

Pantagraph

News

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Report: Panel seeks action plan on Tremont's future

By Connie Seastedt

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TREMONT -- A community committee planning future improvements for Tremont has started work.

The Tremont Winning Communities planning committee met Feb. 8 and will meet again on Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22. The meetings will be used to generate an action plan for Tremont.

"We had between 40 and 50 people at the first meeting, so we were very pleased," said Tremont resident Brock Butts, the former superintendent for the Tremont school district. "The idea was started after a number of organizations started to talk about how we needed to keep the community strong for the next however many years."

People at the first meeting were divided into small groups to discuss what people like about the community and what could be improved upon.

"We had a lot of strengths that were similar in each group, like the schools, churches, community and people," said Butts. "We also had a lot of challenges presented, too many to name, which is good because that is what we can work on."

Jim Dittoe, an Indiana-based representative for Winning Communities, a community planning consulting company, ran the first program. At Thursday's meeting, he will present information drawn from the first meeting to help the effort move forward.

Dittoe introduced the group to the "five Cs" needed to make a vision plan successful: change, challenge, concern, commitment and championship. The small groups were then asked to brainstorm using the five Cs.

"As we finish with these meetings, our main and No. 1 goal is to have an action plan designed and developed," said Butts.

Thursday's meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Tremont High School library.