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Groups looking at Owensboro downtown development

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Downtown development is on the minds of a lot of residents in Owensboro and over the past couple days the downtown development corporation has been getting advice from some of the greatest minds in downtown planning.

In a small conference room only a few blocks from Owensboro's city center four planners discussed ways to help downtown grow.

"It's almost as if the community doesn't even know some of what it has or it knows but it really doesn't seem to give itself credit for what it has," said Scott Polikov of Gateway Planning Group.

The Gateway Planning Group has been in town since Monday afternoon, walking the city's streets and assessing it's needs.

Polikov says Owensboro has a lot to offer, especially when it comes to arts and culture.

"We want to put together a physical plan to link the entertainment destinations so that when people come downtown they want to stay downtown," he said.

Over the past two days, planners from around the country have been in Owensboro, looking at the downtown, planning ideas for a community workshop.

"They see it through a different set of eyes," said Fred Reeves of Downtown Development Corp. "They see assets we don't see, they see flaws that we would never even think about as a flaw."

One of the assets the group says Owensboro needs is people living downtown.

"Once you have people living downtown, more people working downtown that becomes a good strong base for more entertainment kind of harnessing the history and heritage of downtown Owensboro as an entertainment center," Polikov said.

The next step is to put together a time table and plan of action.

Reeves said the group will be back, probably sometime in June. There will also be times for community input and feed back later this year.



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