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*Public meeting set for July 21*

**Community Invited to Help Craft Vision for Future Downtown Redevelopment**

Oak Park residents, property owners and business operators are invited to be a part of the public process to create a vision for the redevelopment of the greater downtown area.

The first in a series of workshops to gather community input and comment is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., July 21 at Oak Park-River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Additional workshops are scheduled for September 22 and November 10, but this first workshop will help lay the foundation for future discussions.

The workshops will be led by Crandall Arambula, a Portland, Oregon-based planning firm with a national reputation for urban and community design projects that have helped revitalize aging business districts such as here in Oak Park, while also maintaining their character and unique charm.

This first workshop will be a two-part meeting. The first part will be a general presentation on the scope of project, introduction of the team members and a discussion of market conditions, transportation conditions and physical opportunities and constraints. The second part will be breakout sessions that will allow discussions of specific ideas and issues in small groups.

Among the range of factors open for discussion are quality of life, economic viability, building height, building design, density, parking, traffic, housing types, public improvements, environmental impacts and land use. Information gathered at this first and later workshops will help craft a plan for consideration by the Village Board early next year.

Crandall Arambula was selected from a field of 17 firms that responded to a request for qualifications (RFQ) issued by the Village as part of increased efforts to focus on planning in response to the growing interest of developers in the greater downtown area. The firm also has been charged with addressing the Downtown Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) plan, a necessary step should the TIF be extended beyond its 2006 expiration date.

For more information on the upcoming meeting or planning programs, call 358.5418, email [GDTMasterPlan@oak-park.us](mailto:GDTMasterPlan@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us), the official Village website.

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