

A. Summary

Twenty-three answered the survey and 22 of those finished the whole survey; a super result considering that I (Ron McAtee, President) sent out only 43 emails. There are 5 sections (Membership, Meeting attendance, Goals, Finances, and Social). Most respondents were members who said the dues were ok and so were the meeting times. They felt Education and Hands-on restoration should be our most important goal and that Investing in a downtown project (like 700 block of Lincolnway), Educational Seminars, Walk/riding tours of historic districts were the best way to get the goals accomplished. They also felt that we should buy property to save and resell but had a number of concerns. They felt we should pursue other money making projects as well as the Candlelight tour and they also felt that socially once a year we should have a trip and an open-house.

Thanks for your input!

B. Membership

1. I am currently a member? 91.3 % yes

2. Dues are now: Organization - \$50, Individual - \$15, Family - \$25, Student/Senior Citizen (over 60)- \$10 and includes a membership in a state organization. **90.9% yes** **Suggestion: “Perhaps, we should have different levels of membership, at different prices. Many not-for-profits do this.”**

C. Meeting Attendance

3. My attendance at meetings: 56.5 regularly, 43.5% don’t

Reasons: 2 not member, “hate meetings”; “meeting time is too late”, 2 said “Schedule conflicts”, “live out of the area”, 2 mentioned personality conflicts

4. We currently meet on Monday nights at 7pm once a month at the Swanson Senior Center. I would like to meet ...

Times per year: once a month 100%, **day of week** 75% Monday, 16.7% Tuesday, 8.3% Sat. **Place:** Swanson Center 46.2%, Library 30.8%, Members Houses 23.1%

Suggestions: “Library would save the group \$180 a year”; “at 6:00 or 6:30;” “important for us to hold our regular meetings in a PUBLIC setting. While it is fine to hold occasional meetings in private homes, meeting there too often makes us look like an OBSCURE organization that need not be taken seriously. And people who are new to an organization are much less likely to come to a private home than they are to a public location.”

D. Goals

5. As stated on our web page, PEP's mission is to promote awareness of the importance of our area’s historic architecture. As a group, we are to pursue that awareness through community service, education, and hands-on restoration. Please rank these goals in terms of importance:

Highest Importance: tied at 54.5 % each is Education and Hands-on restoration (more than 100% due to ability to rank)

Suggestions “SAVING PROPERTIES through legal action, feasibility studies, purchase of properties, facilitating move of structures, etc.”; “People engaged in preservation should be actually engaged in preservation”. “Mobilizing government,

community and other resources to increase restoration and preservation initiatives in LaPorte;”, “assisting others who are renovating;” “Get out there and buy those buildings in trouble. It’s a proven method used by historic pres, groups all over the U.S.”; “Don’t re-invent the wheel. Get money coming in and hire a director;” “Represent the county, not just La Porte.”

6. What types of activities to achieve these goals should PEP pursue. You may choose as many or as few as you wish:

Invest in a downtown project (like 700 block of Lincolnway) 77.3%, Educational Seminars 68.2%, Walk/riding tours of historic districts 68.2%, Booth at Sunflower Fest 59.1%, Help for Habitat for Humanity or the like (pick a home-owner in need and fix) 50%, Booth at 4-H Fair 36.4%, Hands-on help at members houses for projects 45.5%, Entry in July 4th parade 31.8%, Magazine exchange 18.2%,

Other Suggestions: assist Historic Preservation Commission in expending historic districts”; “Purchase and preservation/restoration of historic properties in La Porte. Should be the #1 priority of a group called People Engaged in Preservation.” “I’m in favor of any project that that advantage of initiatives that help further our purpose.” “Since we have a small membership, I wonder how we can partner with others; “ “ be a catalyst for new initiatives, raise our visibility in the community, and increase our membership.” “Preservation Services Directory” “ National Register Nomination Assistance”; “Press releases to local and regional newspapers. Create a "buzz". Historic Preservation has to make money somewhere along the line or it just gets dismissed by the public.” “ Also, promote the area through historic tourism. LaPorte has many sites along with spectacular homes.”

E. Finance

7. On occasion PEP has offered to purchase a structure to save it. Should PEP do so?

Yes to save and resell 85% Yes to save and rent to others 40%, Yes to save and use ourselves 30%, No 5%

Other comments: “ I don’t think PEP should maintain real assets over more than 18 months.,” “ This should be a selective situation, based on the historic significance of the structure, and whether PEP’s choosing to act can truly make the difference in avoiding a demolition or "bastardization." ;“with National Trust designations so subsequent owners can’t significantly damage or tear down a property.” “ I think we need an overall strategy in which these activities make sense and help the organization grow.” “ Planning to sell real estate at this time and in the near future is not realistic.” “ 700 block project did not have the domino effect that all had hoped for. It is not really looking that good after just a few years. We do not have a project manager to oversee such a project, nor the monies.” “as long as it is a project that is not pie in the sky.. some buildings are white elephants BUT--a great deal of careful review needs to be done to ensure that we do indeed have the necessary resources to do so, BEFORE we would pursue such purchases.” This should actually be a goal, not a "should we". But the organization has to have a good solid plan when engaging to do so. Any of the above choices are good if they make good planning sense. Each project presents a unique set of circumstances and one outcome does not fit all. In all cases, the organization must protect itself so that it can exist to continue to represent the historic character of the area as well as grow and prosper.”

8. Currently our only money making project is the Candlelight Tour. Should we pursue other money making projects such as t-shirt sales, flea/garage sales, sale of items at local events, calendars, dance, etc.? Yes 72.7% Other 27.3%

Other suggestions: “antique and garage sale is awesome idea...last I knew pep had lots of money in the bank but was reluctant to spend it somewhere”, “The answer is maybe. Money making projects are hard to come by. They at LEAST need to significantly promote our mission, such that, even if they are only marginally profitable, they still serve a purpose. (The Candlelight Tour works this way; it is only marginally profitable...for all the labor involved...but gives the

group tremendous visibility.)” “Yes, to other money-making projects, as well as review how we can make a great project like the Candlelight Tour more profitable” “People visiting just eat up anything that has to do with the area like t-shirts, memo books, calendars, even a cook book by Belle would sell! This helps you brand the area as unique and interesting over time.”

9. Currently most money not presently needed is invested in the stock market. Should we continue this way or not?

Continue but not as much as previously 36.4%, Yes 27.3%, Other 27.3%, No 9.1%

Other comments: “Make it a part of an overall strategy. Invest part, diversify appropriately, etc.” “We need to see that the largest % of this money is allocated to very stable investments. and only a much smaller % is allocated in potential high risk stocks.” “smart and conservative plan should be followed.”

F. Social

10. What social events should PEP have and how often? Dance – never 78.6%, Trip once/year 82.5%, Open house once/year 80%, Party once/year 76.5, Dinner once/year 76.5%, Other 33.3%

Other suggestions: 2 for picnic; “once a year event of any kind is fine with me--maybe change the type of event from time to time;”, “Working pot lucks, “ “Educational programs should be a VERY high priority event. They could be given a various times a year. One of the first of such programs should be for PEP members, on what is a 501(c)3 (Not-For-Profit) and how do we maintain our 501(c) 3 status in good standing.”