



MEETING MINUTES

- Date:** April 24, 2014 (7pm, St. Martins Episcopal Church)
- Purpose:** City of Brookhaven Comprehensive Plan 2034
Joint Steering Committee Meeting
- Attendees:**
- City of Brookhaven - Susan Canon, Ben Song, Marie Garrett, Richard Meehan
 - Comprehensive Plan 2034 - Amanda Hatton, Wade Carroll, Brad Jones (Jacobs); Kathy Young (Sycamore)
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Whit Alexander (Lose & Associates)
 - Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) - Jamie Cochran, Jay Bockisch (Gresham Smith and Partners);
 - Buford Hwy Plan - Madie Fischetti, Cameron Yates (The Jaeger Company); James Harling (Urban Partners)
 - Member of Steering Committees and Public (Per Sign In Sheets)
- Prepared by:** Jacobs

Purpose of Meeting

Marie Garrett, City Manager, welcomed attendees and thanked for coming. Susan Canon, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development discussed the format for the meeting and introduced the consultant teams:

Update of Consultants to Committees

Each team gave an overview of progress to date and opportunities for collaboration:

- Comprehensive Plan 2034
 - Handout provided details regarding schedule and activities to date.
 - Highlights from Steering Committee input were provided.
 - Comprehensive Plan will be overall policy document that ties the other three plans together. This means that all of the work plans will be submitted and then massaged into a consolidated work plan upon review from City Manager.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
 - Existing conditions are complete.
 - The CTP will be holding online surveys and an Open House in May to collect input from the public.
 - The Team has identified initial CTP goals for safety, mobility and access, public health, and sustainability.
 - Information presented same as consultant coordination meeting.



- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - Two meetings were held with the public on the same night. 140 people participated.
 - The Team is now administering a survey to collect input on parks and recreation needs.
 - One aspect of the parks plan is a recommendation on how to administer the facilities once they are put in place with respect to funding, staffing, etc.
 - The project team will be heavily reliant on the steering committee for identifying the park needs in the City.

- Buford Hwy Improvement Plan and Economic Development Strategy
 - The plan is looking to create a character that is uniquely Brookhaven.
 - Highlights of market study:
 - The area is very diverse
 - Retail primarily aimed at low-income Hispanics
 - Opportunity to create a regional marketplace exists

Question and Answer Session *(Answers in Italics)*

Comprehensive Plan

- What are you going to do to facilitate public involvement? *There are a number of ways. One way is for the Stakeholders to assist in the process in the highest degree possible and get the word out about this effort and opportunities to provide input. Another is to utilize the City's contact database and leverage the City's other methods of communication, newsletter, website, etc.*

Buford Highway

- How do you go about property acquisition? *There are a number of ways this can occur and what follows are examples:*
 - *The most often employed technique is to capitalize on existing property owners by offering incentives and/or additional development rights for them to follow the City's initiatives.*
 - *The Development Authority is currently the mechanism for bonding in the city.*
 - *Redevelopment powers may be brought to the ballot in November; if passed, it would allow for additional funding mechanisms.*
- A lot of Hispanics are concerned about the City trying to clear them out of the area but like the economic development initiatives. *The City is looking to capitalize on and preserve the Hispanic presence and build upon it by having more of a diverse marketplace.*

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- The planning effort should connect with the League of American Bicyclists. They offer a "Bicycle Friendly Community" designation that Athens and Decatur have achieved.



Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- How do you go about property acquisition? *There are a number of ways this can occur. The most often employed technique is to capitalize on existing property owners by offering incentives and/or additional development rights for them to follow the City's initiatives.*
- A lot of Hispanics are concerned about the City trying to clear them out of the area but like the economic development initiatives.
 - *The City is certainly looking to capitalize on the Hispanic presence and build upon it by having more of a diverse marketplace.*
 - *The City is working with DeKalb County to look at opportunities to improve unsafe workforce housing near Buford Hwy.*

Other Comments Related to Public Involvement

- The website banners should indicate in two sentences or less what each planning meeting will address, so the public easily understands the meeting purpose.
- Public speak vs. Community speak
- Reaching out to Chamber of Commerce
- Reaching out to Minority Groups
- Accessing schools, and using the K-12 network has been successful at getting the public involved in other planning efforts
- Not everyone has a computer, the planning efforts should remember this
- Neighborland is an opportunity the City could pursue for these planning efforts; the company will offer the service for free if 500 users sign up

Adjourn