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Northern Michigan University Foundation Shares Results From Community Forums

Housing, event and community space, and campus and community connections cited as major land use priorities from a variety of residents

Marquette, Mich., July 15, 2022 - The Northern Michigan University (NMU) Foundation invited residents of the Marquette community to participate in forums related to the potential redevelopment of the former hospital site located adjacent to the NMU campus. Two objectives of the community engagement activities, facilitated by Design Workshop, a Chicago-based, national urban planning and design studio, were realized. First, residents were informed about the process and work that has been done to date by the NMU Foundation in evaluating the possibilities and challenges associated with potential redevelopment of the site. Second, high-level resident feedback on goals to consider for the project was gathered. The forums occurred in early May 2022, over the course of four sessions with a variety of participants.

Housing was the most noted need identified over the course of the sessions and across a variety of participants.

“The NMU Foundation’s role in this process continues to be focused on aligning the resources and relationships necessary to facilitate redevelopment of the former hospital site in a way that benefits NMU and the community of Marquette,” said Brad Canale, CEO of the NMU Foundation. “We appreciate the opportunity to have a dialogue with community members about the status of our efforts, as well as to hear their perspective on how this project can address numerous priorities.”

Additional land use priorities voiced by participants included event or community space, improving pedestrian connections and walkability between NMU’s campus and neighborhoods, and the potential to blend a mix of uses, including retail, into the future development. Connect Marquette, a networking group of working professionals that promotes professional development through events and leadership opportunities, had members present in a May 9, 2022 affinity group discussion. Aside from identifying a diverse housing need, the need for infrastructure and services to support a remote, tech-driven workforce, including broadband connectivity and electronics and office retailer/service providers was identified.

Prior to releasing the report publicly the NMU Foundation shared the results with the Marquette City Commission, all participants from the four sessions, and now, with the public. The report was also shared with Veridea Group, which was selected by the NMU Foundation Board of Trustees as its qualified master developer partner on May 13, 2022.

The NMU Foundation continues to work with LifePoint, Veridea Group, and local and state officials to satisfy conditions necessary to finalize pertinent agreements and move forward with the redevelopment of the site.

To view the full summary from Design Workshop, which includes information from all four community listening sessions, please visit <https://foundation.nmu.edu/> or click [here](#).

About Northern Michigan University Foundation

The NMU Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1968. Its mission is to establish and foster relationships to generate resources that benefit the strategic goals of Northern Michigan University. Learn more at <https://foundation.nmu.edu/>.

About Design Workshop

Design Workshop is a national urban planning and design studio, integrating community planning, landscape architecture, urban design, and strategic services. Based in Chicago, Design Workshop has a presence in Marquette, Michigan, and several other cities nationwide. As planners, Design Workshop specializes in robust community engagement to help communities envision goals and strategies that fit within their distinct culture, economy and landscape. Learn more at www.designworkshop.com.

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