

Planning Group 4

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

Co-Chair Pam Sessions
Co-Chair: Keith Morris
Facilitator: Ruth Goode

General thoughts about Group 4's work:

- Revitalization of downtown area:
 - Live, work and enjoy ourselves.
 - Retail, office condos, condos – built around transportation
- Accessibility for people with special needs. Independent living is important.

Since one of our assignments is to consider the future of downtown Cumming, it's important to know what downtown is. Is it the city limits?

- Need drawing
- Should define boundaries

What information or resources do we need to do our work?

- Have Brian Dill, economic developer at Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, at our next meeting.
 - Talk about what was learned in Fort Collins, Colo., on the recent Chamber trip there.
- Invite Scott Morgan
- Do research on workforce demographics
 - How can we get more people living here, working here? (Frank Norton may be a resource for this)
 - Information needed: Salaries, price range for affordable housing in Forsyth
- Do research on business demographics and trends in growth.
 - Brian Dill and Rhonda O'Connor could help with this.
- What role does transportation play in development?
- Differentiate Forsyth County for businesses: We need them here.
- Get Hispanic community to the table.
- Next meeting: Get Brian Smith or Tammy Wright from Keep Forsyth Beautiful to make a presentation
- Michelle Beesten should come to our meetings
- Countywide/city planning design charette
- Create synergy between entities
- May's presentation about new development in City (Richard, Jason & Connie)
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Other research needed:

- Corporations for Forsyth County
- Information sharing
 - Create Excitement!
- Do we need a Scientific Games rep?

Employment base ideas:

- Grow medical jobs
- Support businesses that are presently here
- Retail, etc., should be environmentally friendly
 - Land use plans
 - Zonings
 - Look for opportunities to expand the variety of businesses
- Could there be economic development through sports?
 - Motocross/4-wheel
 - Arena (mixed use)
 - Large meeting facility

- Pedestrian/bike pathways should be developed

Environmental protection ideas

- Preserving green space
 - How do we preserve green space?
 - Land trust
 - TDR (transfer of development rights)
 - Education: Get information to surrounding areas about the great things here.
- Water conservation
- Eco-friendly building

Planning Group 4 had volunteers for two important jobs, Citizen Idea Readers and Information Gatherers.

The Citizen Idea Readers committed to read all the ideas from the fall Vision Meetings that related to this group's work and act as spokespeople for the 1,000 citizens who offered ideas. The Information Gatherers offered to obtain factual information for the group to help with its work.

Citizen Idea Readers:

- Jernice Currie
- Jae Serrano

Information Gatherers:

- Kevin Smith
- Lisa Moulder
- Chris Newborn
- Lisa Hoxie