court building adjacent to City Hall in to a public Courtyard.
- Improve night atmosphere-lights in business/restaurant areas
- Rebuild or put in park downtown in empty lot across from City hall
- Best thing to happen- Colbrum block restored for upscale commerce and living
- Close central between 3rd and 5th create pedestrian mall with trees, shrubs, flowers "candy land" with a small bus
- More attention to beach area by Lemming street area
- Get locals and kids involved
- Private clubs kill restaurant business, cannot complete
- Model downtown Hamburg
- We need a program to register new voters
- Should not have to pay for parking
- Get rid of parking meters waste of money to maintain
- Bring back the July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Parade
- Lower business tax – provide incentives
- Public service announcements regarding positive things about Dunkirk
- Why not solar street lights?

- Waterpark somewhere
- Beach glass museum
- Bookstore would be nice
- Affordable clothing store, but a step up from dollar store.
- Make a commitment to provide recycling containers alongside trash cans
- Pave streets
- Roundabout at Rt. 5 and Central Ave.

**4. Provide your vision for what Downtown could offer and look like in 10 years.**

- Small city: vibrant, plan for increased diversity, senior friendly, visitor friendly, dog friendly, bicycle friendly, more small shops, support tourism and presently no place to fix bike and don't forget adequate parking
- More grass and trees that are suited to urban area. Outside seating, shaded areas, more shops , more conducive to walking and biking
- Walkable downtown- bike paths X2
- Keep the garden walks growing
- Same facades all along Central to invite walkers and businesses
- Seating, landscaping, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor residential, entertainment, water features, bike trails
- I would like to put a plan of action proposal to NRG together to get the power plant operational/Figure out a plan for the power plant- high quality location
- Multi-purpose facility: concerts, hockey, meetings, etc.
- I would like to encourage the city to pursue a bowling alley in the downtown area
- Recreation center, ice rink, and soccer field indoors
- Lake Erie water museum
- Model downtown Hamburg
- Bring Boscov's to town
- Central Ave renovation?
- Old Regent theater could partner with SUNY Fredonia Department of Theater and Dance/music-good internship opportunities for students to run and brings lots of small businesses, souvenir shop, bakery, clothing store, spice shops, etc.
- Get owner of Rookies Nigh Club and Rosie's and Kettle and Key to do something to renovate the old Regent theater

## Housing and Neighborhoods

<b>1. What type of housing would you like to see more of in the City of Dunkirk?</b>	
Apartments	7
Single Family	21
Townhouses	10
Mixed Residential-Commercial	19
Duplex/Two Family	2
Senior Housing	13

	Yes	No	I Don't Know
<b>2. In your opinion, is there sufficient quality housing for recent college graduates, young families and seniors?</b>	4	26	1

<b>3. Identify key housing and neighborhood Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for one or more City wards that you are interested in.</b>				
	<b>Ward 1</b>	<b>Ward 2</b>	<b>Ward 3</b>	<b>Ward 4</b>
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better recreation areas for kids in all wards</li> <li>• Lakefront Blvd.-now make it look good</li> <li>• Continue developing waterfront area</li> <li>• Wright Park-better volley ball courts-more event there</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God bless the sidewalk plow</li> <li>• Small concerts out in Bicentennial Park</li> </ul>		
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get rid of rampant Japanese knotweed by lakefront</li> <li>• Litter-especially blowing into Lake Erie from Pier to Main Street.</li> <li>• Need lower speed limit on Lakefront</li> <li>• Striping to designate no parking on sidewalks on Lakefront</li> <li>• Finish bathrooms on Lakefront (signage etc.)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees and Shrubs</li> <li>• Dunkirk slow roll?</li> <li>• Hold landlords responsible for safe housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better condition of streets</li> <li>• Repair damage done to Liberty Street.</li> <li>• Curbs in 4<sup>th</sup> ward, Lord/Tenney</li> <li>• Fix streets-chicken poop will not fill pot holes X2</li> <li>• Clean up lower Franklin Ave from Doughty to Tenney</li> <li>• Fix Nevins St. from Doughty to Benton</li> <li>• Building inspector need to open his eyes</li> <li>• No slumlords responsible for maintaining houses landscape to code standards</li> <li>• Building inspector being selective, not following code, making code up on his own, need inspector to follow code</li> <li>• Many run down houses Ruggles/Talcott area</li> <li>• Trash company on Talcott attracts animals</li> <li>• Ask Smith construction to move his equipment</li> <li>• Lots of flooding</li> <li>• Lack of parking in older neighborhood where only street parking exists.</li> </ul>

<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Childcare better recreation programs for kids could incorporate Dunkirk Lake and waterfront into it</li> <li>• Develop Pangolin Park</li> <li>• Pangolin Park is a wasteland currently, make a plan, care for it</li> <li>• Place benches, walks, lights trees in Pangolin Park, Volleyball Court-ice skating rink</li> <li>• Spring-board from Athenex project</li> <li>• Welcome package in Spanish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees need trimming and rough winter areas smothered along curb</li> <li>• Replace trees that are taken down throughout city</li> <li>• Tree lined-well maintained homes</li> <li>• Slower speed limits though residential neighborhoods</li> <li>• Preserve Crooked Brook build beautiful bridge across Crooked Brook at Bicentennial Park</li> <li>• Trash cans attractive ones along walking routes to schools</li> <li>• More off street parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create college housing in this area (inexpensive, it will get the kids to go there)</li> <li>• If NRG point cannot be re-powered find a developer to build condos on point.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More low cost housing</li> <li>• Neighborhood Pride Program</li> <li>• Dog waste stations throughout the City</li> <li>• Play up the diversity and ethnic heritage</li> <li>• All homeowners take pride in their property and keep things clean and neat (renters too)</li> <li>• Beautification projects</li> </ul>
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	Yes	No	I Don't Know
<b>4. Do you think a welcome package/webpage/orientation program for new City residents would be helpful?</b>	31	1	0

**5. Describe how you would like your neighborhoods to look ten years from now.**

- Bustling with activity
- Activity-parks- trees, clean and maintained streets, good sidewalks, tidy yards, youth activities, packet gardens and small parks
- Young families
- Economically stable
- Hough quality of like, live-play outside of work
- Mix of restored/up-kept historic building and nice new infill
- Improved sidewalks, streets, lighting, more trees and landscaping
- 1<sup>st</sup> ward pretty much the same except for absent landlord houses



- Homes in better condition
- Small eateries by/in Wright Park
- More bus stops and more route for bicycles
- More low income housing
- Allow area for recreation business kayak rental etc.
- Plan for additional senior housing, walk to downtown stairless entry, safe-secure, beautify no maintenance
- Homeowners that take pride in how their home looks from the outside
- Academy heights historic district with special lighting and zoning preserve the homes
- Apply for “certified local government” status through the NYS historic Preservation office
- Active Adams Art Gallery
- Continue work on “Floramo Plan” (landlord law) to develop full understanding of landlords/ tenant rights/responsibilities
- Institute the Floramo Plan for absentee and slum landlords
- Older housing residents in older housing who are interested in providing child care need assistance to bring housing up to code
- Ward 2 area needs more attention to dilapidated housing. Out of Town landlords renting dope houses. When police move them out they’re back in 3 months.
- Ward 2 Swan Street and LSD area businesses with dumpsters should make sure they are closed. Wind blows litter all over harbor area

	Yes	No	I Don't Know
<b>6. Would you participate in a homeowner repair program that provides financial assistance for repairs?</b>	21	0	0

## Jobs and the Economy

- 1. Describe challenges facing the City regarding local employment and the overall economy.**
  - Childcare X4, Shortage of high-quality affordable child care for house/days parents need care for their children
  - Not many full time jobs that have benefits
  - High paying jobs to support family w/o DSS
  - Where are all the businesses? Youth?
  - Not enough training in trades
  - Invest in BOCES trade (school six) and link students to LOCAL jobs
  - Dunkirk Public Schools need improvement- faculty and community need to be more open minded to change, school reconfiguration is key
  - Sprawl into (T) Dunkirk negatively impacts City opportunities
  - New Your State
  - Lower waterfront alone-develop LSD south
  - Child development associate credentials
  - Local recreation opportunities
  
- 2. Identify the types of employment opportunities you would like to see more of in the City of Dunkirk.**
  - Small businesses, business with apprenticeships
  - More smaller industries 10-50 workers
  - High paying
  - Jobs that have a living wage at minimum
  - Specialty retail i.e., Bike shop, Seamstress
  - Support the Adams Art Gallery and other Cultural entities

- Sports, sports, sports, make Dunkirk a Tournament City, I guarantee 100 years from now people will still be playing sports! Build a huge indoor soccer, synthetic hockey rink, all-purpose sports facility.
- Beach cleaning business
- Build up the waterfront area
- Less government, more businesses
- Require apprenticeship program for City bid jobs
- Enlist the help of the Amish community to discuss work ethic, skills, ability to be sufficient in a depressed economy

	Yes	No
<b>3. Would you like to see job training programs in the City?</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

**4. What types of training are needed?**

- Technology-computers/information systems X3
- Vocational Trades (x3) Training and improvement in apprentice programs
- Career Counseling in Jr. and Sr. high focus Towards Trades
- Businesses-jobs
- More opportunities for learning English
- Paid jobs for semi-skilled people
- Golf course management
- Need Boscov's Department store
- More on the job market

<b>5. Where in the City would you like to see new businesses located?</b>	
• <b>Retail</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>Restaurant:</b> waterfront on Washington and Central AVE and West 4 <sup>th</sup> street	<b>10</b>
• <b>Grocery Store</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>Hotel:</b> between N. Beagle St and Genet St, and on the NRG site	<b>4</b>
• <b>Clothing Store</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>Brewery:</b> between N. Beagle St and Genet St, waterfront on Eagle, on Washington and LSD	<b>5</b>
• <b>Coffee Shop</b>	<b>3</b>
• <b>Movie Theater:</b> on the corner of Park Ave and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	<b>8</b>

- ✓ Villas at battery point, condos, apartments, market rate
- ✓ Casino, sport complex, coffee shop, restaurant, clothing store at NRG
- ✓ on north side on NRG a coffee shop and restaurant
- ✓ building waterfront activities and restaurant's along LSD
- ✓ clothing stores and a coffee shop along Central Ave. between LSD and west 5<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ along East 3<sup>rd</sup> street put a coffee shop, movie theater, restaurant and clothing store
- ✓ at the end of Deer Street on the water keep it a green space but put in a brewery
- ✓ on east front street and main street a hotel
- ✓ At the southern edge of Wright park but a hotel
- ✓ In Wright park put nature/education/hiking trails
- ✓ St. Mary's meadows- residential development opportunity,

**Provide Additional comments/suggestions for new businesses.**

- Discuss the power of the people to initiate change and contribute
- Real clothing stores not the Sally Ann's type
- Need: Chick-fil-a, Olive Garden, Red Lobster
- More attractive retail space downtown
- Renovate Regent Theater into new Theater
- Commercial rent too high, small business grants and micro-loans more neighborhood stores again
- Sports Complex- look at Jamestown ice arena

- Casino/hotel at power plant site
- Water park on lake front
- Movie theater small stores
- More walkable downtown and along waterfront trail (link two together)
- Shops, restaurants, breweries, bars in Greenville S.C.
- Recruit Service industries and other clean jobs/businesses
- Clothing store dress barn
- More waterfront eateries
- Genesee Brewing open microbrewery and produce Koch’s beer in Dunkirk again X2
- Bakery-specialty food restaurant

## **Parks, Recreation, and the Waterfront**

<b>1. Identify which City Park(s) or Recreational Service(s) you visit most.</b>	
• Dunkirk City Pier/Harbor	29
• Wright Park	26
• Point Gratiot Park	24
• Point Gratiot Beach	17
• Wright Park Beach	17
• Memorial Park	15
• Washington Park	11
• Bike and Pedestrian Trails	9
• City Marina	7
• Bicentennial Park (Dunkirk City School District – Owned)	5
• Main Street Beach	5
• City Dog Park	4
• New York Avenue Playground	3
• Pangolin Park	2
• Veterans Park	2
• Franklin Ave Blvd Park	1
• Fourth Street Park	0
• Kosciuszko Park	0

**2. Describe and map any improvements you would like to see at your Parks.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Basketball courts in areas on the open lots | • Soccer fields- both beach and grass             |
| • Outdoor swimming pool                       | • Develop Battery point as education/nature areas |
| • Tennis courts                               | • Adequate bathrooms                              |
| • Outdoor eating areas                        | • Grills and picnic tables- good ones             |
| • Sitting benches – a place to sit            | • Children’s play ground                          |
| • Playgrounds for kids                        | • More benches                                    |
| • Bathrooms/Port-a- Johns at all the parks X2 | • Better volleyball courts for league             |
| • Sun shelter at Pier                         |   |
| • Better squash pad in same area              |   |

**3. Describe your vision for the City of Dunkirk waterfront parks how would you like these areas to look and function in 10 years from now?**

- A multi-purpose sports/events facility modeled after Buffalo River works
- Need better recreation for kids, basketball courts, swimming pool
- Basketball courts and swimming pool
- Memorial park is beautiful, nice for events
- More youth activities
- Child's playground, play area at Wright Park
- Pier made larger and not a "park" more restrooms if so many people are wanted
- Less parking on the pier
- Keep Pangolin Street Park for kids- swings etc.
- Kayak rentals
- Make part of Point Gratiot Park a campground year round
- Parking improvement at point Gratiot park, too many holes
- Walking and bike riding by beach parks, not too big that you have to park so far to see something
- Additional boutiques like those on the boardwalk
- New benches good picnic tables, new grills Wright park
- Port-a-Pottys at all parks
- Play areas need to be fenced in
- Bring roller derby to Dunkirk
- Amusement park where NRG was- fun!
- Tour of Dunkirk
- Bring back tour boat
- Green infrastructure, educational and economic driven
- Existing bike and pedestrian walkways must be maintained (black top, free trimming, weed whacking etc.) before they fall into disrepair
- Tall ships
- Keep Lake front Blvd. year round
- More volume snow shoveling for elder/disabled
- Buy lawn mowers for unemployed to mow elderly yards and maintain green space
- County wide bike path through City and tie in with waterfront bike path, 20-30 miles
- Allow community to help maintain/beautify parks
- Battery point walking/bike trails
- Recreational and green space
- Year round multi-seasonal recreation area
- What recreational activities are available to kids besides baseball and sports
- Kayaks, canoes, bike rentals
- Capitalize on beaches umbrella and bike rentals.
- Bike repair and rental place
- Beach-nice sand, restaurants with great food, entertainment, children's activities, teen activities.
- Establish big events to clean beaches, neighborhoods etc.
- Continue to clean up and renovate: gates/chain-link fence at point, repair old road to avoid walker being injured, address dead trees-ash tree die back
- Patrol for safety in parks and areas around
- Make city a walkable city
- Emphasize shared governance and responsibility
- Roads are in need of work
- Info booth

**4. Identify any concerns/weaknesses at your City Parks.**

- Litter/pollution concerns (x3), beach health and maintenance
- Establish a “show pride don’t litter” campaign
- Dog walkers should take care of their won wastes, don’t always rely on other or the city to clean up.
- More “doggie” bins for dog walkers
- We need recycling bins at city parks
- Make the rental rate for Pt. Gratiot Pavilion more economical and make more of them
- Make park more children friendly-wilder, allow kids free play not restrictive as sports
- Free activities are great for all but encourage adults and children to act like ladies and gentlemen while attending
- More parking areas for events
- Bring back Spoke Folk
- Central Ave Especially 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets
- Abandoned homes

**Traffic and Pedestrian Safety**

	Yes	No
<b>1. Do you walk in the City?</b>	36	1
<b>1a. If yes, what are your primary destinations?</b>		
• Other		8
• Parks		7
• Events		7
• Fitness		7
• Stores		3
• Work		1
• Medical Appointments		1
• Out of the City		0
<b>Where?</b> (There may be overlap with these destinations listed in Questions 2 below.)		
✓ Spoke fold on LSD,		
✓ what about rich Goodman’s offer to transfer bike business?-missed opportunity		
✓ I am afraid of walking in certain areas		
✓ We explore the whole City on foot and see many beautiful things that we could not in a car		
✓ I walk 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 1 <sup>st</sup> wards along LSD and waterfront		

	Yes	No
<b>2. Do you bicycle in the City?</b>	8	13
<b>2a. If yes, what are your primary destinations?</b>		
• Parks		3
• Events		2
• Fitness		2
• Stores		1
• Out of the City		1
• Work		0
• Medical Appointments		0
• Other		0

**Where?**

- ✓ In Point Gratiot Park/Beach
- ✓ At Dunkirk Light house
- ✓ Elm Street and north of NRG

- ✓ Patterson Field X2
- ✓ Memorial park
- ✓ City Pier
- ✓ City Marina
- ✓ Main Street Beach
- ✓ Path into Wright Park
- ✓ Along Central at Albany
- ✓ In the Chautauqua County Fair grounds

**3. Identify locations in your neighborhood and/or in other locations that you believe are not safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.**

**Concerns and Suggestions**

- Could use a light at Lincoln and Talcott, tractor trailers and Cars run stop signs all day
- Front and Webster St. 2 accidents within 24 hours, need cars to slow down and 4-way stop sign
- Sidewalks need repaired
- I'm nervous to bike during busy times, many drivers in our area don't respect /understand safety laws
- Vehicles have many times nearly run me over as a pedestrian X2
- Handicapped people on small wagon without proper lighting or signals- dangerous
- Need more stores-small, bike shop, clothing, dive shop, coins-jewelry, restaurants-seafood, movies, book-record shop, not boxed commercial
- Need for senior housing near lake or downtown spur small businesses same floor- or elevator lofts-main entrance free condo concept?
- Renovate the Pier, keep clean, pedestrian and fisherman friendly, plan for ice fishing
- Improve-keep Pier the same no green space
- Leave the pier as it, where you can walk or drive and see the harbor, benches are good and could use more
- Leave the pier alone it is fine
- Model Erie PA Pier
- Richard Goodman offered his bike repair/sale/rentals "spoke folk" to the City. His offer was rejected. The service Richard delivered is needed

**Locations:**

- ✓ Roberts Road covered viaduct needs lighting and cleaning (x2) – clean up broken glass.
- ✓ Fix and Clean underpasses along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Ronin Street underpass
- ✓ Broken sidewalks (x2) including many sidewalks in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward have uneven pavement making walking dangerous at times
- ✓ Litter-lack of garbage cans
- ✓ Develop median (x3) on Rt. 5 to assist in pedestrian crossing in Boardwalk and senior housing areas
- ✓ Bike lane on Lake Blvd. off sidewalk
- ✓ Prohibit biking on the Pier during concerts
- ✓ Parking lot for Wright take part of street
- ✓ Community clean up and pull weens-city overworked
- ✓ Regulate and enforce loud exhaust and radios

	Yes	No	I Don't Know
<b>4. In addition to existing and planned bike lanes, would you be in support of more?</b>	16	6	2

**Locations:**

- ✓ More dog waste stations, bike lanes are a false sense of security if drivers don't respect them

	Yes	No
<b>5. Do you use the state bike route and/or the seaway trail?</b>	8	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ More space for kids of all ages – bike bath</li> <li>✓ Speed limit on LSD should be lowered Downtown also X2</li> </ul>		

<b>6. Do you use the Chautauqua Area Regional Transit System (CARTS) bus service?</b>	Yes	No
	3	22
• <b>Parks</b>		5
• <b>Work</b>		1
• <b>Stores</b>		1
• <b>Medical Appointments</b>		1
• <b>Events</b>		2
• <b>Out of the City</b>		
• <b>Lakefront Pier (added by public)</b>		3

**7. Provide your recommendations for improving the CARTS bus service, and if you use other forms of transportation (Uber, Lyft, Taxi, Car-Share).**

- Needs to run more reliable (dispatch) and increased hours (x2), no way to get home after the movies on a Saturday night
- We need public transit!! College students need to get to and from campus-SUNY and JCC
- CART’s should be privatized- increase hours and service
- Amtrak station used to be Main and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Train stop needed (x2), connect route to Erie PA and Buffalo NY, events, work, commute, leisure, college and faculty/ students need it
- More promotion of Uber/Lyft need more drivers, possible shuttle that links college and plaza with waterfront
- Tour boat at City Pier to see the area

## **Kids Input**

**1. If you were in charge of the City of Dunkirk, what would you do to make the City the best place for you, your family and friends?**

- Playgrounds X4
- Recycle bins in parks X2
- Water Park/pad
- Children’s Center (science, art etc.)
- Fun educational activities that are affordable
- More places for video games
- Get kids in the environment through nature programs
- Ban Pitbulls

## **Comment Box**

- Old Theater corner of Washington and 3<sup>rd</sup> street idea: Transform building into an arts center similar to Shea's Performing arts Center and the new Comic Center in Jamestown for mature crowd entertainment while focusing on diversity.
- Stop wasting tax payer money
- Add recycling containers next to trash cans in public areas
- Revive Central connections. Hope [public meeting to discuss results today's survey and generate additional information/idea
- Bicycling-repair self-serve stations, water replenishment stations, advertise side trips for cyclists visiting that area (adventure cycling has an Underground Railroad map from Alabama to Toronto that passes through Dunkirk.
- Public Transportation is needed for Dunkirk but also for the entire county. A bus from Dunkirk to Fredonia would benefit college students.
- Wayfinding-visitors are left to their own devices when they enter the City. When arriving from either City entrance drivers/cyclists are not informed in advance of things to do/parks/amenities that are coming up. (Except Pt. Gratiot 1/2 mile ahead, beach, swimming, picnics. Lighthouse 3/4 mile, pier 1 1/2 miles ahead, Wright Park 2 miles). Sooner we get signage up the happier the visitors and people selling them things will be.
- Exiting the point (from oaks) there is no indication how to get to Route 5.) At route 5 there is not signage to tell people how to get to the Pier or Wright Park, or even how to re-enter the point.
- Maritime, shipwreck, fire museum