

Planning Group 3

Meeting Notes: Orientation and Organization Session
Jan. 27, 2007

Co-Chair John Heath
Co-Chair: Cindy Mills
Facilitator: Linda Duncan

Group 3 set the stage to focus on two areas of interest derived from the Fall meetings in which over 1,000 citizens attended. The areas include: 1) Show how the Cumming-Forsyth County community can develop the best recreational facilities of any county its size; 2) Show how the Cumming-Forsyth County community can develop year-round events and activities that draw visitors to the area and keep residents involved in community life.

Recreation was the main topic of conversation from the meeting.

Understanding the existing resources and programs was covered during the first 45 minutes of the discussions. Participants each brought different data and information to the table. More information is needed in order for the group to proceed. Different participants were assigned the responsibility of bringing the information to the February 6 work session.

- Maps City/county (Cindy Mills, John Heath, Wade Wilcox)
 - Parks-existing (Cindy Mills)
 - Parks and Rec Master Plan (Cindy Mills)
 - Bike and pedestrian plan (Cindy Mills)
 - Future land use (John)
 - Ball fields (Wade Wilcox)

- Budget for impact fees with a wish list attached. (Cindy Mills, Wade Wilcox)

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Park and Recreation wish list with money needs identified (Cindy Mills, Wade Wilcox)

- Assessment of current privately-owned recreational facilities (Jerry Feist)

- More on lake parks (Cindy Mills)
 - What we have
 - How big (acreage)
 - Facilities at each

- List of events other counties sponsor (Information Gatherers)
 - List of events that have outgrown facilities
 - List of events that have failed

- List of church festivals (John Heath, All Participants)

- List of existing tournaments
 - Ball Fields (Wayne Maddox)
 - Midget Racing (Dave Horton)
 - Runs (Dave Horton)

- Calendar of events at Cumming Fairgrounds (Dave Horton)
- Past year calendars of events and festivals (also events that failed)
 - Chamber of Commerce ((John Heath)
 - County and Parks and Recreation (Wade Wilcox)
 - Cultural Arts (Cindy Mills)
 - City (Pam Bowman)
 - Sawnee Mountain Preserve (Pam Bowman)
- Volunteer Fieldtrip-Suwanee (Gwinnett) Amphitheater/ List of events (Information Gatherers)
- Existing Forsyth County Recreation Website information (also look at state website) (Information Gatherers)

The participants were pleased with the number of attendees interested in the two goals for Group 3. However, most felt other stakeholders could add value to the discussions and plans. A list was developed with a key contact for each person.

- Jerry Kinsey (Cindy Mills)
- Matthew Pate (Cindy Mills)
- Tommy Bruce (Cindy Mills)
- Dave Horton (Cindy Mills)
- Mary Helen McGruder (Cindy Mills)
- Park Program Planner (Cindy Mills)
- Senior Citizen Representative
 - Shelly Johnson (Wade Wilcox)
- County Engineering Representative
 - John Cunard, Tim Allen (Wade Wilcox)
- Parents involved in parks, sports, booster clubs (all)
- Kenny Foxx (John Heath)
- Church clergy (Jerry Feist)
- Linda Heard (Pam Bowman)
- Charlotte Gardner (Cindy Mills)
- School system (John Heath)

Parking Lot

The group recognized the need for a centralized website for all activities, festivals, places, etc. (NOTE: this may also connect with Group 2 and their discussions about the arts in the community and a need to “spread the word” in a central location.)