



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 6, 2008

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PARMA HOSTING TEAM OF URBAN PLANNERS AND ARCHITECTS

(Parma) – Parma will host more than a half-dozen architects, urban planners and other urban design professionals the week of October 20. Residents and business owners will have a unique opportunity to voice their opinions at a Town Hall meeting on practical sustainability ideas for Parma's future.

Members of the Center for Communities by Design will then make a visually detailed presentation to the community as part of the 2008 Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program.

Parma actively pursued grant approval for selection by the national urban design team studying key components in urban planning and building concepts for the future. Parma was one of only ten cities chosen from nearly 50 that competed for inclusion in the program.

"We are truly excited that Parma was selected for this review by planning experts from outside the area," says Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "Having a master plan for our city was the number one recommendation in last year's report from Parma's Blue Ribbon Commission. We believe the expert analysis we are about to see will help us reach that goal."

The SDAT group includes professionals with expertise ranging from urban design to green space design, and from transportation planning to economic development and several other specialized fields.

The Town Hall meeting will be held in Parma City Council chambers Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. The design team's visit will conclude with a second public meeting on the evening of Wednesday, October 22 – a dynamic power point presentation unveiling its findings and recommendations for Parma's future, ideas fueled by input from local residents.

The SDAT program brings together architects and other professionals from across the country. They collectively provide a roadmap for communities seeking to improve their sustainability. Residents, city government, local agencies and other civic groups have a voice in deciding what it will take to meet environmental, economic and social equity and other needs.

(more)

Implementing and financing the recommendations is up to each individual city.

“Our aim is helping to meet or improve a community’s specific needs without having a negative impact on future generations,” said architect Joel Mills, Design Assistance Program Manager. “We visualize and help to implement the area’s specific agenda for sustainability. We take a holistic approach to the entire project – what’s ultimately best for each individual city.”

Other cities chosen by the Center for Communities Design include Tampa, Detroit, Forth Worth and New Orleans.

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