



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY VISIONING TASK FORCE

Task Force Work Plan – DRAFT

Goals and Tasks for November/December 2009

Authentic strategic navigation – being able to move from where we are as represented by the current comprehensive plan to where we want to go – involves connecting governing values to strategic goals and directions. Because strategic navigation is seldom a linear process that connects goals and strategies in a straight line, the values, beliefs, and assumptions that lie between what we want and how we get there must be purposefully navigated. A community vision and goals are unlikely to take root without meaningful and sincere examination of the values underlying those goals. The task force will:

1. Identify, define and affirm the core values essential to the identity, character and sustainability of Chapel Hill. Address physical, social and economic legs of sustainability. Address questions of what we mean by growth, how much growth, and what kinds of growth.
2. Use these values to develop a framework for examining the goals and trade-offs inherent in growth and development choices. Gain a clear understanding of constraints and trade-offs.
3. Draft a set of normative principles based on these core values that should guide development and growth decisions over the next decade.

Goals and Tasks Post-December 2009

The more that members are willing to stand behind their work, the more likely it is to take root. Task force members must engage each other in order to come to terms with the values represented in growth and development choices, with which values have priority in a given situation, and how best to balance and reconcile the value tensions and trade-offs. This task force cannot move the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan forward without such a normative examination. The task force will:

1. Test the draft guiding principles by applying them to key components of the current comprehensive plan. Assess the current progress/status of the comprehensive plan's goals and objectives since 2000. Identify how the "vision" of Chapel Hill in the 2000 comprehensive plan compares to the Chapel Hill of today. Identify how and where the guiding principles and the comprehensive plan converge or diverge, and what's missing. Consider how other issues/situations might inform their work in addition to core values and guiding principles. Decide how to organize and approach their work, e.g., by areas or specific topics? Use the feedback from this test situation to refine the guiding principles.
2. Solicit the community's voice and input into their draft principles. Convey a sense of urgency about addressing growth and development. Communicate the consequences of not addressing growth and development. Solicit normative and positive components that should be added. Reaffirm their charge by the new town council.
3. Apply these guiding principles to a set of key developable areas in Chapel Hill to identify priorities for specific types of development and to recommend how value trade-offs inherent in development decisions should be balanced. Decide how they will protect and preserve these values and principles.
4. Translate the core values, guiding principles, and development trade-offs into a consensus-based set of recommendations for growth and development that will yield the greatest, sustainable benefits over the long-term to the town and its citizens. Prepare a report of suggested development with maps, a framework for decision making, rationales, and a narrative vision. Lay a successful foundation for the future. Create a "vision" that captures the "public."
5. Vet their draft report and address its strengths and weaknesses. Recommend how their work should be used, the difference they believe it can make, and how it should be distributed and communicated.

How the Task Force Will Carry Out Its Charge

- Be quick to listen, slow to speak.
- Everyone feels heard.
- Identify and seek out knowledge members need.
- Keep moving forward.
- Make sure everyone is informed and has opportunities to participate as desired.
- Seek consensus.
- Set agendas and identify specific tasks.
- Share their work with and involve the community.
- Be prepared, stay focused and on task.
- Test to what degree members are individually satisfied.