

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
December 11, 2007
Meeting Minutes
(Summarized)

7:00 Call to Order and Old Business

Stakeholder List (Michelle Alexander and Susan Canon) is still in progress. Names/organizations are still being accepted and should be sent directly to Susan Canon at the City. The list will be used to send out future Comprehensive Plan correspondence and meeting announcements to a variety of community groups.

New Business Mr. Tedder discussed the purpose of the Plan Objectives and Facilitator Goals briefly before sending committees into the appropriate break-out rooms.

CAC member attendance:

Rose Shane, Chair
Irene Sanders
Margie Robinson
Andra Conway
Donald Mairose
Cleve Gaddis
Tim Jennette

7:10 **November CAC Meeting Minutes approval**

Motion by Irene Sanders, second by Margie Robinson
November CAC minutes approved unanimously

7:15 **Review:** Meeting Objectives and Areas requiring Special Attention

Michelle Alexander reviewed the Objectives and Goals

Holly Shiver reviewed the areas requiring special attention that were discussed and mapped at the previous CAC meeting in November. These were included in the November minutes.

7:20 – 7:45 **Preliminary Issues and Opportunities**

Michelle Alexander explained the context and application of the Issues and Opportunities:
It is a preliminary, technical list required for Community Assessment that will evolve during the Community Agenda period with community input.

Hand out: Executive Summary Draft (pages 10-12)

Review: Preliminary list on pages 10-12

Discussion on what should be added or changed:

- Be sure to include the categorization of the Chattahoochee River buffer vulnerability according to MERPA rules
- Population-Schools are over-enrolled
- There is a significant difference in traffic when school is in session versus when it is not

- Though there is a lot of Agriculturally zoned land, sewer availability is widespread-people can choose whether or not to tap into it
- Household size varies a lot by neighborhood/area-understandable due to the size of the City
- Housing affordability is undoubtedly a problem, but it was suggested that transportation alternatives would be the best solution for work force needs-if transportation could provide a viable solution, then perhaps affordability would be less of an issue
- Population in schools is much more diverse than is reflected in the 2000 data-several schools have 30-50% Asian student population – especially in the northeast-bordering Gwinnett and in the Shakerag area
- It is important to consider the water issue in light of the current drought conditions-there is an issue in that there are no alternative sources at present time; which leads to opportunities for the City to look into technological advances that might allow more reuse of water within the city, or cleaning the wastewater well enough to reuse for things other than golf course watering; the city could contemplate policies or regulations dealing with conservation as well as working on the local level to help inform higher level politics related to intergovernmental coordination of water needs/usage.
- There is a lack of knowledge about emergency services response times
- Cemeteries should be inventoried along with green/open space-older cemeteries may need archeological studies done to inform preservation of history

7:45 – 8:30

Preliminary Character Areas

Michelle Alexander explained the context: Character Areas Map and descriptions are required for inclusion in the Community Assessment. This map will evolve into the Future Development Map during the creation of the Community Agenda with community input.

Hand-out: How to identify areas for Community Assessment purposes

Exercise: Based on what we know, propose Character Areas (recommend 5-but there is no limit and the entire city must be covered/included in a character area)

Background: Donald Mairose gave a brief summary of how development densities were originally established in Johns Creek. Minimum 1 acre lots on any land that touches a major arterial-so that Thornhill, Country Club of the South, and Prestwick have 1.06 acre lots/overall density. The activity nodes were buffered with apartments, townhomes, there was an intentional transitioning between uses.

NOTE: The CAC members stated this had worked until the several large developments that were contrary to the plan were passed by the BOC, including an apartment complex, and large commercial developments, which eventually turned State Bridge into strip commercial-141 also was not supposed to be strip commercial development but the county commission diverged from what was planned.

Character Areas mapping Exercise

- Began with Activity Nodes – there are about 5-6 within the City, some are medium density, some are more intense
- There are also corridors, including 141 and State Bridge- there is also an activity node within the State Bridge Corridor
- The 141 corridor is easily identified as that, though it is not pretty, it is what it is-and it recognizable in part due to some of the larger, new projects within the past couple of years. The newest project is Johns Creek Walk, and a second phase of this has been approved.

- The neighborhoods are recognizable by their names as well as locations in some cases. Some neighborhood designations include
Buice Road Pastoral
River Estates
Morton Road
St.Ives/Sugar Mill
- There are also some larger character areas that reflect the original communities in the Johns Creek Area: Shakerag, Newtown, Ocee, and Warsaw

The Character Areas Mapping Exercise was completed thanks to everyone spending 15 extra minutes in the break-out session. No leftover business for the next CAC meeting, where we will move onto the Community Agenda.

Public comments regarding issues and opportunities were recorded and will be added to the working list.

A CAC member also desired to add that there is an opportunity for community connectivity-as in finding common ground to bring all parts of the City together.