

OPINION

Downtown meeting was a solid first step

For those of us in Camas who long to see a thriving, bustling downtown again, last Thursday's gathering of about 80 people at the Liberty Theater, was one of the most encouraging steps taken in some time.

At the very least, longtime as well as new downtown business and property owners, local government officials and just plain interested parties, gathered in the same room for the first time in several years and traded ideas and concerns about their beloved downtown. That in itself is an accomplishment not many thought was possible. The city of Camas most assuredly deserves a pat on the back for coordinating this first meeting.

Granted, not all the problems of Downtown Camas were solved last Thursday, nor was it entirely clear which direction will be taken to revitalize downtown. But the important first step was taken. People gathered, they gave input, they complained and perhaps came away with a sense of hope that a bona fide plan will emerge to revitalize downtown.

Obviously it's a big task at hand. The City of Camas, while taking a leadership role will need more input and participation from citizens, if this latest effort to revitalize the downtown core is to be successful. That means we all will need to allocate more time to help follow through with the plan that eventually emerges. We'll need to work together, compromise and make sacrifices. Perhaps most important, we'll need to be patient.

Though there's much more work to be done, Thursday night's initial meeting at the Liberty Theater was without a doubt a very positive first step. Now, it's up to us to see that the second and third steps are just as positive.

— Mike Gallagher