



## Work Program Workshop: Logistics Setting

### **DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

### *What Happened + High Level Overview of Input Received*

#### Meeting Overview + Format

May 28, 2015  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Dunwoody City Hall  
15 attendees (estimate, 12 signed in)



The City of Dunwoody hosted the Work Program Workshop for Shape Dunwoody on Thursday, May 28 from 6pm to 8pm at Dunwoody City Hall Council Chambers. The workshop followed a similar format as previous plan-building workshops, beginning with an opportunity for review and feedback on plan framework materials developed to date and followed by a brief summary presentation by the planning team, rotating small group discussions, discussion recap, and adjournment. A key goal of the workshop was developing clearer direction from community members on the appropriate involvement of the city in addressing priority needs and opportunities, particularly as they relate to implementation roles, activities, partners, and funding over the next five years. This was the second to last plan-building workshop for the plan update process.

#### **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

- 6:00 Sign-in and Review Activities
- 6:30 Welcoming Remarks and Presentation
- 6:45 Implementing the Plan: the City and its Partners
  - Group 1: Community Services: Aging in Place, Arts, + Historic Resources
  - Group 2: Neighborhoods, Parks, + Connectivity
  - Group 3: Economic Development – Regional versus Local Activity Nodes
- 7:55 Recap
- 8:00 Adjourn

## Review Activities

Upon arrival, attendees had an opportunity to review and provide feedback on items that form the basis of the plan’s development. Comment forms were provided to help with comment collection as well as other tailored input methods detailed under the following activities. No comment forms were received.

### Priority Needs and Opportunities List

A large matrix was on display, showing the refined list of 17 priority needs and opportunities and how each relates to the eight overarching goals. Both goals and priorities play a key role in the plan framework and, in turn, have an important influence on the Comprehensive Plan action plan and five-year short term work program. Community

#### *Priority Needs and Opportunities Feedback*

*No red dots were received. The following comments were provided.*

Need 7. Strengthen Dunwoody’s economic development efforts.

- Add “Grow the Arts” as applicable goal.
- The following needs to be part of economic development plan:
  - Retain, attract and start-up new businesses;
  - Buckhead and Alpharetta as economic development models; and
  - Business incubator is critical; see Sandy Springs and Alpharetta incubator models.

Need 10. Increase transit use.

- Consider changing “use” to “options”
- Don’t force, meet needs

Need 13. Provide active recreational opportunities for all ages.

- Add “Grow the Arts” as applicable goal.

members were asked to review the matrix and, using red dots, identify if any need or opportunity listed is not a priority. Post-it notes were available for attendees to write down a priority that’s missing or to provide other comments.

### Vision and Goals

The draft vision statement was on display next to the priority needs and opportunities list for public review. No comments were received on the vision statement or overarching goals.

### Record of Accomplishments

A summary board of the accomplishments from the current Comprehensive Plan Work Program was on display. The planning team had a complete list of projects from the work plan and was available to answer specific questions people had about the action items.

### Character Area Work Program Input

Maps and draft vision statements and land use lists were provided for each character area of the city. Attendees were asked to identify initiatives, policies, and programs that should be undertaken in the next five years for each area. Post-it notes were provided for people to jot down activities and post underneath relevant character area boards.

#### *Character Area Work Program Input*

##### **Dunwoody Village**

- City should buy easements from neighbors to allow pedestrian access to commercial areas.

##### **Georgetown**

- Complete pedestrian trail to Perimeter Center East from Brook Run Park.

##### **North Peachtree**

- Add east-west connectivity.
- Redevelop 90 acre apartments to mixed use.

##### **Winters Chapel**

- Redevelop apartment complexes with high crime

##### **Institutional Center**

- Encourage GPC to move to an area on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. It is badly situated in a residential area.
- Georgia Perimeter Center becomes Dunwoody High.
- DHS becomes new middle school.

##### **Suburban Residential**

- Tighten rules on single family detached redevelopment.

##### **Jett Ferry – renaming**

- Orchard Park – that is Kroger in Sandy Springs.
- One person supported renaming to Mount Vernon East.
- One person supported keeping the name as Jett Ferry.

### Welcoming Remarks & Presentation

The planning team, led by Jim Summerbell (project manager), provided a brief presentation offering a summary overview of the planning process and goals of the workshop. The presentation focused on the process of identifying priority needs and opportunities as well as the components of the community work program and the practicalities of implementation, including a general overview of the city's budget allocation and revenue streams to establish a realistic mindset for thinking through the city potentially undertaking new initiatives. The team also gave an update on public involvement activities.

## Implementing the Plan: the City and its Partners

Following the overview presentation, attendees were broken into three groups to discuss priority implementation areas of the plan for which a clear path forward was not yet evident. The goal of the discussions was to develop a better understanding of the role that the community sees the city playing in implementation of some of these key priority areas. Three separate discussions occurred:

- Group 1: Community Services – Aging in Place, Arts, + Historic Resources
- Group 2: Neighborhoods, Parks + Connectivity
- Group 3: Economic Development – Regional versus Local Activity Node

Attendees spent roughly 20 minutes in each group. Each group loosely covered the following questions, with a main focus of the groups falling on actions that should be taken and what the role of the city should be in moving those forward.

1. What is the role of the city in moving (each of) these goal areas forward? Where does the city's role fall in the balance of public vs. partner responsibility?
2. What actions should be pursued in the next five years to address these items?
3. Funding + Partners – For each topic area, what partners and funding streams should be considered?
4. Prioritize Actions – Each group will identify the top 3-5 actions for each topic area.

*Highlights of each of the three group discussions are provided on the following pages. Highlights reflect the opinions of attendees. Detailed notes are provided in the summary appendix.*

### Group 1: Community Services: Aging in Place, Arts, Historic Resources

*Facilitated by Amanda Hatton*

**AGING IN PLACE:** The action items related to aging in place are multi-faceted. They include allowing for and providing a different housing product (stacked flats), increasing connectivity and facilitating more efficient travel modes, having activities for seniors, and defining what types of senior housing products are desired and needed in the city. Implementing these items will require a combination of city, partner, and private sector leadership and involvement.

**ARTS:** Growing the arts is important to the community. The city may not be the prime lead in this area, but its verbal support of area initiatives is important for acquiring needed grants and funding. Some potential action items include forming an arts council, completing a feasibility study for Brook Run Theatre, and providing city-owned space for the arts.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES:** Preserving the city's historic assets is a priority of many of those that attended. Resources include Donaldson-Bannister Farm, Brook Run Theatre, and cemeteries. The preference is to repurpose existing facilities rather than build new. Participants feel that the city's role is to be supportive of preservation efforts, rather than to lead them. The Dunwoody Preservation Trust is the key implementer relater to this need.

## Group 2: Neighborhoods, Parks + Connectivity

*Facilitated by Jim Summerbell and Steve Foote*

**NEIGHBORHOODS:** Actions for continuing a tradition of great neighborhoods include ongoing public safety initiatives, maintaining roads and cleanliness of the community, and regular communications/information [disseminated by the city].

**PARKS:** Attendees would like the city to take a role in offering recreational programs to residents. Other parks related actions include park development in coordination with new subdivision and commercial uses, continuing to support existing recreational facilities such as the Nature Center, incorporation of pocket parks in roadway and commercial developments, and activating Brook Run theatre.

**CONNECTIVITY:** Multi-modal connectivity and road improvements were the focus of discussion in this group. There is a desire for path and trail connectivity at Dunwoody Village and Brook Run Park as well as between activity areas, such as between Brook Run Park and Georgetown. Specific road improvements identified included opportunities for roundabouts, speed humps, sidewalks, and additional turn lanes.

## Group 3: Economic Development: Regional versus Local Activity Nodes

*Facilitated by Ranada Robinson*

**GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:** There should be one economic development entity that represents and speaks on behalf of the entire Perimeter area. Economic development needs to remain a priority for the city as the majority of the tax base comes from businesses. Streamlined development decisions and permitting is needed. Consistent signage is needed in different character areas or possibly throughout the city; knowing you have arrived in Dunwoody via clear gateways is another key aspect to branding Dunwoody. Traffic congestion is an ongoing issue to visitors and residents alike. There should be a way to get around more efficiently. The city needs an incubator space to help with business startups. Arts were noted as an important part of economic development, particularly in attracting new businesses.

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY NODE (PERIMETER CENTER):** There may be a benefit to concentrating restaurants in Perimeter Center, ensuring a large selection area.

**OTHER ACTIVITY NODES:** Winters Chapel, Tilly Mill and North Peachtree are key redevelopment areas for the city; the city should coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions on their redevelopment. Dunwoody Village and Georgetown are also ripe for redevelopment; the city should support redevelopment initiatives as they come online. The theatre at Brook Run could both host the arts and also serve as a resource to conferences. Dunwoody Parkway is another economic development opportunity area for the city.

## Recap + Adjourn

After group discussions, facilitators provided highlights from their discussion groups to all. Attendees were reminded to attend the Open House to review and provide highlights from the draft plan.