



Meeting Report

An Envision 2030 vision meeting was held Tuesday, November 7, 2006 at the Forsyth County Senior Center in Cumming. Approximately 45 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 two other questions:

- *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.

- *What do we lack in Cumming-Forsyth County today that we would need 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 that are missing today but will be needed in the future, if Cumming-Forsyth County were to become an ideal community.

The results of these three group discussions (a general vision for Cumming-Forsyth County, the assets that should be preserved and those that should be developed) are in the following three 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:

- Natural greenery - preserve
- Casino
- Improve Lake Lanier - put in more camp grounds
- Public transportation - funding - communication
- Cloverleaf in downtown area for traffic
- House - 2 story (haunted) preserve
- More street lights
- More sidewalks
- Park with ramps for skateboarding and for bikes
- Park that has center area with water fountain coming out of ground
- Trolley cars
- Larger facility for senior center
- Provide jobs for people who live in Forsyth County before going outside of area

Small Group 2:

- More education for grandson
- Improve senior center - larger

- New schools - lots of kids
- More concerned about each other
- More activities for the elderly - challenges, contests between seniors - exercise, trips, entertainment, movies, games, bingo
- Improve nursing homes - more stuff - staff to patient ratio smaller
- Better roads
- More transportation for the elderly - for local errands - dial-a-ride is not enough
- Clean up the city - tear down old buildings
- Need younger people to understand the elderly - seniors with all ages, youth, early adult - why can't you remember
- Sugar daddies

Small Group 3:

- Transportation - public for senior, affordable - bus, monorail train pods, subsidy transportation from builder
- Adult education - computer extended classes to high school students, reducing building costs for young mothers - child care
- Affordable housing - apartment - do not have a guess about costs
- Service - carpentry, roofing, step contribution to include simple services, affordable costs
- Bike trails, walking trails - more clubs for activities for youth exercise - sidewalks, golf cart paths
- Transportation between counties

Small Group 4:

- Public transportation
- Planned growth
- New and improved roads
- More trade education in high schools
- Affordable senior care and housing
- Airport north of Atlanta
- Water preservation - handle growth?
- Unify city and county government - more efficient system of governance

Small Group 5:

- Street through town wider
- Stop the growth
- Wider street - hwy 9 / hwy 20 increase
- Better protection - trained police
- City police are not trained in diversity
- Children boarding school in rural area should have community
- Mom or dad to protect the children on and off bus
- Need more assisted living places that are affordable
- Safer busses
- Water supply

Small Group 6:

- Senior accessible public transportation
- Affordable for average citizen
- Senior athletic club with deep swimming pool
- Cultural arts center - large meeting center/conference seating for > 300
- Additional landfill, emission control incinerator
- Senior communities / continuum of care - similar to Wesley Village
- Adult day care / health
- Skilled gerontologist at hospital
- Road improvement
- Truck by-pass
- More courthouse and jail
- Affordable transportation
- More pedestrian walkways
- Village concepts
- Use of segways
- Flying cars
- Accessible preventative health / dental / mental care
- More natural habitat

Consensus Ideas

Here are the ideas, from those listed above, that the groups felt reflected a consensus of their thinking:

- Natural greenery - preserve
- Public transportation - funding – communication
- More transportation for the elderly - for local errands - dial-a-ride is not enough
- Transportation - public for senior, affordable - bus, monorail train pods, subsidy transportation from builder
- Water preservation - handle growth?
- Affordable for average citizen

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. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt should be preserved.)

Small Group 2:

- EPA - protecting environment
- Greenspace protection

Small Group 3:

- Nature preservation - trees, animals, trails, mountains, lakes, beaches, parks
- Historical landmarks - make more interesting
- Town meetings for future futures - notification of meetings - preserve and improve
- The English language as the primary language
- The senior centers - improve
- The Christian religion and tradition of holidays
- The Democratic Republic form of government

Small Group 4:

- Green space
- Lake
- Environment
- Small town ambience

Small Group 5:

- History - county museum
- Lakes
- Mountain - camping, visit, enjoy trees
- Trees

Small-Group Results: Assets that will be needed

Here are community assets that participants felt are missing now and will be needed, 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. (Note: Not all groups listed assets that participants felt are missing now.)

Small Group 2:

- Contact reps and share ideas - U.S. and state reps must communicate your interest
- Engage in the community - don't wait on others to do the work

Small Group 3:

- Better politician - grown ups have to participate in politics
- Better relationships between ethnic groups
- Drugs - off street
- Health habits and eating habits of youth
- Lower taxes - money in peoples pockets
- Fiscal education - budget education
- Change social security and taxes
- Tree ordinance - planned community
- Preserve allocation and accommodation
- Method of communication - via tv, cable - announcements
- Have to take the risks necessary to accomplish the out of the box thinking

Small Group 4:

- Water - conserving usage - awareness campaigns in schools
- Supporting candidates that share same views
- Planned growth

Small Group 5:

- Learn to recycle better
- Look at more control of motorcycles
- Transportation - elect politicians and talk to them about planning

Small Group 6:

- Tax base - increased through employment
- Money
- More equitable split between city / county
- Impact fees for roads - from developers
- Flat tax
- Don't be in the attainment area
- Its heritage
- Make Mexicans legal so they pay taxes too
- A cultural center
- The lake - water
- Recycle water
- Become an elder friendly community

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.