



Community Goals Workshops: Setting Our Vision

MEETING SUMMARY

What Happened + High Level Overview of Input Received

Meeting Overview + Format

The City of Dunwoody held two community goals workshops, Workshop 1- February 26 and Workshop 2- March 2, to jumpstart Shape Dunwoody, the multi-month process of updating the city's Comprehensive Plan. The two workshops were hands-on and collaborative in nature, asking participants to share input on a variety of topics focused on Dunwoody's future through a series of activities and discussions. The two workshops followed the same format but took place in different locations, one on the eastern side of the city and the other on the western sides of the city, facilitating more targeted discussion for the respective areas.

February 26, 2015

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Kingswood United Methodist Church

Focus areas: All city/east side

60 attendees (estimate, 49 signed in)

March 2, 2015

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Dunwoody Library

Focus areas: All city/west side

50 attendees (estimate, 43 signed in)

WORKSHOPS AGENDA

- 6:30 Sign-in and Visioning Activities
- Mad Libs Vision Statement
 - Aging In Place – What will make Dunwoody appealing to all ages?
 - Traveling Around Dunwoody
 - Existing Conditions – Mapping Where We are Today
- 6:50 Welcoming Remarks and Presentation
- 7:15 Small Group Goals Discussions
- ★ Group 1: Our City's Identity – Unique Dunwoody
 - ★ Group 2: Meeting Our Basic Needs – Transportation, Infrastructure + Services
 - ★ Group 3: Balanced Land Use – What to Preserve + Change
 - ★ Group 4: Getting the Right Mix – Jobs + Housing
- 8:20 Regroup and Final Remarks
- 8:30 Adjourn

Upon arrival at both workshops, attendees were asked to sign in and invited to participate in a series of visioning activities at their own pace. The activities focused on the city's long term vision, components of Dunwoody being a lifelong community, and transportation patterns and opportunities. These activities were followed by welcoming remarks and a brief presentation.



Attendees participate in Visioning Activities at first workshop

Visioning Activities

Attendees were invited to participate in a series of visioning input activities upon arrival to the meeting, as summarized below. Detailed notes from each activity are at the end of this summary.

Aging In Place – What will make Dunwoody appealing to all ages?

Attendees were asked to chime in regarding the current assets and missing resources that will make Dunwoody a desirable place to live during all stages of life (beginning at age 10 and at subsequent 10 year increments after until age 70). Comments were received for all age groups.

Mad Libs Vision Statement

This activity asked people to fill in the blank for several statements about Dunwoody in 2015 and in 2035. Two current Dunwoody values (of several) identified by participants include livability and education. People were asked to provide input on post it notes for all to see and react to. Some of the common themes regarding Dunwoody in 2035 include great schools, walkability, shopping, outdoors (including greenspace, nature park, sports facilities), and neighborhoods.

Traveling Around Dunwoody

Common destinations for walking and biking now and in the future include Dunwoody Village, Brook Run Park, Georgetown Shopping Center, and Perimeter Mall. Mount Vernon Road, Chamblee Dunwoody Road, and Tilly Mill Road were identified as having the most congested intersections, closely followed by Perimeter Center East/West. Attendees provided input on the city's walking, biking and congestions issues and opportunities, especially as they are tied to traveling to specific locations or corridors in the Dunwoody community.

Existing Conditions – Mapping Where We are Today

Participants were invited to review several maps documenting today's existing conditions. Maps on display included:

- Dunwoody Landmarks
- Draft Existing Land Use
- Future Development
- Zoning

- Programmed Transportation Projects

There was no formal input mechanism for this activity; however, in speaking with community members, some map corrections were identified for the Existing Land Use map.

Welcoming Remarks & Presentation

Mayor Davis welcomed attendees at each meeting and recognized present City Council members and Sounding Board members. Steve Foote, Dunwoody Community Development Director, introduced the planning team. Then Jim Summerbell, project manager with Jacobs, gave an overview of comprehensive planning and why the city is updating its plan. The presentation included a snapshot of current demographic and economic characteristics of Dunwoody.

Small Group Goals Discussions

The presentation was followed in both meetings by small group goals discussions. Four discussion groups rounded out the latter half of the meeting. Each group focused on a different goals topic, selected for discussion based on input from stakeholder interviews and city leadership regarding areas of desired clarification or enhancement in the plan update. Attendees rotated through all four groups, spending 15 minutes in each. Attendees rotated through each of four small group discussions, focusing on key topics and related decision making that will influence the city's future. Each group was facilitated by the planning team to generate discussion and record input. Each table had an aerial map, a landmarks map, and markers, flipchart, other materials to document input. Discussions were structured around distinct questions for each group but were largely organic in nature to reflect key ideas/concerns related to each group.

Group 1: Our City's Identity – Unique Dunwoody

Facilitated by Amanda Hatton with assistance from Rebecca Keefer and Catherine Lautenbacher

Questions:

- How would you describe Dunwoody to someone outside of the community?
- What terms have you heard or read outsiders using to describe Dunwoody?
- How can the perception of the city be improved?
- Does our city have multiple identity areas; where are they? Does the character area map capture them?

Highlights:

Much of the focus of these group discussions was on what Dunwoody is today and how much of that should not change. Dunwoody is family friendly, known for its swim/tennis neighborhoods, great location, and schools. There is also a strong business community and a good mix of uses to meet residents' daily needs. Preserving the city's high quality schools and mitigating congestion will be important to Dunwoody's future identity-becoming a more walkable city with greater emphasis on the arts, cultural programs, aesthetic beauty, parks and greenspace, and quality of life are

important to the city's future as well as moving forward with the implementation of Dunwoody Village and Georgetown master plans.

Group 2: Meeting Our Basic Needs – Transportation, Infrastructure + Services

Facilitated by Audra Rojek, with assistance from Eric Bosman & Andrew Russell

Questions:

- Where are sidewalk, trail, bike lane, and intersection improvements needed?
- What services does the city currently provide that could use improvement?
- What services does the city not currently provide that it could?

Highlights:

This group focused on a variety of transportation options that will be needed to better connect access to the city's uses while improving quality of life. Improved walking and biking paths leading to strategic locations as well as trails that connect to the activity nodes of Dunwoody as well as other cities will further enjoyment of the city and surrounding areas by residents. Traffic congestion, operations, and signal timing are issues that continue to require attention as well as safety on our roadways. Thinking outside the box about innovative and up and coming technological improvements should also be a key consideration of Dunwoody's well-rounded transportation system moving forward. Other service needs discussed included adjustments to garbage disposal resources and storm sewer system issues were other items brought up related to services; transportation was the central topic of all discussions.

Group 3: Balanced Land Use – What to Preserve + Change

Facilitated by Jim Summerbell with assistance from Steve Foote

Questions:

- Where are our community gateways – What's needed or desired there?
- Where are our redevelopment areas – What's needed or desired there?
- Where are our community hubs (meeting spaces, activity centers) – What's needed or desired there?

Highlights:

The land use group focused on priority land use needs moving forward - what's missing and what could be improved. Dunwoody Village, Georgetown, and the new and improved parks/greenspace were often discussed as key gateways, priority redevelopment areas, and community hubs. Some groups also discussed what was meant by gateways and how different types of gateways would require different treatment. Senior housing, a senior center, parks, and a Canton Street or Downtown Decatur style area are some of the things that area missing from the city in terms of development.

Group 4: Getting the Right Mix – Jobs + Housing

Facilitated by Ranada Robinson with assistance from Michael Starling and Rebecca Keefer

Questions:

- What types of housing are missing in Dunwoody, if any? Where should they go? (Housing for seniors, workers, families, others?)
- How well is our city supporting our businesses? What would make Dunwoody a better place to work or start a business?

Highlights:

Future housing and jobs are important components of the city's future. Key topics in this group included the need for senior housing (and options, types appropriate for that), maintaining affordability of housing, and the need to balance housing and jobs with related quality for life improvements, including trails, schools, and general connectivity within the community. Traffic congestion will continue to be a challenge to both residents and employers. Business opportunities include greater support for small business development, growing the arts, a business incubator, and upgrading strip shopping centers such as providing money for facade improvements.

Regroup and Final Remarks

Both workshops ended with a brief recap of key topics discussed at each small group discussion and an outline of next steps/how to stay involved in the planning process. In addition to comments received as a part of the various input activities at the workshops, attendees were also invited to provide written comments for consideration by the planning team. Receive comments are document in the detailed notes that follow.



Attendees hear Mayor Davis's welcoming remarks (left); Discussion during visioning activities (right)