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## Akron Planning Department - Summit Lake Meeting

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### Summary

- Members of the City of Akron's [Department of Planning and Urban Development](#) presented a [new land use plan](#) for the Summit Lake neighborhood.
- This new plan uses an updated zoning code.
- The plan calls for upgrading green spaces.

### Follow-Up Questions

- Why did they select [Merriman Valley](#) as the first location for form-based zoning?
- What are [container homes](#)?

### Notes

The meeting opened at 6:08 p.m. with Akron Ward 3 Council Member and City Council President Margo Sommerville welcoming everyone. She introduced Planning Director Kyle Julien, who spoke and then introduced the main speaker, City Planner Daniel DeAngelo.

DeAngelo started with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Neighborhood Land Plan overview, which was created in 2021 and further developed in 2022. This plan is designed to help the neighborhood going forward.

There are five items that community members involved in the planning process expressed interest in having:

- Parks and greenways
- Street and sidewalk improvements
- Better bus stops on the transit line
- Updated zoning codes

- More corner stores that people can walk to

The planning staff and residents created “refrigerator mapping,” which determines hot and cold spots in the area, and discussed what they want to do with the land. Each color represents the zoning district ([see proposed rezoning map](#)). Goals include:

- To create and upgrade park spaces
- To finish the loop trail
- To decide where to put playgrounds and community gardens

Land will be set aside for these items, DeAngelo said. Greenways are a better solution to connect neighborhoods because the streets are so long and greenways are easier for pedestrians. Officials asked the community to help decide where those greenways will be.

There are plans for sidewalk and street improvements. For example, a [section of Lake Shore Boulevard](#) between I-76 and Long Street has four lanes. Planners want to reduce it to one lane in each direction, with a median and street parking. They think this will help reduce speeding in that area.

Updating the zoning code allows community members to determine what they want and don't want. It focuses on:

- Pedestrian safety
- Neighborhood safety
- Safer streets

The new zoning rules allow for sidewalks and street trees. This would make it safer for people who are walking or riding a bike.

Officials discussed “missing middle housing,” meaning small apartment buildings, two-family homes, townhomes, condos and similar uses that aren't currently allowed. For example, if you want to renovate a two-bedroom house, the process is challenging because it's not actually allowed by the current zoning. That's why the city wants to rezone it, so the current uses can continue in the neighborhood.

Questions, complaints and concerns from residents:

- Vacant homes are an eyesore. Sommerville said that residents can call 311 to possibly get houses on the demolition list.
- Lots of close-call accidents at the intersection of Lake Shore Boulevard and Crosier Street. [This intersection](#) is across from the Summit Lake Community Center, baseball fields and the Summit Lake trail.
- Too many stores on Princeton Street
- Geese feces everywhere. Geese need to be more contained in grassy areas.

**Notes to reader:** Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at [documenters@signalakron.org](mailto:documenters@signalakron.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line.