

March 29, 2007 Public Forum Attachment A

Blue Group #1

Definition of Natural Environment - not sure what it means.

Stormwater run-off.

Human environment is the natural environment.

Think regionally and statewide to deal with natural environment.

Lack of public access to the water.

Lack of pathways along the waterfront.

Community character and land use.

- Outer West St. is ugly.
- Auto-urban density is a problem.

Lack of balance between tourists and residents.

Lack of regional coordinated planning.

Auto-urban is not a desirable community character for Forest Drive.

Blue Group #2

Annexation

- related issues, overlapping concerns (although annexation did not get votes, does not mean people are not concerned about it).
- Development occurring is the issue (whether land is in city or county doesn't matter)
- Annapolis has layers of neighborhoods with different character, people like this character & variety - density increases would change this character (eg. 1901 West).

Crime

- a big concern; community policing would help; neighborhoods very different - some areas high crime; every neighborhood deserves to be safe; different concerns - property theft v. violence/murders - vary by neighborhood, separateness.

Cultural/Arts

- artists important to 'soulfulness'; economic development and quality of life/character; city is doing well with this.

Economy

- concern for impact of Annap. Towne Center at Parole on businesses in city; relates to workforce housing, quality of jobs.
- Hillsmere Mixed Use Plan may have drawn business away from core, maintain viability of downtown & Eastport.

Emergency Preparedness

- City basically ok, but concerns, ie. Terrorism/flooding preparation

Historic Preservation

- stewardship is a continuing challenge with growth - City needs to continue to make this a priority; attracts visitors; local businesses (uniqueness) make downtown special, not "like a mall"; very important to economy.

Maritime Industry

- taken as a given that it's a major economic engine; part of ambiance of the city.

Natural Environment

- important resource for children - open space, crabbing, fishing, enjoying Bay.

Public Housing

- there is high # of pub.hsg. units for a city this size;
- concern about separateness of community, poverty, crime, effect on families leaving Annap. public schools b/c of conflicts.
- structure of public housing in Annapolis & policies - lack of enforcement (ie. residents not paying rent), system is dysfunctional
- city needs to work better with fed. housing authority to address problems in public housing areas
- need better alternatives for low-income housing - more innovative solutions

Natural Environment/Recreation

- destroying the Bay; trees & open space ~ character;
- need for more rec facilities (basketball courts, fields, etc.)

Regional Planning - overlaps with other categories

- City & Co - lack of coordination
- transportation, environment, where to grow are all regional issues
- entire group would have voted for regional planning ~ because so important to a # of issues.

Transportation

- difficulty in reaching outside destinations (eg. College Park) with no public transit available
- congestion on West Street everyday
- City is dangerous for biking/walking - need more consideration of pedestrian safety; as congestion increases, more accidents
- Traffic lights need to be more coordinated for better traffic flow
- City/Co/State coordination
- Tech. Issues - better pedestrian crossings
- No grocery stores near neighborhoods (& other convenient retail) ~ need more resident services that are reachable by walking/biking
- West St. Library - a valued community resource; need a library in the city; threatened - prime site for development; inappropriate area for growth

Where to Grow/Not to Grow

- “key to the whole discussion”
- linked to community character/other issues
- need to take a hard look at how much density areas can be developed to ~ where we’re allowing density & how much
- look hard at zoning & what’s going to be allowed (under current zoning & does that need to change)
- adequate facilities are needed - before allowing more growth, need to ensure adequate roads, schools, etc.
- developers of 1901 West voluntarily included workforce housing; City needs better requirements
- concern for where to draw line on income levels to qualify for workforce housing
- moderately priced dwelling units - good direction (12% of homes in Annap Neck redevelopment; architectural controls)
- want to make sure Annap. remains a place people of all walks of life can live
- need more innovative solution - encourage solutions like “Homes for America” nonprofit

Education

- Elem Schools - middle class flight to suburbs & private schools (40% of Annapolis families going to private schools; % is growing)
- tearing schools/communities apart
- quality of middle schools needs to improve
- City can & should have influence on local schools
- we pay high property taxes, why aren’t schools better?
- St. Mary’s - traffic jams, students parking
- charter schools - consider as alternative
- if you ask people why they’re leaving Annapolis, the #1 reason is the schools. people move out of city to seek better schools.

Diversity/Culture

- this city very segregated
- cultural/racial/ethnic differences

Institutional Relations

- current admin good relationship with Naval Academy & St. John’s. Would like to see this expand to healthy relationship with County. State PILOTS (payment in lieu of taxes) helpful - key to smoothing how things work
- maintain professionalism in dealings across governments
- need more openness - open government to let citizen have information & a say

Question: why is Community Character the basis of the plan?

This was similar to “Let’s Talk” exercise ~ group wants to know how ideas are actually going to be used in the

Comp. Plan. ("Let's Listen", City.)

Green Group #1

Education is a solution to all 15 issues voted on

Natural Environment

- being lost to development
- maintains function as part of our lives (eco-system function)
- Sustainable development
- Address issues before development occurs
- use new techniques (green roofs, etc.)
- Urban runoff
- take personal responsibility
- education (increase awareness)
- more low-impact development
- mandate improved zoning & development regulations

Community Character/Land Use

- mixed use clusters do not help the character
- concerns about increased density
- redevelop existing areas vs. develop in "open areas"
- establish forest buffers to increase tree coverage
- educate on the value of trees - necessary for our health
- encourage tree planting programs

Annexation

- stop it
- should be coordinated with county
- should not be piecemeal
- lack of understanding what development costs
- politics

Crime

- increases with reduction of green space
- hard to explain what is going on
- youth activities
- Boys & girls club is a good thing
- rate is higher in public housing
- encourage ways to get out of public housing
- education may be a solution to many of "15 issues"

Green Group #2

Natural Environment means?

- We're an island that should determine/constrain how we protect our natural environment
- Greenways are important
- Losing habitat for wildlife
- conflict with humans (Lyme disease)
- Sediment and runoff is much worse
- Need more habitat preservation
- Housing development is bad for environment

Lack of communication between City and AA County causes problems

City is interested in swallowing up land

Environmental health drives/dominates issues like annexation - what does it matter if the environment is ruined.

Green building codes

Need to codify goals

Livable, quality, affordable city is important - the way it all fits together

Must protect what we have

Natural environment is less important in the City because we are built up.

Tree preservation is a big issue for the City.
 Community character in West Street corridor has been damaged
 Need to remove incentives to develop. It is inconsistent with the district.
 Height/Density/transportation impact
 Comp Plan should not incentivise development
 Too few of MX recommendations were adopted.
 Stiverson's Group is second process/dangerous/confusing.
 Congestion is married to density; affordable housing is contrary to those.
 Stormwater is dumped into creek.
 How do you find improvements to stormwater management for existing development?
 Infill is okay as long as it is in scale.
 On-site parking is crucial.
 Is it time for overlays for areas outside of the Historic District?
 If study area increases in density, South River will die.
 Trees on Neck contribute to environment of Annapolis.
 Utility extension are the City's only way of controlling the Neck.
 Conservation easements could be used to protect environment.
 Zoning can be changed - not the way to protect the things we want to protect.
 Transportation can be a solution, not just a problem.
 Smart growth
 Workforce housing

Purple Group #1

Annexation

- relates to transportation
- only result is increase in density and increase in transportation
- potentially impacts schools (county-run)
- moratorium on annexing until we have adequate facilities

Where to Grow/Where not to Grow?

- Why do we need to grow?
- Eliminate increase in density
- Affordable housing where car dealerships are
- Redevelop commercial properties into residential
- Downzoning of density
- No development of West St. library
- Impact fees to cover infrastructure costs
- Elected officials should focus on needs of current residents who pay taxes now, not future
- Park Place theater

Regional Planning

- Work more with County as this area encompasses everything

Purple Group #2

Energy Policy:

- the inevitable must be anticipated and prepared for;
- City Codes (Building & Land Use) changed to permit Energy Efficiencies.

Human Capital:

- compare current rates of Human Capital waste to 10/20/30 years from now, eg. black dropouts 6x white.

Public Housing: realistic & open discussion of all options,

- replace public housing with sec. 8 vouchers (scattered)
- adult education
- mixed income housing (scattered)
- Hope VI

Where to Grow/Where Not to Grow:

- Historic Preservation: flexibility/standards for infill & new, controls to preserve interiors;

- Growth predicated on what transportation system Should be and is;
- Infill - allow 'Accessory Apartments', sub-dividing single family homes, incentives to residential above commercial.

Community Character

- Annapolis is becoming a place for Public Housing or the Uber-Rich
- density is ok...but make it density that is effective

Yellow Group #1

- County has to be involved in everything City does - public housing/communication effects a lot of Annapolis.
- Mixed plans (from city up to feds)
- Need to improve communication - would help Public Housing, schools, regional development;
- Transportation: try to get people to park outside town, have transportation to bring them in.
- May be space to develop, but crowded - people doubling infrastructure on small spaces.
- Community Character/Natural Environment: some nice trails, but parts of them have no sidewalks; connect the good resources (trails)
- Truxtun Park - not used enough; new Rec Center: (finish date?)
- Schools in Annapolis much different than the county; people often don't even consider public schools;
- Doesn't help quality of life in city by adding more;
- Not so many big apartment complexes;

Pink Group #1

Crime

- enforcement
- youth development programs

Transportation

- Slide presentation seemed to focus on transportation
- Parking - downtown, Hillman
- St. Mary's students using Hillman

Community Character

- Need to talk about - very important
- Roads
- Water quality
- Stormwater management
- Infrastructure
- Adequate Public Facilities

Planning for Annapolitans

Recreation

- Truxtun Park
- trails improvement
- shorelines

Economy & Employment

Crime

Less drinking

Mids drinking in bars

Transportation

Workforce housing

Community Character - "quaint little city"

Traffic - gridlock, congestion

Transportation

- Can't accommodate parking in Historic District
- Stadium parking and shuttle downtown
- transit network
- live & work in town and use transit

Community Character

- Scale of buildings
- Size of parcels
- 1901 West and Park Place are big parcels
- More variety on larger projects

Transportation

- Get people out of cars
- Empty busses
- Could school lots be used as park-n-ride lots and major bus stops during the summer months? And, perhaps eliminate some other bus stops for a more direct ride?
- Long bus route discourage riders who want to just go a short distance
- Mids parking on Eastport streets
- City/County/State partnership to address transportation issues

Pink Group #2

Public Schools

Community character related to transportation

New houses not fitting in with others on the street

P&Z overrules zoning with variances and exceptions

MX district recommendations - 4 squares

P&Z not preserving community character; employees don't care; maintaining the scale

Identify and define the character of Annapolis and preserve it.

Transportation - Bus doesn't go where you want it to go

Bus takes roundabout route to get from point a to point b.

No Annapolis transit connections to DC/Baltimore transit

How do people moving in know about transit?

Downtown needs more frequent and smaller busses

Most of growth in Annapolis is redevelopment, so how do we propose growth and not lose character?

Form based codes

Water/sewer capacity - adequate public facilities

Senior housing

Regional Planning - perception that City/County/State cannot work together