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NEWS RELEASE

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City starting neighborhood meetings to develop action plans

The city of Branson is beginning a process of detailed neighborhood action plans designed to identify attributes as well as needs for established residential neighborhoods in Branson. The first meeting will be held Thursday, August 13, from 5-7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 400 South Sunshine.

The meeting is for residents of Hiawatha Heights and Cliff Drive neighborhoods. City officials say it will give residents and land owners in those neighborhoods the chance to express their views to the Branson Board of Aldermen and city staff. Other meetings in other residential areas will follow.

Prior to the meeting, some of the Board of Aldermen and city staff will be doing a walking tour of the Hiawatha and Cliff Drive neighborhoods on Wednesday August 5. The tour begins at 4:30 p.m. at the corner of Oak Grove, Cliff Drive and Pocahontas. Parking will be available on Oak Grove.

More than 140 letters have been sent by the city to people in those neighborhoods inviting and encouraging them to join the walk and attend the meeting.

"Your participation is vital to the effort," wrote Mayor Raeanne Presley in the letter. "We want the ideas of this plan to originate from the residents. The implementation and sustainability of this plan will depend upon the input and support of the residents both now and in the future."

Branson residents not living in these neighborhoods can also attend the meeting to see the process.

The mayor said older neighborhoods are the backbone of the residential structure of the city and officials hope to outline how neighborhoods and the city can work together to preserve and enhance some of the established residential areas.

So they can plan accordingly, city officials are asking residents planning to attend the neighborhood meeting to contact the city by August 10 at www.bransonmo.gov/rsvp or by calling the planning and development department at 337-8549.

However, attendance is welcome even if people do not have the opportunity to contact the city.