



Meeting Report

An Envision 2030 vision meeting was held Friday, October 6, 2006 at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Cumming. The meeting was hosted by the Parkway Presbyterian Prime Timers. Approximately 28 people attended. In the course of one hour, participants worked in small groups of five or more on a series of questions that helped them think about the kind of community they would like Cumming-Forsyth County to be in 25 years.

Meeting Process

Participants were welcomed by Brett Berto, co-chair of Envision 2030, who also served as the meeting facilitator. Brett explained that participants would work in small groups or “circles” of five or more people and they would be asked to think about, discuss and come to consensus on several questions. Brett also covered a few suggested ground rules. Each group had a “moderator” who acted as recorder and group facilitator, and wrote the group’s comments.

The first question Brett asked was part of a scenario. Its purpose was to help the groups imagine what an ideal Cumming-Forsyth County would look like. Here’s the scenario:

It is 2030. Time magazine is sending a reporter to Cumming-Forsyth County to do a cover story on how this community came to be regarded as the “model” or “ideal” mid-sized community in the country – the community other mid-sized communities around the country want to be like.

Here’s the question Brett posed to the groups:

What will Time magazine say in its 2030 article makes Cumming-Forsyth County such an ideal community?

Brett gave the groups 30 minutes to work on this question.

In the remainder of the meeting, Brett asked the groups to consider:

- *What do we need to preserve among things that already exist in Cumming-Forsyth County today for the Time magazine article (and our vision of the future) to come true?*

These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people who live here now that will be needed if Cumming-Forsyth County were to become an ideal community.

The results of these two group discussions (a general vision for Cumming-Forsyth County, and the assets that should be preserved) are in the following two sections of this report. (Note: The small groups were assigned numbers before the meeting, but the numbers may not be sequential. As a result, you may find some gaps in the numbering, but be assured that the results of all the small groups are produced below.)

Small-Group Results: A Vision of Cumming-Forsyth County in 2030

Here are the vision ideas – the things that participants felt Time magazine would focus on, if it were writing about Cumming-Forsyth County as the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030.

Small group 1:

- Control Traffic
- Low Taxes
- Land Usage Planning
- Quality Schools
- Better cemeteries
- Parks
- Affordable retirement living
- Housing for disabled and less abled
- Assisted living facilities
- Green space preservation

Small Group 2:

- Number of good roads with green trees (greenspace)
- Good schools
- Programs for seniors
- Number of housing - retirement living affordable - amenities
- Handicapped
- Disabled and less able exercise
- Live in homes, but need transportation
- Green trees
- Green trees
- Faith based
- Transportation

- Water
- Schools
- Firefighters, service people can't live here

Small Group 3:

- Friendly people
- Road system that works
- Good schools, academically
- Low crime rate
- Green space
- Continued growth
- Assisted living - nursing homes

Small-Group Results: Existing assets that should be preserved

Here are existing community assets that participants felt should be preserved, if Cumming-Forsyth County is to become the ideal or model mid-size community in 2030. These things could include physical assets, organizations or institutions, public policies or decisions, or positive traits or skills of the people who live here now.

Small Group 1:

- Trees
- Open spaces
- Churches
- Faith-based community
- Ambiance of downtown Cumming

Small Group 2:

- What we already have
- Faith based, church-oriented
- Trees
- City courthouse / admin / city halls
- Lake Lanier parks - all of what we see with water preservation

Small Group 3:

- Open spaces (that's left) with the trees
- Lake Lanier and its parks
- Preserve Parkway Presbyterian Church, and other churches

What Is Envision 2030?

Envision 2030 is a year-long, citizen-led community planning initiative to envision – and plan for – Cumming-Forsyth County's development over the next 25 years.

It begins with eight vision meetings in fall 2006 and will continue as a strategic planning process in early 2007. At every stage, citizens will be invited to join Envision 2030 meetings and planning groups – and to critique its reports and work products. Every document will be available on the Envision 2030 web site, www.envision2030.com.

Envision 2030's final report will be available in June 2007.