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## Progress continues on downtown redevelopment plan

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/westernsprings/news/2261860,western-springs-development-051310-s1.article>)

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Committees are making progress on the downtown redevelopment plan in Western Springs, Planning and Zoning Chairman Marcia Buell told the Village Board on Monday.

"The Steering Committee met on May 6 to discuss proposals so far," Buell reported. "We got a good second look at suggestions for specific parts of downtown and a good first look at architectural guidelines."

The Steering Committee is composed of two members of the village's Plan Commission, two members of the village's Economic Development Commission, two members of the Board of Zoning Appeals, two representatives of the Western Springs Business Association, members of the village staff, representatives of the Regional Transit Authority, Metra, Pace, and village trustees Marcia Buell and Deborah Lyons, said Community Development Director Martin Scott.

The committee is expected to meet once more before the downtown development plan is presented to the community at an open house at 7 p.m. June 9 at Village Hall, 740 Hillgrove Ave.

"We're polling steering committee members now," Scott said May 11. "We're trying to arrange a meeting date at some time during the week of May 24."

Buell urged residents to attend that meeting.

The community can get an overview of the redevelopment process to date by visiting the village's Web site at [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com). There, results of the PlanIt Toys Mapping Exercise are available, as well as the Image Preference Survey Summary, which details responses given by residents on everything involved in the streetscape, from the types of crosswalks the responders preferred to the what sorts of bike racks might be included.

Where the mapping focus groups recommended sweeping changes, the image survey responders concentrated on details. They liked ornate lighting fixtures; they turned thumbs down on traffic signs with standard IDOT designs.

Following the June 9 open house, the redevelopment committee will take resident feedback to the Village Board, which may make revisions, Scott said.

"Then they'll draft a plan and decide on the strategies they'll use to implement it," he said. "We're hoping to have something in place by September."

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