

## City kicks off economic summit

By John Richmeier. The Leavenworth Times: June 14, 2013.

After reviewing several topics Thursday, organizers of a local economic summit said today's session will be an action meeting.

"We're looking forward to producing some action steps," said Gary Bartek, economic development administrator for the city of Leavenworth.

About 30 people attended the City of Leavenworth Economic Summit Thursday, which was the first day of the two-day event. Bartek said attendees included city and county officials and a strong mix of local business people and other stakeholders in the community.

During Thursday's meeting, officials reviewed topics such as a downtown and north Leavenworth redevelopment plan as well as possible annexation opportunities.

"I think a lot of good points were discussed" Leavenworth Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Preisinger said after the first day's meeting.

He said there now needs to be action steps to make Leavenworth better.

State Sen. Steve Fitzgerald, whose district includes the city of Leavenworth, said Thursday's presentations included descriptions of problems. A problem he feels needs to be addressed is one of image, especially when it comes to the schools in Leavenworth.

"I think we need to improve the image of the schools and community overall," he said.

He said the transportation network in and around Leavenworth also needs to be improved. He said the community needs to be better connected the Kansas City metropolitan area and to interstate highways.

He said officials also need to make it clear they are addressing the needs and wants of people on Fort Leavenworth.

Bartek said an issue he would like to see addressed is the lack of population growth in the city.

Troy Nash said he hopes for dialogue and discussion about next steps during today's meeting. Nash is a vice president for Zimmer Real Estate Services, which works with the city.

Today's meeting is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center.