

Meeting Summary – Cumming Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

May 24, 2022

The Steering Committee met at 5:00 PM in the first floor meeting room at Cumming City Hall, 100 Main Street, Cumming, GA. Our regular meeting room on the second floor was being used for the primary election. Members in attendance included: Zack McMillian, Susie Carr, Joey Cochran, Christopher Light, Ricky Noles, Brent Otwell, and Ralph Webb. Staff included: Phil Higgins, Tracy Helms, Jerry Weitz, Scott Morgan, and Nancy Lovingood.

Welcome - Phil Higgins, City Administrator, welcomed everyone and was the first speaker. He thanked the committee for their hard work and time for this important endeavor for the city. Fairgrounds - Tracy Helms, Fairgrounds Director, gave an update of the accomplishments of the fairgrounds and the capital improvements they have accomplished. A point of pride is the construction of the pedestrian walkway over the highway from a parking lot into the fairgrounds. Pedestrian safety and traffic flow are greatly improved. A discussion of his plans for the next 5 years included plans for the possible purchase of 2 adjacent parcels. Long range plans include an all weather building for large exhibits.

Event planning will be coordinated with the City Center director.

Nancy Lovingood presented some existing land use “theme” maps for the committee information. The committee then discussed the vision statement. Although not required by the State, most agreed it is a nice addition to the comprehensive document. Research of other jurisdictions had been conducted by some committee members. Nancy agreed to write-up a vision statement from the comments received. It is noted below.

A vision is a long term, enduring, aspirational view of a community, business or other type of organization. A vision is based on reality describing an outcome that may be a stretch but viewed as achievable. A vision should also be relevant, tangible in people’s minds and providing inspiration, purpose, and direction. A vision is not where the community is today but where the community wants to be in the future.

Cumming has adopted a citywide vision statement for the comprehensive plan. The vision serves as a complete picture of what the city of Cumming desires to become.

“The City of Cumming is a safe, clean, friendly and prosperous community that is welcoming to visitors, with a vibrant, small-town atmosphere, great natural beauty and amenities that facilitate a high quality of life for residents of all ages and interests. Cumming strives to be a model of contemporary small-town America, seamlessly touching the past through its historic character, while actively embracing a bright future.”

Stakeholder questions- The committee responded to some Stakeholder questions that have been asked from leaders in the community. There responses will be added to the other responses.

Professional Services addendum - The Professional Services contract addendum was discussed. Jerry Weitz presented the items in the contract. The main focus is to incorporate proposed design guidelines and regulations into the Zoning Ordinance. The Steering Committee was of the consensus to recommend this addition to City Council. Scott agreed to prepare it for City Council consideration.

Population Projections – The CIE Element of the Comprehensive Plan had been sent to the committee. Jerry presented the population projections for 2042. The City population is expected to more than double in 20 years.

Submitted by:
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