

Advisory Group Summary Meeting Notes for April 28, 2009

Shady Brook Baptist Church/Fellowship Hall 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Advisory Group Attendees: Sheila Clark, Mike Hanberry, Elaine Powell, John Springsteed, Taren Wilkinson

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission – Steve Firestone

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department Staff: Alberto Gonzalez, Melony McCullough, Alysia Osborne, Alan Goodwin and Linda Keich

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission: Steven Firestone

Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) Staff - Brian Horton and Andy Gryzymski

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alberto Gonzalez (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department) welcomed everyone, reviewed the ground rules, went around the room and introduced everyone. Alberto asked Steve Firestone to explain the role of the Planning Commission.

2. Background Information

Alberto Gonzalez stated he emailed the vision statement and at this meeting we were going over the highlights of the plan. Melony explained how critical the recommendations are and not to get confused by policy and draft plan policy it is one and the same.

Draft Land Use Recommendation

Alberto went over the Land Use Summary table with the Advisory Group, explaining the details of the land use recommendations. The focus of the recommendations was to look for areas where either higher intensities or densities are appropriate, or where environmental protection is more suited, or where maintaining the current land use is more appropriate. After explaining the land use recommendations staff opened it up to questions from the Advisory Group, with some of the questions being for example, why weren't some areas considered for higher density or commercial development instead of continued single-family development? Staff responded that all areas were looked at in terms as to what is the best possible use for that area taking into consideration a wide variety of factors such as environmental concerns, transportation and current development, that will all be impacted by the type of land use that is permitted in an area. Some Advisory Group members mentioned that there is a need for more restaurants and class A office space in the area, and where is that being accommodated for in the recommendations? Staff responded that there are plenty of areas where retail such as restaurants is recommended, as well as office space in the study area.

Transportation

Brian Horton from the Charlotte Department of Transportation went over the Transportation Recommendations (Future Transportation Network Map) as well as the Street Cross Sections Map. Brian explained that in considering the future transportation recommendations for the area CDOT looked at not only the recommended land use for the area but the topography in the area as well, considering that at times it's a major concern for road construction. Questions from the Advisory Group focused on whether or not the roads proposed can handle future growth in the area, and is there going to be public access to the Catawba River.

3. Wrap Up and Next steps

Alberto stated that he will advise the group as to when the next meeting would be, and that they were trying to finish drafting the plan in order to have one more Advisory Group meeting before having a larger public meeting. The next Advisory Group meeting would take place sometime by the end of May or early June, but that he would notify them as to when exactly the next meeting would take place.