

Planning Group 2

Meeting Notes: Orientation and Organization Session
Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Co-Chair Kathy Jolly
Co-Chair: Everett Bennett
Facilitator: Bailey Mitchell
Jane O'Gorman - Information gatherer
Joanne DeHaven - Citizen reader

“Creating a community of lifelong learning” is the focus for planning group 2. Our goal is to show how the Cumming-Forsyth County community can become a community of lifelong learning through a variety of means, including arts and education.

Citizen Reader Report:

Joanne DeHaven re-categorized comments into more specific categories (ex. Adult Ed, Buildings, Schedule, Museum, Center, Childcare, College, Community Involvement, Diversity, Curriculum, Enrichment, Equipment, Food, Growth, Innovation, Library, Partnerships, Programs, Quality, Safety, Schedule, School Rules, Sports, Staff, Supplies, Taxes, Technology, Transportation)

What to preserve from this report: great schools – and let’s make them even better

Things that we need based on report: significant support for larger post-secondary presence in community, partnerships school/business/community, keep the smaller ideas that would have big impact, need to do better job of communicating information to larger community and to potential newcomers, comparative data – system to nation

Talked about the work of the planning group in processing/synthesizing this information into large ideas or strands and our work to answer “what is the big ideas/difference that we want to make in our community”

- ✓ Committee Discussion Following Citizen Reader Report:
- ✓ Grow life long learners in our schools
- ✓ Create infinitely flexible schooling process not limited by time or place
- ✓ Shall we have students be a part of the conversation?
- ✓ The concept of district (history district, theater district, opera district) to build community

What kinds of presentations do we need?

Future plans for the arts:

- ✓ Forsyth County Arts Alliance - Charlotte Garnder
- ✓ City plans – Linda Heard, Cumming Playhouse and plans for revitalization of downtown Cumming
- ✓ Jane O’Gorman – Columbus revitalization around arts
- ✓ Ministry Arts – Faith Community
- ✓ Higher Ed influence on arts – Dean of Arts and Letters
- ✓ Keith Allen - Amphitheater on Lanier

Future plans for education:

- ✓ How are schools judged at state/national level – Lissa Pijanowski
- ✓ System Strategic Plan/School Improvement Efforts
- ✓ Robert Sewell – Facilities Planning
- ✓ Process for establishing college/university in community
- ✓ Jane O’Gorman, Donna Gessell, JoAnn Tollenson - Strategic Plan from Lanier Tech and NGSCU
- ✓ Private/Home Schools

Additional Representation Needed:

- ✓ Public Library
- ✓ Public and Private Childcare Providers
- ✓ Public and Private Preschool Providers
- ✓ Private School Representatives
- ✓ Home-School Representatives

Future Considerations:

- ✓ What would be an accurate benchmark for FCS against national measures?
- ✓ What local, regional, and state supports are needed to launch a 4 year college in Forsyth County?
- ✓ What are the existing assets and incremental gains related to education and the arts?
- ✓ Can we develop a map of arts groups in the county?

Possible Presentations on February 20:

- ✓ Jane O’Gorman – to secure a presenter on the Columbus, Georgia model of public/private partnership to support the arts
- ✓ Lissa Pijanowski – Presentation on District Profile, School Improvement and Vision 2010
- ✓ Linda Heard – City of Cumming, Cumming Playhouse