



Catawba

area plan

Advisory Group Summary Meeting Notes for September 5, 2008

Shady Brook Baptist Church/Fellowship Hall

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Advisory Group Attendees: Truett Auten, Sheila Clark, Kevin Ebersold, Mike Hanberry, Lesa Houchins, Camille Jones, Duke Jones, Sam Lethcoe, Sue Lethcoe, Cora Mullis, Doc Mullis, Fran Reinecker, Kathy Reinecker, Brenda Stewart, Taren Wilkinson, Jeff Wise, Andy Zoutenelle

Staff: Wendy Martz, Alberto Gonzalez, Melony McCullough, Alysia Osborne (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department Staff) and Brian Horton (Charlotte Department of Transportation Staff)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alberto Gonzalez (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department) welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to share existing conditions within the study area and to develop a vision statement for the area. Some members expressed concern that they did not receive the meeting reminder and staff directed each participant to review and confirm their contact information.

2. Existing Conditions

Alysia Osborne (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department) provided a brief summary of the existing conditions related to demographics, land uses, transportation, and public facilities and services. A “Catawba Quick Facts” sheet was provided to give a summary of the information discussed (see attachment). Ms. Osborne explained that there will be future meetings devoted to each topic discussed tonight to provide more detailed information, but tonight’s meeting purpose was to give the group information to help develop a vision for the Catawba area by recognizing the existing conditions in the area.

3. Vision Statement

Wendy Martz (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department) began the visioning exercise by providing a brief description of the purpose and key components of a vision statement. Ms. Martz explained that a vision statement describes a community’s goals for the area over time, stated in a positive light. Examples of vision statements from previously adopted area plans were shared with the group to illustrate various options for composing a vision for the Catawba River area.

4. Group Exercise

Ms. Martz instructed each group to review, revise and/or rewrite preliminary draft vision statements that were developed by staff based on the issues and opportunities developed through the public involvement process thus far. The options were as follows:

Option 1:

The Catawba community will become a desirable place to live, work and play for all generations. Natural resources will be protected with innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices, while accommodating future growth. The area will be known for its livable neighborhoods, attractive open space, viable employment areas and efficient transportation network.

Option 2:

The Catawba Area will continue to develop as a unique, livable and attractive community where the natural environment is integrated with new development, and is served by efficient public facilities and infrastructure.

Option 3:

The vision for the Catawba River area is to become a sustainable community known for its:

- *High quality design;*
- *Enhanced public facilities and services;*
- *Greenways, parks and natural areas;*
- *Mixture of housing types and neighborhood-serving land uses;*
- *Safe and well-connected transportation network that provides options for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit users; and*
- *Viable employment centers*

After lengthy discussions about the three options and the components considered most important to the group, the following vision statement was developed by the advisory group as a “working draft” that will serve as a guide for future discussions when developing policies for the draft plan:

Advisory Group Draft Vision Statement

The vision for the Catawba River Area should have a central focus on the river itself and the maximization of its enjoyment for the benefit of the community. Proper integration of all uses within the area shall create a sustainable community for all ages known for its:

- *High quality design reflective of river and recreational characteristics of the area;*
- *Enhanced public facilities and services;*
- *Greenways, parks and natural areas accessible and visually adjacent to major and minor thoroughfares;*
- *Mixture of housing types and neighborhood-serving land uses;*
- *Safe and well-connected transportation network that provides options for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit users;*
- *Viable employment centers integrated in appropriate locations; and*
- *Mature trees, open space and greenways integrated within neighborhoods.*

Questions during the meeting centered around existing, planned and proposed developments and their affect on the planning process. Many advisory group members expressed interest and concern about the proposed wastewater treatment plant; as a result, Planning staff agreed to invite a representative from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities to share information about the proposed facility at the next meeting.

4. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Alberto Gonzalez explained that the Natural Environment will be the topic for the next meeting scheduled for September 23.