



Let's Talk Annapolis:
A Report on Six Months of Conversations
January - July, 2006

let's talk
ANNAPOLIS

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A. Introduction

In today's harried, diverse, and polarized society, how do we encourage and support civil and constructive conversation?

Mayor Ellen Moyer opened her second term as Mayor of Annapolis with an invitation:

"I invite every citizen to participate in small group discussions in a community-wide great conversation. It is a process for self-determination I call 'Let's Talk Annapolis'."

Let's Talk Annapolis was launched as a way to involve citizens from all walks of life in shaping life in Annapolis. Citizens were invited to join or form a conversation group to talk about the community today and directions for the future. They explored these questions: *How do we protect and improve our quality of life? How do we build a unified community? What should Annapolis become over the next 10 to 20 years? What should we do to address one specific priority?*

The Let's Talk Annapolis process has brought together groups and individuals from all over the city. They have talked collectively about quality of life issues for every citizen - traffic, growth, environmental distress, violence, drugs, and social degradation. They have talked about the future of their city, identified the elements they cherish, and suggested improvements for these they do not. They have discovered common ground and collective wisdom to nurture a culture of connection.

These conversations will also inform the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan, a plan renewed every 10 years or so to articulate a vision for the city and formulate City policy. Conversation groups have provided a comfortable setting for people to talk about their views and ideas. In Mayor Moyer's words,

"There are those who contend that talk is cheap. But talk is the most valuable currency we humans exchange, because a conversation, forthright and direct, where views are discussed openly and honestly, is an action. Nothing happens, except through conversation."

This report catalogues the Let's Talk conversations.

B. Process

Let's Talk Annapolis began as a 6-month process to involve numerous citizens in small group conversations. Each conversation group was asked to talk about the quality of life in Annapolis, the community of people that make Annapolis their home, and the next ten years. Let's Talk was launched as the City prepared to update its Comprehensive Plan, a plan governing land use, zoning, transportation, housing, environmental stewardship, economic development, growth and other aspects of city life. Let's Talk was intended to allow broad citizen input into that process, but also inject ideas and perspectives into public life generally. The hallmark of Let's Talk was for citizen participation to be accessible, comfortable, and engaging.

Outreach efforts were focused on 270 groups already active in the Annapolis community: neighborhood groups, tenant councils, a variety of interest groups, business associations, civic groups, arts groups, churches, social service providers, and the City's advisory Boards and Commissions (see Figure A). The groups were invited to host a conversation or disseminate the invitation to their memberships. Approximately 80 people responded to the invitation and attended the kick-off event on a Friday afternoon in February.

At the outset of the Let's Talk initiative, workshops were held to train people in facilitation skills. 23 people attended a facilitator's workshop, and most of them went on to facilitate, host, or participate in a conversation. A packet of training materials and conversation aides was also made available to groups (see Appendix A).

Each group began its conversation with the same four questions:

- “How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”
- “How do we build a unified community?”
- “What should Annapolis become over the next 10 to 20 years?”
- “What should we do to address one specific priority?”

Let's Talk conversations occurred in three different formats. The first and most widely attended format was for a motivated group or individual to convene a Let's Talk conversation. These conversations were scheduled at times and locations that suited the group. Usually an outside facilitator helped the group start talking, but in some instances the group self-facilitated. Most groups met once but some met as many as four times. At the close of the conversation, the group submitted a conversation report. These reports are section F of this document.

The second format was ‘Coffee with the Mayor’, a series of conversations hosted by Mayor Moyer at City Hall. These occurred every Friday morning for eight weeks in a row. The Mayor attended and participated in all but one. The reports from the Mayor's Coffees are section G of this document.

The third format was designed to engage the business community, with the City's Office of Economic Development taking the lead outreach and facilitation role. In this format, individual members of business associations were given a 7-question survey to fill out and send back. The

seven questions were not worded exactly like the four Let's Talk questions, but addressed the same topics. The responses were then compiled to discuss at future meetings of the business associations. To date, none of the business associations have scheduled a conversation about the survey results, but expect to do so in the Fall of 2006. The survey responses are section H of this document.

Ongoing communication and administration involved an email list, newsletters, and a web site.

- Email List. Approximately 480 people self-subscribed to the Let's Talk email list. Messages were posted to this list every 2-3 weeks.
- Newsletters. Two 1-page newsletters were sent out during the six-months Let's Talk initiative. Newsletters were sent to the e-mail list and the original outreach list of 270 groups. The first newsletter was sent two months after the kick-off event. The second newsletter was sent two months later. (See Appendix B)
- Web Site. Posted on the Let's Talk web site were:
 - a. The schedule of Let's Talk conversations. It included date, time, and location of the conversation, whether the conversation was open for anyone to join, and who the contact person was.
 - b. The schedule of Mayor's Coffees.
 - c. The Conversation Report form, that could be submitted online, or downloaded as a MS Word document or PDF document.
 - d. Instructions for a group to request a facilitator.
 - e. Downloadable materials to assist a group get started with a conversation.
 - f. Newsletters, released in April and June, 2006.
 - g. A link to subscribe to the Let's Talk Email list.

In July, a "debriefing" session was held, to which hosts and facilitators of Let's Talk conversations were invited to reflect on the experience. 16 people attended and shared thoughts on how the conversations had gone, how hard or easy it was for the group to come to conclusions, and how the Let's Talk program might be designed if it were to continue.

Neighborhood Associations

Admiral Farragut
 Admiral Heights Improvement Association
 Admiral Oaks Community Association
 Allen Apartments
 Ambridge Homeowners Association
 Annapolis Gardens/Bowman Courts Resident Council
 Annapolis Walk Homeowners Assn
 Annapolis Overlook Condo Association, Inc.
 August Woods Owners Assn
 Avalon Landing
 Bates Neighborhood Community Assn.
 Bay Forest Senior Apartments
 Bay Ridge Gardens Apartments Tenants Assn.
 Bay Woods Residents Assn
 Beechwood Hill Community Assn
 Bembe Beach Community Association
 Bywater Mutual Homes Community Assn
 Chesapeake Harbour Community Association
 Chesapeake Landing Condominium, Inc.
 College Creek Terrace/Obery Courts Residents Council
 Community Associations of Annapolis (CAA)
 Conte Gardens Homeowners Association
 Dutch Glen Condominium Association
 Eastport Civic Association
 Eastport Terrace/Harbour House Resident Council
 Fairfax Road Association
 Fairwinds of Annapolis Condominium Association
 Federaltown Civic Association
 Forest Villa Community Association
 Forest Village
 Gardens of Annapolis
 Gentry Homeowners Association
 Georgetown East Townhouse Association
 German Street Residents Assn.
 Germantown/Homewood Civic Association
 Glenwood High Rise Resident Council
 Green Acres Improvement Association
 Green Street Neighbors Residents Assn
 Greenbriar Gardens HOA
 Heritage Pool and Community Association
 Historic Downtown Residents Assn
 Homes at the Glen
 Horn Point Condominiums
 Hunt Meadow Community Association
 King James Landing Community Assn
 Mariners Landing Townhouse Association
 Mariners Point Community Association
 Murray Hill Residents Association
 Newtowne 20 Resident Council
 Oxford Landing Homeowners Association
 Parkwood Civic Association
 Parole Neighborhood Association
 Presidents Hill Residents Assn
 Riders Glen Association
 Robinwood Resident Council
 Saltaire Community Association
 Severn 100 Condo Assn
 Severn House Condominium Association
 Shearwater Condominium Association
 Spindrift 52 Homeowners Assn.
 Tecumseh Residential Association
 The Point Condominium
 Truxtun Heights Civic Association
 Ward One Residents Association
 Wardour Improvement Association
 Watergate Village Apartments
 West Annapolis Civic Association
 Westwinds Apartments Residents Association
 Woodside Gardens Community Association

Businesses

Maryland Ave/State Circle Association
 American Business Women's Association
 Annapolis & Anne Arundel Co Chamber of Commerce
 Annapolis & Anne Arundel Co Conf. & Visitor's Bureau
 Annapolis Business Association
 Eastport Business Association
 Inner West Street Association
 West Annapolis Business Association
 Marine Trades Association
 Annapolis Bed & Breakfast Association

Environmental Conservation

Weems Creek Conservancy
 Spa Creek Conservancy
 Severn River Association
 South River Federation
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 Annapolis Creek Alliance
 Back Creek Conservancy

Churches

Annapolis Church of God
 Annapolis Seventh Day Adventist Church
 Asbury United Methodist Church
 Bay Ridge Christian Church
 Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist
 Calvary United Methodist
 Capital Church of Christ
 Cecil Memorial United Methodist Church
 Christ is the Answer Center
 Church at the Mall
 Church of the Nazarene
 Eastport United Methodist Church
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
 First Baptist Church of Annapolis
 First Baptist Church of Eastport
 First Presbyterian Church
 Heritage Baptist Church
 Jesus Saves Family Ministry
 John Wesley United Methodist Church
 King's Apostle Holiness Church
 Kneseth Israel Synagogue
 Lighthouse Apostolic Church
 Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church
 Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church
 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
 New Hope Chapel
 Restoration Temple
 Second Baptist Church
 St. Anne's Parish
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 St. Martin's Lutheran Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 The Rapture Cathedral
 Trinity Outreach Church
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Van Buren Baptist Church

Service Organizations

Anne Arundel Co Economic Opportunity Corp.
 Anne Arundel Co Association for Retarded Citizen
 Arundel Habitat for Humanity
 Arundel Lodge
 Baltimore/Annapolis Boys and Girls Club
 Conflict Resolution Center
 Homes for America
 Young Women Empowerment
 OIC Job Readiness Center
 Parole Community Neighborhood Watch Program
 Restoration Community Development Corporation
 YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
 Annapolis Senior Center
 We Care and Friends
 Clay Street Public Safety Team
 Family Support Center
 Community Action Agency
 Stanton Center
 Annapolis Area Ministries
 Box of Rain
 Foodlink
 The Nomads
 Org. of Hispanics and Latin Americans (OHLA)
 Center of Help/Centro de Ayuda
 Rebuilding Together
 PAC of Anne Arundel Co
 AAAHC
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 Salvation Army
 Lutheran Mission Society
 Second Chance Ministries
 Samaritan House
 Chesapeake Career
 Light of the World Family Ministries
 Churches Without Boundaries

Civic Groups

American Legion Post #141
 Angels of the Knights
 Annapolis Civitan Club
 Annapolis ELKS Lodge 622
 Annapolis Jaycees, Inc.
 Annapolis Masonic Lodge #89 A.F. & A.M.
 Annapolis Optimist Club
 Annapolis Rotary Club
 Delta Sigma Theta
 ELKS Improved Benevolent & Protective Order
 Fleet Reserve Club of Annapolis
 Junior League of Annapolis
 Kiwanis Club of the Severn
 Order of the Eastern Star

City Boards and Commissions

Annapolis Conservancy Board
 Art in Public Places Commission
 Board of Appeals
 Commission on Aging
 Environmental Commission
 Historic Preservation Commission
 Housing and Community Development Committee
 Human Relations Commission
 Maritime Advisory Board
 Planning Commission
 Port Wardens
 Recreation Advisory Board
 Transportation Board
 Education Advisors Committee
 Parking Committee

Cultural Arts

American Antique Art Association of Annapolis
 Annapolis Arts Alliance
 Annapolis Chorale
 Annapolis Film Festival
 Annapolis Gallery Association
 Annapolis Opera, Inc.
 Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre
 Annapolis Symphony Orchestra
 Arundel Vocal Arts Society
 Ballet Theatre of Maryland
 Children's Theatre of Annapolis
 Colonial Players of Annapolis
 First Night Annapolis, Inc.
 Maryland Federation of Art
 Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
 Annapolis Maritime Museum
 Banneker-Douglas Museum
 Chesapeake Children's Museum
 Historic Annapolis Foundation
 Annapolis Preservation Trust

Local Interests

NAACP, Local Chapter
 Panhellenic Club of Annapolis
 Peerless Rens Club
 Robert Burns Society of Annapolis
 Order Sons of Italy
 Kunta-Kinte Alex Haley Foundation
 Commission of African-American History & Culture
 League of Women Voters of MD
 Annapolis Community Foundation
 Navy League of the U.S., Annapolis Chapter
 College Women's Club of Annapolis & AA County
 Professional Moms at Home
 Severn Town Club
 Naval Academy Women's Club
 One Less Car
 Annapolis Bicycle Club
 Annapolis Stamp Club
 Annapolis Striders
 Annapolis Woodworkers Guild
 Chesapeake Area Professional Captain's Association
 Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB)
 Colonial Coin Club
 Crabtown Squares
 Crabtowne Skiers, Inc.
 Freestate Fly Fishers Club of Annapolis
 Naval Academy Athletic Association
 Peninsula Athletic League
 Severn Sailing Association
 Six O Six Club
 Jewish War Veterans
 Military Order of the World Wars
 St. John's College Alumni, Annapolis Chapter
 St. John's College
 Naval Academy Parents & Sponsors Club of Maryland
 US Naval Academy
 USNA Alumni Association
 Annapolis Yacht Club
 Eastport Yacht Club
 Back Creek Yacht Club
 Severn River Yacht Club
 Maritime Republic of Eastport
 Mills-Parole Alumni Association
 Annapolis Youth Athletic Association
 Annapolis Elementary PTA
 West Annapolis Elementary PTA
 Germantown Elementary PTA
 Mills-Parole Elementary PTA
 Eastport Elementary PTA
 Georgetown East Elementary PTA
 Tyler Heights Elementary PTA
 Hillsmere Elementary PTA
 Bates Middle PTA
 Annapolis Middle PTA
 Adams Park Special School PTA
 St. Mary's School PTA
 St. Martin's Lutheran School PTA
 Aleph Bet Jewish Day School

C. Summary Statistics

Not every group reported the number of participants or demographic information, so statistics are approximate at best.

How many conversation groups formed?

All told, 30 groups met for a total of 49 conversations between January and July of 2006. In addition, there were 8 Mayor's Coffee conversations, each of which had some new and some continuous participants.

How many times did each conversation group meet and talk?

Of the 30 conversation groups, 19 met only once. Two groups met four times. Nine groups met two or three times. Most conversations lasted approximately 2 hours. All counted, this amounts to approximately 1,029 person hours spent in conversation.

How many people participated?

Approximately 460 people participated in at least one Let's Talk Annapolis conversation. The largest group had 40 participants. The smallest group was just four participants, plus a facilitator. The average group size was eight participants.

Demographics

1. Almost equal numbers of men and women participated.
2. Half of all participants fell in the age range of 46-65, with another third coming from the 66 plus age group. No one under the age of 25 joined a conversation. The remaining 20% or so fell in the 26-45 age bracket.
3. Roughly 75% of participants were White, 20% African-American, and 5% other ethnicities.

D. Themes

There were many good ideas noted in the conversation reports. This section only attempts to call out those themes which came up in more than one conversation.

1. **Traffic Congestion.** Numerous groups were worried about worsening traffic congestion. A few reports noted specific areas of concern: downtown, Forest Drive, Outer West Street, Chinquapin Round Road, and Aris T.Allen Boulevard.
2. **Public Transportation.** Many groups discussed public transit as a way to manage congestion, reduce car dependency, support lower income residents, support senior citizens, and connect better to regional public transit systems (MTA, Metro, etc.). There were a variety of ideas about making the system more user-friendly. Threats to public transit in Annapolis and possible next steps were discussed in depth by the Transportation Board. Requiring new development to help pay for the public transit system was suggested.
3. **New development & infrastructure.** There was considerable discussion of new development around Annapolis. There are worries that it has put strain on roads, parking capacity, stormwater infrastructure, and the water/sewer system. Requiring new developments to pay more of the costs associated with infrastructure maintenance was discussed. Many did not understand why some of the larger developments were planned and constructed as they were, eg. buildings set close to sidewalks. More than one group feared Annapolis becoming like northern Virginia (traffic congestion, sprawling development, high-rise buildings). Many wanted to limit the scale and height of new buildings.
4. **“Small Town Feel”.** Many participants appreciate and want to preserve the small town feel & function of Annapolis. Strong neighborhoods, the maritime community, the historic charm, the parks and waterways, and a diverse mix of people are all important to Annapolis’ identity. Many were worried about Annapolis, over time, becoming an enclave for the wealthy and elite, and losing moderate income households and workers (artists, fire fighters, teachers, young families, elderly, single-income households, etc.). Many groups wanted more solutions for rising housing costs that prevent an economically diverse population from flourishing.
5. **“Public schools are the heart of the community”.** There was much interest in the quality of public schools. It is in the schools that the community comes together, and addressing diversity and social tensions is most productive. Groups discussed a variety of ways to strengthen public schools, such as local control of schools, charter schools, improving middle schools in particular, magnet schools, and providing transportation among resources for school-age children.
6. **Social Unease.** Many groups were concerned about divisions and tensions in the community, and fear. Violence between groups, crime in lower income neighborhoods, and illegal drug activity were all noted as both symptom and cause of social divisions. Several groups debated how to increase opportunities for different communities within Annapolis to interact, eg. via diversity programs in schools, all-city sports teams, all-city cultural programs, and community

events. A group convened by the Islamic Society has proposed the formation of a Commission on Diversity to address this topic.

7. **Public Housing communities.** Public housing communities are feeling social tensions the most. More than one group discussed ways to support and empower public housing residents and improve public housing properties.

8. **“Powerless”.** Some groups discussed feeling powerless in public life, their perspectives “not heard” or not acted upon, feeling tired of “fighting” developers, feeling misinformed by public information, and having little effect even when participating in public life.

9. **Walking & Biking.** There were numerous comments about pedestrian and biking infrastructure as a way to support kids, neighborhoods, and community interaction. More consistent maintenance of sidewalks was desired, also lighting, and safe pedestrian crossings, in particular on Outer West Street.

10. **The Environment.** There are worries about environmental degradation in general. Specific suggestions centered on enhancing trails and access to parks and recreational facilities. Very specific benchmarks were discussed by both the Environmental Commission and the Conservancy Board, two groups versed in detailed aspects of environmental preservation.

E. Action Steps proposed by conversation groups, in response to question #4: “What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?”

This list is not prioritized, but loosely organized in chronological order. Many groups noted difficulty in choosing one specific priority action due to the inter-related nature of issues and relatively short amount of time spent talking. For these Actions to become implementable, considerable clarification and follow-up will be needed.

1. The issue is Transportation. (Bay Woods group, 3/19/06 & 5/7/06)
 - Regionally, we must work with the federal, state, and county governments to create and encourage better rail/bus links into DC, Baltimore, and BWI.
 - Locally, we need many buses on small schedules operating throughout the city providing more transit options. We should consider user fees or taxes to fund what is currently un-fundable.
 - Pursue ‘smart and cheap’ upgrades to road systems such as improved traffic light controllers, to make more immediate improvements.
 - Transportation will remain an integrated, multifaceted problem requiring concerted efforts on the part of many different groups and people.
2. Improve the bus system by introducing more customer feedback into its management: form a Customer Advisory Panel to meet regularly with accountable system managers. Panel should address needs like a) Information (signage, materials), b) Naming routes rather than using colors, c) Learning from comparable systems elsewhere, d) Research merging with other area systems, e) Kiosks/websites that give real-time information. (Transportation group, 3/26/06 & 4/23/06)
3. Careful planning to address traffic, volume and design of housing, density, business uses, annexation, impacts on school system, pollution, crime. (Ahhh Coffee group, 3/30/06)
4. Appoint a City official to ensure the following: Take better care of our senior citizens involving them in planning, expanding their benefits such as free public transportation. Plan to update their affordable housing so their living conditions are acceptable, as highlighted in their discussions. Group felt it was not good enough for the City to say they were not responsible for public housing, the City needs to ensure conditions are acceptable for their citizens. (Glenwood High Rise group, 3/30/06)
5. Enforcement of existing City regulations. (Ward 1, 4/20/06)
6. Institute a citizen planning advisory group. (Ward 1, 4/20/06)
7. Review and update Ward 1 Sector Study. (Ward 1, 4/20/06)
8. Create a development strategy and stick to it. (Ward 1, 4/20/06)

9. Replace the printed bus schedules that use confusing clock face images with traditional numerical HH:MM AM/PM schedules. (Transportation group, 4/23/06)
10. School principals to be more welcoming of prospective parents' visits. (Children, 4/26/06)
11. Forums for adults to examine and put historical racial divide in perspective. (Children, 4/26/06)
12. The City should create "satellite villages". Using a major building or park as a focal/anchor point, eg. Catholic Church on Bestgate Road. The City should plan a mini-village around such a focal point and include the essential services, eg. groceries, post office, mixed housing, park, etc. and enforce new developers to include sidewalks/bike trails. All points raised in this report, eg. how to attract diverse populations and necessary businesses, increased ability to get around without a car, and human scale planning should be considered while planning these satellite villages. (Library group, 4/19/06 & 5/3/06)
13. Increase forest cover by planting 5,000 native trees. Increase open space land by 400 acres. Decrease effective impervious surface to 25%. Monitor and establish water quality benchmarks for all local waterways. Provide another mile of walkable shoreline open to the public. Inventory hardened shorelines and create living shorelines in their place by 100%. Engage at least five neighborhoods or groups a year in environmental programs. Initiate a commercial recycling program. (Annapolis Environmental Commission, May, 2006)
14. Create a Commission on Diversity. (Islamic Society, May - June, 2006)
15. A vibrant downtown: commercial, cultural, maritime center. a) Get rid of cars and parking at city dock. b) Cease building competing commercial centers in the outskirts such as Annapolis Neck. c) Establish/strengthen public transportation between City and outer areas. d) Assign a planner from the outset to each planning area, in and around Annapolis. e) Height and architectural restrictions in keeping with the downtown image. (Hillsmere group, 5/3/06 & 5/10/06)
16. Restructure Public Housing under competent management. a) Implement replicable programs in other parts of the U.S. that have had proven results. b) Establish programs to transition out of public housing, eg. subsidized home ownership. c) Investigate a housing voucher system (Sec.8) to achieve more integration and variety of housing for renters. (Hillsmere group, 5/3/06 & 5/10/06)
17. Stop the growth boom with its adverse impacts on Annapolis suburbs like Annapolis Neck. a) All proposals based on conclusive studies of traffic impacts and effect on river.

- b) No proposals for commercial development that would weaken the downtown economic base. c) No proposals without citizen input. d) All proposals to include height limits in scale with existing character of neighborhoods. (Hillsmere group, 5/3/06 & 5/10/06)
18. Housing Authority should send letter to inform residents they have to complete their community service hours - 8 hours per month. If don't comply, are subject to eviction. Look into Internet access for the computer lab, and volunteers to staff. (Robinwood Resident Council, 5/9/06)
 19. Enforcement of Housing Authority rules (Eastport Terrace group, 5/19/06). For example,
 - Evict tenants who cause disruption,
 - Enforce the "resident/visitor" rule and get rid of the people who hang out in the community without being on the leases,
 - Enforce the community service rule (x number of hours per month in community service is required for tenants who are fit and healthy and not currently working). The group felt these hours (could exceed 1,000 per month) could be used to force tenants to become involved in meetings/training/neighborhood clean-up, etc.
 20. Open Eastport Terrace computer lab. (Eastport Terrace group, 5/19/06)
 21. Control development. (New Annapolitans, 5/23/06)
 22. Establish a diversity program for the Annapolis cluster schools and communities to foster tolerance and understanding of the school community and greater community. (Education Advisory Committee)
 23. Establish a citizen group to define problems facing the City and report to the Ward 1 Alderman once a month. (Murray Hill Residents Assn., 6/14/06)
 24. Establish citizen advisory groups and make one member of each group a voting member of the City Council. (Murray Hill Residents Assn., 6/14/06)
 25. Encourage other residents to join advisory committees and to participate in the Let's Talk citizen group advising Planning & Zoning. (Murray Hill Residents Assn., 6/14/06)
 26. Improve the elementary and middle schools by either giving the City (and the parents) control over the schools or creating charter schools. (Germantown-Homewood area group, 6/14/06)
 27. Create a comprehensive Park & Rec Plan at the same time as the Comprehensive Plan, going through a similar process, and having the Park & Rec Plan become a component of the Comp. Plan. A survey to adjust programs to specific wants and needs of residents would be part of the pre-plan review. (Recreation Board, 6/14/06)

28. Need to feel safe. Want Police in Public Housing and walking in community. Reduce murders of young black men. Affordable housing. (Ward 6 group, 6/21/06)
29. Give the City control over its public schools: 1) Hire a consultant to set up an advisory board. 2) Implement after-school transportation for middle school students to off-site educational facilities, eg. libraries, Maryland Hall, sports programs. 3) Bring the middle class back to the middle schools especially, by encouraging charter schools and magnet schools. (Germantown-Homewood area group, 6/28/06)
30. Pass a law that bars discrimination based on income source so that 8a vouchers can be accepted anywhere in the City. (Housing & Community Development Committee, April-June, 2006)
31. Better public housing (PH) property management, including beautifying facilities, redeveloping facilities, accountability, security, and counseling services (about how to exit public housing). Education outreach to dispel myths about PH tenants. Give people a vision for getting out PH and help them to do so. Make PH a better place to live, as well as the neighborhoods surrounding them. Attempt to make PH a short-term option. Redevelop PH through public/private partnerships. Work with the courts to gain support; the Housing Authority must follow rules - but then it is not supported by the courts. Property management should be more rigorous. Study the success stories for PH around the world and implement the best solutions here. (Housing & Community Development Committee, April - June, 2006)
32. Identify high quality open space through the Open Space Task Force and double the City's protected open space land for a total of 400 acres (Annapolis Conservancy Board, May-July, 2006) by:
 - Requiring that the P&Z Department work with developers to ensure that the environmentally sensitive portions of any development site (and no less than 30% of the total acreage) be preserved in permanent conservation easements administered by the Annapolis Conservancy Board.
 - Program Open Space funds.
 - Partnership with other land trusts.
 - MAFPE.
 - Soliciting private donors to place a portion of their property into a permanent conservation easement.
 - Developer incentives through the P&Z Department and by ordinance.
 - Following the Open Space Task Force recommendations.
33. The City needs to develop a partnership with the owners of conservation easements in order to create, fund, and implement maintenance plans for invasives removal (Annapolis Conservancy Board, May-July, 2006) by:
 - Requiring developers/homeowner's associations to post bonds to pay for the long-

- term maintenance of conservation easements.
 - Providing City resources to individual homeowners to help defray the costs of maintenance.
 - Support HOA's and homeowners in pursuing environmental grants.
 - The City needs to ensure the integrity of easement properties where the City is not the owner, like with properties owned and managed by homeowner's associations that no longer exist.
34. Annapolis must remain a safe city. Growing insecurity is the biggest threat to our quality of life and must be addressed before it becomes irreversible. All efforts in preserving Annapolis' unique quality of life would be wasted if our citizen could not freely enjoy their city. Safety has to be our first priority. (Wardour group)
 35. Improve communication by investing in a state-of-the-art professional public relations/communications organization to facilitate effective, authentic dialogue, problem solving and change. (Southwoods group, June-July, 2006)
 36. Engage the brightest, most highly evolved minds to deal with our problems from a corporate (vs. bureaucratic/governmental) perspective. We highly recommend they examine and recommend change to communication at all levels, including: a) within the city government (inter and intra-departmental); b) Between the city and other governments that should be our partners but too frequently are our adversaries (intra-governmental); c) With the citizens of the city (the sending out of information and the receiving back of information. (Southwoods group, June-July, 2006)
 37. The city needs to strengthen the mission and the staffing, including legal support, of planning and zoning to better analyze the holistic affects of proposed developments and growth with protection of the quaint neighborhoods and quality of life as the overall mission and goal, as well as enforcement of regulations. (Presidents Hill, June 20 & July 11, 2006)
 38. Support continuing Let's Talk-type small conversations to resolve the issues noted in our report. Have 4 city-wide topics per year and increase public awareness of the program - promote it in the City magazine, through PSAs and signage, etc. The first three topics could be built around the themes of "Come Together Annapolis", "Civility Conference", and "Ownership of City". Have the Let's Talk rules laminated on big cards, support hosts, have a launch party. Maintain a program coordinator. (Mayor's Coffee, May-July, 2006)

F. The Conversation Reports

Each conversation group was asked to submit a conversation report at the close of their meeting(s). The reports were not intended to serve as minutes or notes, but merely to capture the highlights of the conversation.

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: March 19 & May 7, 2006
Group name: Bay Woods/Ward 7
Reporter's name: Chuck Weikel
Person leading the conversation: Chuck Weikel
Place of the conversation: Bay Woods
How long did the conversation last? 1.5 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Transportation & Transit, including bus service on Edgewood Road.
Environment: clean fuels; enhance recycling; work with State & federal agencies on coal-fired plants, runoff, Bay; flexibility of environmental regulations.
Congestion & growth.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Include leaders of disputes in your decision making.
Define common values and commonality of experience -- what does it mean to be an Annapolitan?
Significant issues should be shared by all communities -- not just those affected.
Include and involve the excluded and undocumented.
Educate people on community issues.
Let's Talk --> needs more mixed and diverse groups.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

The 'big three' issues --> growth, transportation and economic development.
A more comprehensive planning process that is inclusive of all issues, especially transportation.
Annapolis should preserve its small town identity.
Annapolis should preserve its maritime identity.

Annapolis needs a diversity of economic development.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The issue is: TRANSPORTATION

Regionally, we must work with the Federal, State and County governments to create and encourage better rail / bus links into DC, Baltimore and BWI.

Locally, we need many busses on small schedules operating throughout the city providing more transit options. We should consider user fees or taxes to fund what is currently un-fundable.

Pursue 'smart and cheap' upgrades to road systems such as improved traffic light controllers, to make more immediate improvements.

Transportation will remain and integrated, multifaceted problem requiring concerted efforts on the part of many different groups and people.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 5 66+ 35

Genders: Male 20 Female 20

Races/Ethnicities: White

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___March 21, 2006
Group name: ___Quaker Dudes
Reporter's name: ___Don Lamb-Minor
Person leading the conversation: ___Don Lamb-Minor
Place of the conversation: ___Home of Will Candler
How long did the conversation last? ___3 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The group tried to come to clearness on the term "Quality of Life" and discovered that while not absolute, this term does hold common ground amongst our group. Three reoccurring characteristics among the conversation's participants were Education Environment and Culture. The group made no effort during this first "Let's Talk" Conversation to make recommendations as to how to enhance the quality of life in the City; choosing instead to continue our dialog over the next few months before considering any recommendations. Our next conversation will take place on April 18th, at 7:00 PM.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 __7__ 66+ __5__

Genders: Male _11__ Female __1__

Races/Ethnicities: __4 African American, 8 European American _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___March 26, 2006
Group name: ___Transportation SIG
Reporter's name: ___David M. DiQuinzio
Person leading the conversation: ___David M. DiQuinzio
Place of the conversation: ___49 West
How long did the conversation last? ___2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Sense of place, connection to history, cultural assets, human scale. Consensus among participants is that walkability, public transportation and the ability to live either car-free or with a car but using it less, either by choice or necessity, must be preserved and expanded. If this does not occur, new development will overwhelm the City's transportation systems.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

This group sees connectivity and ease of movement both within City limits and to/from the City as vital to unity. Car dependency, in the group's opinion, has created islands of people within the City who cannot fully participate in its economic and cultural life due to their limited access to cars. The City's public transportation system is a lifeline for these individuals, but its buses operate too infrequently and to too few destinations along too few routes to attract the "choice rider". Choice riders create and enhance diversity by allowing people of different backgrounds to understand each others' situations and move away from the stereotypical generalizations they form about each other when isolated.

The City must do more to encourage use of public transit by "professionals." It should be easy and convenient for them to get out of their cars and to offices/meetings/etc., on time, e.g., a stop outside a place like Starbucks, where they could get coffee-to-go, as well as perhaps a kiosk there that gives them real-time scheduling info/ticket purchase. Currently, the frequency, stop locations, and reliability of the system are below par for such "professional" usage.

This will all require working more closely with the County and other Metroplex-area systems to encourage linkages and synergies.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

This group sees Annapolis as a center of urban innovation that masters the balance between history and progress, not as a suburb of DC and Baltimore, a tourist mecca (although this group welcomes tourists and appreciates their

contribution to the economy) or a parking lot for state legislators and employees. This group sees an Annapolis that embraces the future, even if the future brings continuing energy challenges. Should, for example, gas prices remain high or climb higher, this group wants Annapolis to make lemonade from the lemons and market itself as place that "welcomes residents and visitors alike with urban amenities, a sense of place and with mobility - with or without a car". By adopting this vision, the City will attract world-class entrepreneurs and businesses who will look to employ the many talented people living here who are burned out from long and costly commutes to DC, Northern VA, etc.

We need to work hard at changing government funding for public transit – over funding for more roads (which is 4x the amount of transit funding).

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

This group sees an urgent need to improve the bus system by introducing more customer feedback into its management. This group recommends the immediate formation of a Customer Advisory Panel made up of regular riders that meets monthly and makes recommendations directly to the system's managers. Along with this, the City administration needs to convey to the system's managers that it will hold them accountable for responsiveness to the Panel's input and recommendations.

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 4 46-65 2 66+ _____

Genders: Male 3 Female 3

Races/Ethnicities: Caucasian _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Most of the participants in this group have either driven or ridden with a driver in the congested DC, Baltimore and Northern Virginia areas and, having done so, want Annapolis to avoid the transportation planning mistakes that have been made in these areas. Most in this group also have mixed feelings about the pace and type of development taking place within the City. They understand that much of it is walkable and will be attractive to buyers who are looking to drive less. But the consensus view is that there will be traffic effects. Meanwhile, the City seems to want the benefits of development in terms of tax revenue without doing the hard work and spending the necessary funds for improving transportation. In this manner, the City risks the same "golden egg" syndrome that Northern VA in particular has fallen into. Also, some members of this group were aware of the Regional Transportation Vision process that has been underway and some participated in its public meetings. They had some knowledge of its findings and they were gravely disappointed that its focus appears to be mainly roads-only with lip service to trails walking paths and no mention of future light rail service, even though the latter was brought up repeatedly at the meetings.

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Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___April 23, 2006
Group name: ___Transportation SIG
Reporter's name: ___David M. DiQuinzio
Person leading the conversation: ___David M. DiQuinzio
Place of the conversation: ___Cafe Gurus
How long did the conversation last? ___1.5 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

This was a continuation of the March 26 conversation at 49 West regarding transportation. The group reiterated its view that increasing mobility by reducing the need to drive everywhere in town is key to protecting and improving our quality of life.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

This was a continuation of the March 26 conversation at 49 West regarding transportation. The group reiterated its view that the mobility limits imposed by our largely car-dependent transportation systems upon individuals who cannot afford cars, are too young or too old to drive, or have physical impairments that preclude driving directly and negatively affect our sense of community and unity. This is due to the isolation and segmentation of people into "drivers" and "non-drivers" our car-dependent development patterns and zoning regulations cause. To build a more unified community that honors our rich diversity, we should refocus our efforts and our expenditures away from roads and parking spaces and toward walking, bicycling and public transit. We should create a map of the sidewalks in the area as well.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

This was a continuation of the March 26 conversation at 49 West regarding transportation. The group reiterated its view that Annapolis should position itself as the "City of choice" among people who are specifically looking to drive less or give up their cars entirely. To the surprise of some members of this group, the City is already home to several such individuals - men and women who can afford cars, but choose to spend their money on other things and (1) use public transportation and (2) rent cars when the occasion warrants it.

Action Item***What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?***

This was a continuation of the March 26 conversation at 49 West regarding transportation. The group discussed the bus system in further detail and reiterated its view that a Customer Advisory Panel is needed. One issue such a panel would tackle first, the group agreed, is the difficult-to-read but graphically innovative bus schedules the system's management publishes. These schedules use clock face images to depict when to expect a bus operating on a given route to stop at a given station. Members of this group recounted numerous instances of observing people - residents and visitors alike - starting at these images in total confusion for several minutes and giving up in frustration from trying to understand them without success. Members also took an informal poll among themselves as to whether or not they had ever visited any other city that used such a format for bus or train scheduling and found that none had despite extensive international travel experiences among themselves. One member of the group recalled that when the clock face schedules were implemented, it was done with no rider input and because the manager at the time thought the idea was "cool". This group strongly recommends abandoning the clock face schedules for traditional numerical HH:MM AM/PM scheduling like the rest of the world uses.

Also, in general this group should explore a variety of issues, including: 1. addressing an "information" problem – currently, it is difficult to figure out how to use the system for residents and visitors alike, hence, more signage may be necessary and the development and distribution of more/better materials; 2. re-naming of the routes with route names – as opposed to colors, so as to be more intuitive; 3. researching other transit systems that have been successful for more ideas to adopt, e.g., how other bus systems (Dillon, MTA) do so well at staying on time; 4. researching the possibility of merging with any other area systems; 5. providing kiosks/website that give real-time information.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 3 46-65 2 66+ _____
 Genders: Male 3 Female 2
 Races/Ethnicities: Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

This was a continuation of the March 26 conversation at 49 West regarding transportation. Members of this group were aware that Annapolis had rail service years ago from a station at Bladen Street to Baltimore via a bridge over the Severn River between the Route 450 and US 50/301 bridges and to DC via a right-of-way paralleling West Street, through the site of today's Annapolis Mall and parallel with Defense Highway. The group lamented the shortsightedness of the post-WWII road-building orgy, which severed these rights-of-way. One member of the group (the writer) asserted to the others that based on his own layman's research, Annapolis is approaching the density and car saturation levels at which it must begin to plan for rail service in some form now because such an effort typically occurs over 10, 15 or even 20 years. By then, the City will either be in gridlock or its economic development will have ceased as businesses and residents flee to less congested areas. The other members expressed skepticism, but concurred that looking at rail options should not be ruled out.

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 160 Duke of Gloucester Street
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___March 30, 2006
Group name: ___Ahhh Coffee
Reporter's name: ___Paul Rensted
Person leading the conversation: ___Paul Rensted
Place of the conversation: ___Ahhh Coffee
How long did the conversation last? ___2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Address too much traffic and access to downtown which is becoming completely cut off from everything because of overdevelopment. Need to build upon existing public transportation.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Many strong communities (Naval Academy, St. Johns, Boating, Historic, public housing etc.) - but that are not connected and do not seem to overlap.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Determine the impact of the Susquehanna River Dam that is in jeopardy or it will not matter.

A more unified community with programs and activities for children and youth.

Deep concern over traffic and crime and overdevelopment.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Much more careful planning. And planning must address:
traffic
volume and design of housing
density
business uses
annexation (which needs study before it happens)
Impacts on school system
Stop the present build first, worry second
Do impact assessments before development
Address pollution (air and water)
Crime

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 4 66+ _____

Genders: Male 2 Female 2

Races/Ethnicities: White _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ____3/30/2006
Group name: ____Glenwood & surrounding public housing residents
Reporter's name: _____Kirby & Alison
Person leading the conversation: _____Alison Kelly
Place of the conversation: _____Glenwood Heights
How long did the conversation last? _____2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied **Neutral /Unsatisfied** Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The group's response was that they really enjoyed the convenience of their location easy access to places/water view, cost factor of their housing was good. They also expressed their dissatisfaction with some of their living quarters e.g. not enough parking places, trash being thrown by residents leading to rodents, mold on windows, utility bills too high, no ventilation in building which leads to health issues. The group is concerned about the impact of Park Place on their facility and lack of resources to update their buildings. Some attendees wanted more happy hours/entertainment.

Another concern addressed was the lack of opportunity for Annapolis youth who are not on the college path, lack of job training opportunity for these teenagers who end up on drugs as a result of nothing to do/lack of opportunity.

Inability to purchase homes they have lived in for a long time.

Suggested ways the group felt may help to address their concerns;

Appoint a city official to work with residents and housing authority to better highlight their issues, talk to residents, train residents and hold them accountable for maintaining their units to avoid rodents etc. They would also like the City to assist with managing and hiring more staff and getting involved in complete renovation of buildings and develop more affordable housing in future city planning to allow for the growing number of retirees needing assistance.

Introduce more "vocational training" and have more after school facilities for Annapolis Youth.

The residents committee of Glenwood agreed that they should continue to also take self-ownership for some improvements in living conditions e.g. gardening & entertainment.

Introduce a true affordable housing with credit for time spent as a tenant/rent paid and true affordable mortgages to gradually transform public housing into semi-private housing estates.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral **Unsatisfied** Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

The group felt strongly about respecting the contribution retirees can make to the community and respect what they have already contributed.

Concerns were raised as to the level of immigration and concerns over possible illegal immigrants taking over labor positions that Annapolis Youth could be trained for.

Lack of understanding of new members of our community, in particular the Hispanic population.

Suggested ways the group felt may help to address their concerns;

Appoint a City official to enforce strict city controls for immigration, ensuring all immigrants are properly documented.

Organize meetings and community cross culture events to gain a better understanding of different cultures.

Develop recreation activities for children of all cultures to participate.

Better communication between residents/Aldermen/City officials on all issues.

Expand benefits to senior's e.g. free public transportation during off-peak hours so senior citizens can move around town.

Include seniors in city planning, carefully looking at future number of retirees (demographics).

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic **Optimistic** Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Annapolis should remain a diverse community both cultural and economical.

Continue to reach out to those who need help. Ensure Annapolis does not become full of wealthy homeowners but has a diverse population both culturally and economically.

Tighter control on immigration.

More places for youth and seniors.

Plan for the changing demographics (baby boomer retirees etc.)

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Appoint a City official to ensure the following;

Take better care of senior citizens involving them in planning, expanding their benefits such as free public transportation. Plan to update their affordable housing so their living conditions are acceptable as highlighted in their discussions. Group felt it was not good enough for the City to say they were not responsible for public housing; the City needs to ensure conditions are acceptable for their citizens.

*Although the group felt all issues they discussed needed to be addressed this was selected as priority action as the majority of attendees were retirees living in affordable housing.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 5 66+ 21

Genders: Male 12 Female 14 (approximate numbers)

Races/Ethnicities: _____ African American 90%/ Caucasian 10%_

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Both city facilitators believe it would be beneficial to meet with this group to discuss action items in further detail as so much was covered in the first meeting.

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___April 18, 2006
Group name: ___Quaker Dudes
Reporter's name: ___Don Lamb-Minor
Person leading the conversation: ___Don Lamb-Minor
Place of the conversation: ___Irv Winters' home
How long did the conversation last? ___3 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

The group discussed the plethora of communities in and around Annapolis, and ideas to unify those communities. Ideas mostly included more Let's Talk type conversations in and around the city, and projects that allowed people from diverse backgrounds to work together and converse. This particular group of men has been meeting for almost 6 years, is racially diverse and its attendees are very comfortable discussing even the most difficult issues for men. It is not unusual that this group would lean toward a conversational approach. The group felt that Annapolis is not a unified community but did not see this as a problem. Instead it saw benefits in the city as a collection of unified communities, and promise in city's nurturing of those communities. There was a general feeling in the group that political leaders tended to favor a non-unified community.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 __8__ 66+ __5__

Genders: Male _13__ Female _____

Races/Ethnicities: __4 African American, 9 European American _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: April 20, 2006

Group name: Ward 1

Reporter's name: Amanda Hunt-Fegley

Person leading the conversation: Hollis Minor

Place of the conversation: 1st Presbyterian Church Duke of Gloucester

How long did the conversation last? _____

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

“DETERIORATING” “THREATENED”

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

ENFORCE EXISTING RULES
MUST DEMONSTRATE COMPATABILITY WITH A FUTURE VISION
CITY OVERDEVELOPED – PUT MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT
IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, NOT PIECEMEAL BITS
CITY TOO TOURIST-FOCUSED ATTITUDE/EVENT VENUE
OVER-ANNEXATION
TOO MUCH ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION
SCALE OF CITY NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED TO SUSTAIN “SMALL TOWN FEELING”
USE COMMON SENSE

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

UNIFICATION-OUTREACH BY THE CITY; MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT
DETERMINE WHY \$ USED IN CLAY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD NOT SHOWING
PROGRESS

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

HAVE A MARKET HOUSE VIABLE FOR LOCALS TO USE – NOT JUST FOR TOURISTS

INFRASTRUCTURE-ENFORCE EXISTING CODE
LIQUOR CODE-NUMBER OF LICENSES CURRENTLY UNLIMITED
BUSINESS VISION-BUSINESSES MUST FIT INTO THE GREATER PICTURE/VISION OF CITY
ENCOURAGE OWNERSHIP IN DOWNTOWN

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

ENGAGE IN ENFORCEMENT OF MANY EXISTING REGULATIONS THAT WOULD RESOLVE MANY PROBLEMS!!!

INSTITUTE CITIZEN PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

REVIEW WARD 1 SECTOR STUDY AND UPDATE IT

CREATE A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

COMMITMENT BY CITY THAT OUTCOME OF THIS *Let's Talk* PROCESS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 66+ _____

Genders: Male _____ Female _____

Races/Ethnicities: All Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___April 26, 2006

Group name: ___Children

Reporter's name: ___Debbie Wood

Person leading the conversation: ___Debbie Wood

Place of the conversation: ___Chesapeake Children's Museum

How long did the conversation last? ___1 hr. 15

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

1. Pathways - need to encourage walking events, programs for children and families
2. Public schools are devalued as an option by many in middle class which tips the balance in enrollment toward families in poverty, adding challenges to each classroom and overall stress to the school's functioning; parents in poverty avoid participation in public schools due to painful associations from their own school experience, leading to less parent support for the school

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

1. Huge racial divide within the city. Barriers need to be broken - easiest in childhood and through schools and after school activities
2. Parents, especially those new to Annapolis, are isolated from social support - connections could be made through neighborhood schools, which could augment public school as the first choice for families when children become of school age
3. Adults need to examine and let go of "baggage" from the history of race relations in our country and in this community (the real estate profession perpetuates separate communities through their sales practices)

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Lots to fix, but to paraphrase Frederick Douglass: Nothing changes without agitation.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Focus was on connecting parents to one another and to their neighborhood public schools. Lots of minor issues are related: prejudice, poverty, past experience with schools, being able to walk to one's neighborhood school, cultural clashes.

Actions: direct principals to be more welcoming of prospective parents' visits (through Board of Ed), forums for adults to examine and be able to put historical racial divide in perspective (at new Bates project)

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 2 46-65 4 66+ _____

Genders: Male 2 Female 4

Races/Ethnicities: 3 white, 3 African American _____

Attendees: Tony Spencer, Jessica Farrar, Janet Norman, Wayne Taylor, Debbie Wood, Rhonda Pindell Charles

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

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Date of the conversation: 4/19/06 & 5/3/06

Group name: Open meetings, Public Library, West Street.

Reporter's name: Alison Kelly

Person leading the conversation: __Alison Kelly

Place of the conversation: ___Public Library, West Street

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours each session Total of 4 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied

Satisfied/Neutral

Unsatisfied

Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The majority of attendees were long-term residents of Annapolis (30+ years) and they collectively enjoyed the improvements made downtown from the boarded up stores of the 1960's to today's protected historic district. However, they expressed grave concerns over large developments such as West Street & Park Place, which they see as adding to congestion, too close to roads etc. They do not believe the city residents' opinions were taken into account in these plans.

The group wanted to protect the diversity of city residents, economical, ethnical, in addition to a variety of occupations such as emergency workers, teachers, and watermen etc., and to include encouragement for "artists" to live in the area, since they give Annapolis a unique flavor.

The ability to live, work & shop downtown is important to residents. It was felt that this neighborhood/village feeling is deteriorating due to several reasons;

- (a) **Lack of Footpath/Bike Trails:** Inability to get around by foot or bike due to lack of sidewalks in new planning; poor maintenance of existing sidewalks and no planning for bike routes around town. Bikes are used as a major form of transportation for the growing immigrant population and it was felt the city should plan for this to help minimize additional cars as this segment of the population grows.
- (b) **Insufficient public transportation:** the group felt the need for more regular shuttles around town, free-parking shuttle buses, expanded bus hours for those working in the city. Congestion is leading to unreliable bus services, and alternatives, such as: smaller sized buses, bus lanes during peak hours, trams, etc., all should be investigated to increase usage of public transportation.
- (c) **Economic Circumstances:** Due to the increase in property value many long-term residents are being pushed out of the city, changing the demographics of the City from several economic groups to "McMansion" owners/ people of high income. True affordable housing grants should be made available to allow our teachers/emergency workers to live in the City. Long-term residents should receive "grandfather" status on property taxes that may force them to leave.
- (d) **Lack of Pedestrian Crossings:** This group in particular, was very concerned about their inability to cross

West Street safely. Much discussion took place about City/County responsibilities, since West Street falls under both jurisdictions. The general consensus of the group was that both governments need to work more closely together, or reassign responsibilities. A crosswalk is needed immediately **BEFORE A SERIOUS INJURY OR FATALITY** occurs. Several options were discussed and it was believed that the cost could be as high at \$200K.

- (e) **Lack of essential businesses for City residents:** The consensus of the group was that every “village” needs the following businesses within easy walking/public transport access;
- 1) Essential groceries e.g. milk, bread, preferable full supermarket
 - 2) Post Office
 - 3) Bank
 - 4) Library
 - 5) Entertainment e.g. small art galleries/theaters
 - 6) Hardware Store.
- The City should create tax incentives for “targeted businesses” that city residents have requested.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral **Unsatisfied** Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

The general consensus was that Annapolis is quickly losing its diversity and needs to act fast to save it. 30 years ago many different social groups lived in Annapolis, watermen, artists, first time buyers, locals who stayed through retirement, private and public housing. These groups are being pushed out due to high house prices. The City should create incentives for certain groups, e.g.;

1. A realistic affordable-housing mortgage lending to residents who serve the city on a “service pay-back” basis, e.g., police officers offered a home mortgage with grants affordable to family income, if guaranteeing to be available for 5 years service similar to Naval Academy graduates. The City needs to investigate proven transitional home ownership programs that have worked in Europe.
2. Similar tax incentives could be given to select occupations, e.g., Artists. Rising artists agree to pay back tax breaks on future earnings. Annapolis should become a “Mecca” for Artists (from canvas to theatre) similar to Seattle – investigate their programs.
3. Public Housing, e.g., Clay Street needs real focus to combat crime, drugs. The City needs to review similar US cities’ rejuvenation programs and conduct on smaller scale.
4. The City and its residents need to outreach to the Hispanic community ensuring that they are not taken advantage of by landlords/employers and also encourage them to assimilate into our society through joint cultural exchanges and language classes. Reach out before crime leaders have a chance to infiltrate disillusioned youth in this community.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic **Optimistic** Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

The general consensus was that planning should be “Human Scale” – there should never be a place in Annapolis or surrounding areas where you can’t see the sky from the street; reduce the size of buildings, including large single-family homes. As the Annexations increase it is harder for the City to maintain its village atmosphere so this will need to be planned carefully using “anchors” (key focal buildings/parks) to plan “satellite villages” around.

The City should work hard to maintain a diversity of residents and businesses.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The City should create “**satellite villages**”. Using a major building or park as a focal/anchor point, e.g., Catholic Church on Best Gate Road... The City should plan a mini-village around such a focal point and include the essential services e.g. groceries, post office, mixed housing, park, etc., and ENFORCE new developers to include sidewalks/bike trails. All points raised in this report, e.g., how to attract diverse populations and necessary businesses, increased ability to get around without a car, and human scale planning should be considered while planning these satellite villages.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 2 46-65 9 66+ _____

Genders: Male 4 Female 7

Races/Ethnicities: Caucasians – 1 European

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

This group included 2 elected city councilors. The 9 residents in attendance appeared eager to play a role in the future of Annapolis and the Facilitator suggests that the Mayor consider inviting attendees to future Let’s Talk or similar community outreach in the future.

Please return this form to: Let’s Talk Annapolis
c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Annapolis Environmental Commission “Let’s Talk” Summary

1. Quality of Life: How do we protect and improve our quality of life?
 - a. Indicators like water quality should be monitored and improved
 - b. Preserve and add forest cover
 - c. We need more access to the water and educate folks about where water access exists
 - d. Stop sediment running into creeks
 - e. Establish environmental benchmarks so we can know where we are and where we are growing
 - f. Do a better job of educating the public about environmental issues
 - g. Enhance recycling programs like commercial recycling
 - h. Enhance and give greater importance to stormwater management issues
 - i. Stricter stormwater management enforcement
 - j. Initiate baseline environmental data using professionals and volunteers because we really have no baseline
 - k. Incorporate Annapolis into “Severn River Management Tool”
 - l. We are losing the remaining open land that hasn’t been developed, so we need to preserve more open space
 - m. Build more sidewalks and adopt legislation for sidewalk construction
 - n. Bus transportation after 8pm

2. Building a Community: How do we build a unified community?
 - a. Educate citizens about how the environment affects our quality of life and health (speaker’s bureau)(Doctor’s office)
 - b. Empower local communities so they can tackle environmental issues in their communities
 - c. The AEC should facilitate environmental initiatives city-wide
 - d. Educate folks about improving water quality, preserving forests and open space, and access to the water
 - e. Promote more environmental volunteerism
 - f. Implement environmental curriculum in local schools similar to the Clear Air Initiative (Cloud 9)
 - g. Target non-participating communities for GreenScape

3. The future of Annapolis: What should Annapolis become over the next 10 to 20 years?
 - a. National leader in preservation of tree cover and open space
 - b. Walkable natural shorelines throughout Annapolis
 - c. A national model for a “Green City” (ecotourism)
 - d. We will have a rail link to existing systems

- e. Establish firm City boundaries surrounded by green band
- f. Highest per capita water usage by increasing access to the water
- g. First City to reduce impervious surface

4. What should we do to address these questions? What is one action? Who should do it? What might it cost? **How do we pay for it?**

- a. Increase forest cover by planting 5,000 native trees
- b. Increase open space land by 400 acres
- c. Decrease effective impervious surface to 25%
- d. Monitor and establish water quality benchmarks for all local waterways
- e. Provide another mile of walkable shoreline open to public
- f. Inventory hardened shorelines and create living shorelines in their place by 100%
- g. Engage at least five neighborhoods or groups a year in environmental programs
- h. Initiate a commercial recycling program

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: May 6; June 3, 17, 24
Group name: Diversity
Reporter's name: _____
Person leading the conversation: Martha Scott
Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers
How long did the conversation last? 1 1/2 hr. each

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The Diversity, by encouraging each group to fully participate in city life. This can be ~~ensured~~ facilitated by creating a commission on Diversity see attached proposal

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

See attached proposal

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PLANNING & ZONING

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

We were both very optimistic if the commission or a like vehicle is created, and we were very pessimistic if it is not. We see great potential within the city, but there are also problems ~~is~~ festering just below the surface that must be addressed.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Create a Commission on Diversity

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

see appendix of ~~report~~ proposal

Ages: Under 25 ____ 26-45 ____ 46-65 ____ 66+ ____

Genders: Male ____ Female ____

Races/Ethnicities: _____

we averaged 11 people per session equally divided between men & women.

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

We intend to take the proposal to various civic, community and religious group for their input and then submit the proposal with any additions that the various groups recommend to city council in Sept. or Oct.

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
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160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY

A PROPOSAL

by

THE LET'S TALK ANNAPOLIS
CONVERSATION ON DIVERSITY

June 24, 2006

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I. Mission Statement

The mission of the commission on Diversity shall be to find proactive ways to bring the diverse groups of the wider Annapolis community together as a unified whole without causing any section to lose its unique character or flavor. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission to identify the various unique communities within the wider community, and then, to help each unique community become a valued partner in the Annapolis community as a whole.

II. Rationale for the creation of a Commission on Diversity

The Let's Talk Annapolis conversation on diversity would first like to commend this administration for its diligence in being inclusive in reaching out to and including groups that have not been included in the past. To further that goal this group proposes that the mayor appoint and the city council approve a Commission of Diversity.

This group has identified the following areas where the group feels that the city needs improvement. The group also feels that only a Commission of Diversity would be able to bring to bear the proper resources to and level of commitment that would be necessary to successfully deal with these problems. The group fully recognizes that these problems are ones that have been decades if not centuries in the making and that therefore will not be easily solved. However, the city does have the ability to bring in people and resources that small community groups lack. Therefore, we feel that this city has both the responsibility and the ability to be a beacon to the rest of the country by working on these areas and finding creative community wide solutions.

Areas of Concern:

1. There is a disconnect between people in public housing and/or other low income housing and the rest of society. One can drive through Annapolis and not see any of the low income areas. We need a bridge between the haves and the have nots. We need to narrow the psychological gap between the haves and the have nots.

2. There is a suspicion of groups and individuals that are different. Often those differences get magnified by ignorance. Some groups have been in the city for some time but were "invisible" to the main stream Annapolis resident and to the city as a whole from government to faith groups, from the private sector to community groups and families, until political events forced them to be noticed, such as the Muslims. Other groups were largely ignored until their numbers became large enough to cause some people to become worried, such as the Hispanic community.

3. The old-timers remember a different less diverse Annapolis. Many may

long for the "good old days." A way is needed to allow them to see that others coming in can be a good thing.

4. There is a need for a course in Annapolis society 101 for newcomers to the city to educate them as to how the city operates, And for old timers to learn about the new neighbors.

5. Those neighborhoods experiencing problems such as illegal drug dealing, loitering, and illegal gun play have an additional problem trusting government or other "do-gooder types" because traditionally those who came to help did not last. The drug dealers are there for the long run and people who come in to help do a little and then leave. Then the community still has the drug dealers.

Ways a Commission on Diversity could help to alleviate the areas of concern.

1. The commission shall Identify the divergent parts of the community, including but not limited to the various cultures, religions, and ethnicity's, as well as any other identifiable groups that are not included in the above.

2. The Commission shall then act as a bridge between the various groups and the city, as well as between the individual groups themselves.

3. The commission shall work to foster mutual respect and acceptance between various groups. This could include education about each of these groups for the others; providing for the opportunity for the inclusion of each group within city life; as well as ways for groups to come together so that they can learn about each other.

4. The commission shall find new ways for newcomers and those not in the know to obtain needed information about government, which shall include but not be limited to

How to file a complaint

What are the rights as a citizen.

What are the rules for a citizen.

How does one help to improve transportation

How does one help to improve education

5. The commission will work with the Human Rights Commission, the Housing authority (which is federal), neighborhood councils, and neighborhood watch groups (under Robert Bean of the police department), and the drug task force.

6. The commission shall work with existing groups, such as churches, mosques, synagogues, boys and girls clubs and any other community group that

is representative of the target community.

7. The commission shall bring the target community together with focus groups for example to work against drugs. The commission shall make sure that the people doing the work must be visible and stay visible.

8. The commission shall provide the continuity that has often been lacking in the past. If whoever was the contact person gets transferred, the commission will be able to appoint someone else and provide whatever is needed for the new person to continue the work.

III. Duties of the Commission

The commission shall work to help each group be a integral part of the life of Annapolis, by among other things, making sure that each group knows what events are available for it to introduce itself to the community, such as the fourth of July parade and first night. The commission should work to help each identified group be included in the life of the city. The commission shall also work with the wider community so that they are able to sincerely welcome and include all of the diverse groups into the life of the city without fear of them.

The commission should appoint one of its members to act as a liaison between each group and other governmental agencies that the group's needs require. Each group should have its own liaison, An example would be a liaison for public housing, this liaison would work to help the residents of public housing develop a sense of community that would allow their neighborhood to become as desirable of a place to live as the most expensive area in Annapolis. The liaison for the immigrants would help them learn about how to interact with the government, and help them find the services that they need.

The commission shall help each individual group with its own unique challenges. For example, those in poor neighborhoods need help with getting rid of the drug dealers. They need help in making their

neighborhood as desirable of a place to live as the rest of the city. Muslims need help in being accepted and in finding places that will rent to them.

IV. Make Up of the Commission

The mayor shall appoint and the city council approve a Diversity Commission consisting of 20 individuals who have shown a sincere interest in the City of Annapolis , who have also demonstrated an interest in Diversity and have shown an sincere interest in creating and or supporting a diverse community. Wherever possible each unique community within the wider community of Annapolis and its surrounding areas shall be represented by 2 members on the commission.

The commission shall include Muslims, Christians, Jews, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Caucasians, long term Annapolis residents, and more recent arrivals. However, the most important characteristic shall be an ability to empathize and a sincere desire to see Annapolis as a diverse city that embraces that diversity rather than trying to make everyone fit a preconceived mold.

APPENDIX

Who is the Let's Talk Annapolis Diversity Conversation

The Let's Talk Annapolis Diversity Conversation was hosted by the Islamic Society of Annapolis. The conversation included among others: Muslim, Christians, African Americans, Pakistani Americans, Egyptian Americans, and Americans whose ancestors came from so many places and so long ago that they are not easily classified beyond American. The ages ranged from late 20s to mid 60s. There was a wide range of income and asset levels represented from those who had been on welfare to those who would be considered well off by any standard.

The group included long term residents of Annapolis as well as those who have arrived more recently. Of those not native to the Annapolis area, some have lived in big city ghettos, others have lived in rural farming areas and others in small towns, as well as many have lived in various foreign countries. For some of the members english is their first and primary language while for others english is the second third or fourth language. Education wise the group included all level up to and including Ph.D. Occupations were also very varied from banker, to teacher, paramedic, nurse, fireman, computer expert, entrepreneur, administrator and homemaker.

In other words this conversation group represented a wide variety of people who all now live and work in the Annapolis area. They all share a deep concern and desire to see Annapolis continue to thrive and to become the best she can be by including all of her residents in the vibrant life that is Annapolis.

Lets Talk

Meeting Summary, May 3, 2006, 9 Attendees

I **Quality of Life:** 2 satisfied, 4 neutral, 2 very dissatisfied

- A. **Positive/ Negative Tradeoffs:** Living in older areas in Annapolis Neck brings integrated diversified living, good schools, affordable housing. The tradeoffs are crime, drug dealing, violence, economic extremes which lead to social disruption. Some parents do not feel safe allowing their children to enter neighbor's homes.
- B. **Positive Qualities:** Accessibility to cultural activities, shopping, Quiet Waters Park walking distance to Annapolis. Access to Washington and Baltimore for jobs, culture and commercial resources. Especially good for retirees not affected by schools. **People** are diverse, down to earth, helpful, especially shop keepers.
- C. **Negative Qualities:** Increasing **crime, traffic congestion, river pollution**, inadequate public transportation for commuters directly attributable to **government policies, poor planning**, forcing overdevelopment (commercial and residential) without supporting infrastructure, while ignoring public appeals for relief. Concentrations of **rental housing** correlate to low achievement and disruption in schools. **Huge income gaps, racism, elitism** detract from quality of life. Giant new buildings beside quaint historic ones are unappealing.

II **Sense of Community:** Very Satisfied 2, Satisfied 3, neutral 2, very dissatisfied 2 (Not sure of this breakdown. Can anyone help?) Range was wide.

- A. Positive factors (particularly strong in Hillsmere): **Organic** community, friendly, **down to earth people**, long term **friendships** keep people here. **Good public schools are the key to a healthy community**. A 12% set-aside for moderate income residents in planned Annapolis Neck housing holds promise for cohesion.
- B. Negative Factors: Little integration between ethnic minorities and whites, much of it self imposed. Over concentration of rental and subsidized housing, in some areas while lower income housing displaced by luxury condos in others. Low percentage of minority owned businesses. Political hostilities between county residents and City administrators tend to alienate county people from City. Differences stem from quality of life values and priorities. **Poor public schools** and **poor perception** of public schools with resulting heavy use of **private schools** fragments the community.
- C. Mitigating Policies by government would encourage more home ownership, minority owned business, giving top priority to **improving public schools**, and using them as the **focus of community activity**. Subsidies to encourage minority businesses and affordable housing for moderate income buyers would reduce tensions. Responsibility of Government to **listen** (e.g. "Let's Talk) and the community to **demand** being heard. Also we should embrace diversity by sharing minority cultures, thereby enriching the community.

LET'S TALK

Meeting Summary, May 10, 2006; 5 attendees

I **Future of Annapolis:** Neutral, 2; pessimistic, 1; very pessimistic, 2.

- A. "Neutral" centered on the concept that when things get so bad, the only alternative is a turn-around for the better.
- B. Pessimism centered on an inexorable trend toward greater densities outside the City with the resulting traffic congesting and environmental degradation. All noted the gridlock on Forest Drive getting worse. We viewed in amazement at an *empty* Bay Ridge Road pictured in the "Hillsmere Center" study to be presented to the community on May 24. One person reported nightmare traffic jams every day when she transports her children 5 miles to and from Hillsmere Elementary School.

II **What should Annapolis become over the next ten years and beyond?**

1. Both livable and "walkable" to **necessity** shopping.
2. **Downtown Annapolis preserved, strengthened as focal point** of area, with **historic, maritime, and river heritage.**
3. **Rivers restored and growth/development managed and restricted.**
4. Neighborhood **schools, not shopping centers** the center of community activity
5. More **homes affordable** to moderate income buyers.
6. All new development incorporate environmentally protective measures, such as cluster zoning, and buffer zones between commercial and residential, low and higher density uses.
7. Revitalized public housing under competent management

III **Specific priority(ies) and actions to be taken**

- A. Achieve these conditions by establishing **clear goals** and sticking to them with **community input from the OUTSET. Avoid veiled or unclear goals** implied in prepared community development proposals or concepts, e.g. future picture of Annapolis Neck
 1. **A vibrant downtown: commercial, cultural, maritime center**
 - a. Get rid of cars and parking at city dock.
 - b. Cease building competing commercial centers in the outskirts such as Annapolis Neck.
 - c. Establish/strengthen public transportation between City and outer areas.
 - d. Assign a planner **from the outset** to each planning area, in and around Annapolis.
 - e. Height and architectural restrictions in keeping with the downtown image.

2. Restructure Public Housing under competent management

- a. Implement replicable programs in other parts of the U.S. that have had proven results.
- b.. Establish programs to transition out of public housing e.g. subsidized home ownership.
- c. Investigate a housing voucher system (Section VIII) to achieve more integration and variety of housing for renters.

3. Stop the growth boom with its adverse impacts on Annapolis suburbs like Annapolis Neck.

- a. All proposals based on **conclusive studies** of **traffic impacts** and effect on river.
- b. **No proposals** for commercial development that would **weaken the downtown** economic base.
- c.. **No proposals without citizen input**
- d.. All proposals to include **height limits** in scale with existing character of neighborhoods.

Natalie Lobe

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: May 9 2006
Group name: Robinwood Resident Council
Reporter's name: Kirby McKinney
Person leading the conversation: Alison Kelly
Place of the conversation: Robinwood meeting room
How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral **Unsatisfied** Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Residents were concerned about the quality of life within their community. In general the discussions focused around Robinwood and not Annapolis as a whole. Crime is high; they don't feel safe in their neighborhoods. Traditional family breakdown, mostly single mothers raising families. Residents need to be held accountable for the upkeep of their properties/streets. Need people working together to take responsibility.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral **Unsatisfied** Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

1. Churches, Police, Alderman, residents, Mayor, Exec Director need to have a community meeting to discuss problem.
2. Residents need to recognize they are a stakeholder, this will never happen voluntarily. Those in attendance felt residents would only attend meetings if they thought they would be evicted or if the community service clause was enforced.
3. Residents need to be a good example for others.
4. Attitude changes, through education reach out to young parents and children and give them hope for a future.
5. Community is not united. Some talk of "treat" of other ethnic groups taking over rental properties in Annapolis. It was discussed that other communities stick together better and help each other out.
6. Motivation needed to get residents involved, group strongly felt this would come from enforcement of current rules e.g. community service hours required, security patrols, evictions for people who do not comply with rules.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic **Very Pessimistic**

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

1. More buses vs. can't afford cabs.
2. More public transportation, shorter bus routes. Bus routes have changed now people have to travel all around Annapolis to get to destination.
3. Lower BG&E bills for affordability.
4. Decrease crime, through enforcing rules of housing authority (resident ID / approved visitors in area only)
5. Invest in public housing facilities and upgrade homes (no central air conditioning for example)
6. More affordable housing in and around Annapolis. The African American community is being pushed out of Annapolis.
- 7 Educating young mothers & more programs for them.
8. More security to enforce rules.
- 9 Resume writing, job readiness programs.
10. More educational programs.
11. Teenagers off street. Need for training of our younger residents, vocational training needed.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Send letter to inform residents they have to complete their community service hours if they are unemployed yet fit for work – 8 hours per month. If don't comply, subject to eviction. Organize events for this 8 hours of community service e.g. meetings on the future of the neighborhood. Clean-up of areas. Training for job readiness. Training on future opportunities for children. Reach out to the children and make the change through the next generation.

Eric Brown agreed to get Internet access for the computer lab and volunteers to staff.

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 66+ _____

Genders: Male 3 Female 7

Races/Ethnicities: _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___ May 16, 2006
Group name: ___ Oaker Dudes
Reporter's name: ___ Don Lamb-Minor
Person leading the conversation: ___ Don Lamb-Minor
Place of the conversation: ___ Sky Ellsbree's home
How long did the conversation last? ___ 3 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

The group discussed the future of Annapolis and as one might expect congestion was one of the reoccurring subjects. However, it did not dominate the conversation. Instead, the topic turned to community healthcare and assisted living facilities in Annapolis, more appropriately the lack of choices for assisted living in Annapolis. Concerns on the subject included the aging population and elderly who must leave the area to find a community with the right mix of amenities. The group was generally in favor of smart growth and inclined to favor the higher densities in urban living. In the end the group gave Annapolis good marks and suggested the Annapolis should continue on its course to protect the past and embrace the present, while planning for the future.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 7 66+ 3

Genders: Male 10 Female _____

Races/Ethnicities: 4 African American, 6 European American _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
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Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: _____5/1006
Group name: _____Eastport Terrace Housing Authority
Reporter's name: _____Eric Brown & Alison Kelly
Person leading the conversation: _____Alison Kelly
Place of the conversation: _____Eastport Community Center
How long did the conversation last? _____2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied **Very Unsatisfied**

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The group was very unsatisfied with the living conditions of their community. Huge concerns over crime, drugs, and lack of community involvement were expressed.

The group wanted to return to a sense of community. Where it felt safe to raise children and the area was clean and safe.

The group felt that the Housing Authority needed to enforce its rules and evict tenants that were not taking care of their properties or causing distribution to their neighbors.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied **Very Unsatisfied**

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

The group felt that African American community was being pushed out of Annapolis due to high cost of housing, lack of investment and interest in public housing, which contains mostly African American citizens.

Children interviewed before the meeting began wanted to 'build a wall' to keep the rich people out and the nice people in. After further discussion it was noted that the children have noticed the people involved in the community e.g. volunteers, are actually moving out. One such resident was present who was moving to Baltimore County to escape the hardship of the housing authority in Annapolis. She would have liked to live in Annapolis but could not afford any property here. It is also physically evident that private development is moving right to the boundaries of the housing authority.

It was stated that 'public housing has destroyed the African American family.'

There is no diversity as it stands. The group felt different cultures did not mix in every day life.

Some suggested to have more intercultural events run by the city.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral **Pessimistic** Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Many in the group felt there was not a future for African American community in Annapolis. They were very afraid of what the future held in relation to rising crime, drug use, lack of community etc.

A change in the community was needed. Educate parents, enforce rules, and raise the expectations for the children's future. Offer more opportunity e.g. vocational training for the children to become self-sufficient.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Enforcement of Housing Authority Rules e.g.

Evict tenants who cause disruption

Enforce the "resident/visitor" rule and get rid of the people who hang out in the community without being on the leases. Enforce the community service rule.. i.e. x number of hours per month in community service is required for tenants who are fit and healthy and not currently working. The group felt these hours (could exceed 1,000 per month) could be used to force tenants to become involved in meetings/training/neighborhood cleanup etc.

The group also wanted the computer lab opened at the community center, Eric Brown committed to having this complete before the commencement of the school year.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 2 46-65 6 66+ _____

Genders: Male 2 Female 8

Races/Ethnicities: _____ African American _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Those who attended this meeting appeared passionate to be part of the change and wanted to give better opportunity to their children. The atmosphere was very passionate and people truly felt if the community service rule was implemented they could begin to make some changes in the community.

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160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: May 23, 2006
Group name: New Annapolitans Interest Group
Reporter's name: Joanna Hanes-Lahr
Person leading the conversation: Alison Kelly
Place of the conversation: home of Hanes-Lahr
How long did the conversation last? 2 ½ hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

the feel of a smaller community;the funky fun downtown, but notices a change from the 60's with fewer watermen and artists. Could the city subsidize living costs to make it possible for those kinds of residents to live here. enjoys the quality of life. Really concerned about the Bay and overflow from regional waters. Wants to know if there is a regional overlay group? Thinks there should be a regional approach to Bay conservation. Is that a possible national park structure that would apply to the Bay area? Growing development and traffic a concern, such as on Forest Drive, and doesn't see anything being done about it.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Neighborhoods tend to be less cohesive into a community, with so many children in private schools and the county having jurisdiction over the schools, rather than the city. Also, geographically spread out around creeks. Problem of lower income separation from upper: Suggestion: a Community Housing Trust that sets up housing programs for single mothers and disabled that would incorporate mentors to address their fears of housing mortgage issues. Schools a concern for many of the group. Can we get a tax allowance for volunteering in the schools? Can we approach low income community violence by teaching non-violence and conflict resolution in schools? Annapolis needs to tell our story better. We have a lot of pride in who we are and what we are, but we don't think we tell our story well, our unique approach to recovering from Isabelle, the riots of the 60's and other positive stories. And, we would like to see the city incorporate into its history curriculum the history of nonviolence along with instruction in conflict resolution and mediation, and that this begin in elementary education. I believe that because our history curriculum is focused on war, we have cultivated a habit of thinking war in response to conflict. Building on the proposal of Dennis Kucinich to create a Department of Peace, I wonder if that can be instituted at a city or county level.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

More supportive of arts groups. City needs a better performing arts center. Maryland Hall is wonderful but symphony deserves better hall. Can Annapolis help support a performing arts center at Park Place? The City Limits need to expand to take in residential and commercial areas that impact Annapolis and its residents.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Control Development

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 6 66+ 2

Genders: Male 2 Female 6

Races/Ethnicities: White

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

We followed a format that allowed everyone to take a turn to speak, occasionally commented on by another participant. This report will follow that script, summarizing as the group did in conclusion.

* Year-long resident, retired teacher, concerned with drug access, public housing

* Four-year resident, formerly of New York and Connecticut, concerned with affordable housing and building a sense of community in her apartment complex in Arnold, feels part of Annapolis.

* Fairly new resident, moved from New York to Alexandria to water-front property; loves downtown, dock, Academy area. Experience with welfare commissions and housing projects and is concerned with youth issues and good people leaving the housing projects; Suggestion: a Community Housing Trust that sets up housing programs for single mothers and disabled that would incorporate mentors to address their fears of housing mortgage issues. Also commented that she would like to see the Jersey barriers gone.

* Three year resident of Chesapeake Harbor, here because she enjoys the quality of life. Really concerned about the Bay and overflow from regional waters. Wants to know if there is a regional overlay group? Thinks there should be a regional approach to Bay conservation. Is that a possible national park structure that would apply to the Bay area? She is also concerned about traffic, such as on Forest Drive, and doesn't see anything being done about it.

* Moved here six years ago after she stayed in a B&B on State Circle and liked the feel of a smaller community, moved to Murray Hill area. Likes to walk around the neighborhood. Concern with too much development and would like to have a moratorium on development.

* Two year resident, formerly from Adams Morgan neighborhood in D.C., looking for Metro service to BWI and bike paths and WiFi city-wide.

General discussion:

- Positive response to Annapolis as a whole. Appreciates the funky fun downtown, however notices a change from the 60's with fewer watermen and artists. Could the city subsidize living costs to make it possible for those kinds of residents to live here.

- Neighborhoods tend to be less cohesive into a community, with so many children in private schools and the county having jurisdiction over the schools, rather than the city. Schools a concern for many of the group. Can we get a tax allowance for volunteering in the schools? Can we approach low income community violence by teaching non-violence and conflict resolution in schools?

- City needs a better performing arts center. Maryland Hall is wonderful but symphony deserves better hall. Can Annapolis help support a performing arts center at Park Place.

- The Mayor needs to tap into people who want to HELP. Find out who wants to volunteer. Can there be something like Leadership Annapolis for volunteers and/or make that group more visible?

- Concern with building codes. Pointed out two-story garage down the street that completely overwhelms its neighbors, not on a scale of the neighborhood, particularly the smaller house next door.

- The City Limits need to expand to take in residential and commercial areas that impact Annapolis and its residents.

- Annapolis needs to tell our story better. We have a lot of pride in who we are and what we are, but we don't think we tell our story well, our unique approach to recovering from Isabelle, the riots of the 60's and other positive stories. And, we would like to see the city incorporate into its history curriculum the history of nonviolence along with instruction in conflict resolution and mediation, and that this begin in elementary education. I believe that because our history curriculum is focused on war, we have cultivated a habit of thinking war in response to conflict. Building on the proposal of Dennis Kucinich to create a Department of Peace, I wonder if that can be instituted at a city or county level.

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: Sep 2005 through May 2006
Group name: Annapolis Mayor's Education Advisory Committee (EAC)
Reporter's name: Michael Seldes
Person leading the conversation: Michael Seldes
Place of the conversation: Barnes and Noble

Related to Annapolis Cluster Education

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The public schools in Annapolis are unique to the rest of the county and provide a critical mission in the education of a diverse student population. Education is the primary driver in ensuring success of our children. Important aspects of ensuring success for the students and the public education system included discussion of the following elements:

- Communications with and participation of the parents
- Ensuring adequate after school programs
- Ensuring adequate transportation in support of special events and after school programs
- Ensuring pervasive access to computers outside of school for the students and parents
- Ensuring adequate resources to support those students where English is a second language
- Ensuring tolerance in dealing with diversity is communicated, and demonstrated through example.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

It was discussed that there is cultural tension in the community, and while there are activities, events, and education to address diversity, more work is needed. To develop a unified community, the EAC agreed that events were needed to bring together the diverse Annapolis communities. Rich and poor, different races, different religions, and different nationalities should be brought together. Children and families will develop tolerance through interaction.

In order to bring together diverse children and families of the community, two approaches were discussed. One was to include a diversity program in the schools, such as a field trip for a whole grade (not just each school grade, but the whole cluster grade), and to facilitate team building. There are several programs available that promote teamwork and diversity tolerance. One program is offered by Glen Echo, and is provided to elementary and middle school students.

Another Diversity Program is Diversity Day, which Chesapeake Childrens Museum created and ran for Bates Middle and Annapolis Middle 8th graders (200 total) with \$,000 in grant funds through Bowie University. The program focused on African-American and Hispanic cultures, which were explored using a Multiple Intelligences approach.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

The EAC is dedicated to addressing the future for the Annapolis cluster schools. We have looked at short term and long term challenges, and identified potential actions and programs to address the challenges of communications, transportation, and cultural diversity. Two areas where Annapolis should develop programs over the next ten years are to address unity as a community, and the wealth that our diversity brings to the community. These two programs will bring the community together and demonstrate how diversity enhances rather than detracts from the character and quality of the schools.

The EAC also recommends that City of Annapolis act more as an advocate for the public schools that service City residents. There are many areas including transportation, after school activities as well as public and private partnerships and involvement that will help our schools assist all students in reaching their potential.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The EAC recommends a diversity program for the Annapolis cluster schools and communities to foster tolerance and understanding of the community and school members.

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

The EAC members are primarily females in their 30s, 40s, and early 50s. There is a good African American and Caucasian mix, but we were short of other nationalities and races.

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 66+ _____

Genders: Male ____ Female ____

Races/Ethnicities: _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

The EAC is a volunteer committee with representatives from each of the Annapolis cluster schools. The EAC meetings have also included school principals and other educational and non-profit organization participants in the meetings held approximately every six weeks over the school year.

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ___June 5, 2006
Group name: ___Human Relations Commission
Reporter's name: ___Paul Rensted
Person leading the conversation: ___Alison Kelly
Place of the conversation: ___Eastport Fire Station
How long did the conversation last? ___2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Did not discuss.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

1. Implement study circles that reach out and involve more than just upper middle class/well-educated people
2. Evolve Let's Talk into an ongoing process
3. Find ways to respond to hate group activities
4. Implement the hate free zone proposal, but make it more "Welcome to a Loving/Welcoming Community"
5. Create opportunities for more facilitated interaction between these separate groups within the City.
6. Take activities, such as recreation, and find ways to mix up the participants so that teams or participants are from all backgrounds and classes
7. Implement a vigorous affordable housing program (class is replacing race as a divider)
8. Provide real vocational opportunities.
9. Recognize that college is not a single pathway for everyone
10. More recreational opportunities that occupies children and also mixes groups (get so that there are programs and activities that help keep kids out of trouble)
11. Moderate or no fee summer activities
12. Need to actively re-create a sense of community within Annapolis
13. City schools are in crisis
14. Have a City member on the School Board
15. Have alderman and mayor do regular Let's Talk programs throughout the year
16. Have HRC do a monthly Let's Talk where perhaps 3 Commission members are available at various locations to listen to people's concerns

(cont'd)

17. Find a way to address the Identity Crisis that is facing the community. People feel left out or cut off. Citizens feel that people don't care. People are separated by divisions, more and more economic. The positive thing is that these conversations are occurring. Need follow through.
18. Elected official need to be in touch with their constituents. That bond is important and needs to extend beyond those people who have lots of money.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Did not discuss.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Follow up discussion will be held at a future meeting to discuss and decide.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 4 46-65 7 66+ 2

Genders: Male 5 Female 8

Races/Ethnicities: 1 Hispanic, 2 African Americans, 10 white _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: ____ June 14, 2006
Group name: ____ Murray Hill Residents Assn
Reporter's name: ____ Meg Hosmer & Denise Worthen
Person leading the conversation: ____ Hollis Minor
Place of the conversation: ____ Maryland Hall
How long did the conversation last? ____ 1.5 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied -4 Satisfied-12 Neutral-1 Unsatisfied-6 Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Issues identified: 1. Crime. 2. Traffic. City has not done enough to promote alternatives to travel by car. The city is not bike and pedestrian-friendly. Public transportation is inadequate. There should be more destinations to which residents can walk. Parking by delivery trucks is not regulated and obstructs streets. Traffic problems have created safety issues. 3. Development. The scale and amount of development is not in keeping with the historic character of the City, which must be protected. Development does not include stores of value to existing residents (perhaps additional incentives need to be explored). The City should be forcing developers to put aside more land for parks; a totally urbanized city is not what residents want. Developers should have to pay higher taxes and should not be given a density bonus for including affordable housing units. 4. Taxes. The cost of housing and taxes are so high that the city has become a rich person's town and not a town of working people and all income levels as it had been. The high tax rate is driving residents away. Taxes should be used to enhance the City, not just to expand the City. 5. Lack of City responsiveness to residents. The public's voice is not being heard or is being ignored (example: MX committee recommendations for Inner West Street were ignored after 3 years of work by involved citizens). Residents' vision of life in the city differs from that of the City government and the business community. The City government has become captive to the developers. Residents are frustrated and feel powerless. 6. Residents don't want another Bethesda -- high density, traffic congestion, lack of services, high taxes.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Creating community: 25-unsatisfied

Issues identified: 1. Neighborhoods are not integrated anymore. The City seems to be intentionally confining minorities to certain areas. 2. The City needs to make sure that the less affluent areas receive more attention to improve the quality of life there (e.g., more affordable housing, better services in public housing complexes). 3. There should be greater outreach between communities. 4. A public rally might be a good way to generate interest and involvement.

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: 6/14/06
Group name: General Public Harwood/Germantown area
Reporter's name: Janice Roper-Graham
Person leading the conversation: Janice Roper-Graham
Place of the conversation: Trinity Church, 1300 West St.
How long did the conversation last? 2 hrs.; 700 – 9:00 pm

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

All were either satisfied or very satisfied.

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

- Concerns regarding massive development, including the density and high-rise developments in the area,
- Concerns re: the impact on the infrastructure, including traffic and stormwater management.
- One individual noted that the development is exciting but expressed concerns about how it was being managed.
- All concurred that the growth needs to be managed and felt that they didn't see that the City had a plan to manage the growth.
- One noted and all agreed that they hesitate to go out during the dinner or lunch our one West Street because of traffic congestion. "What's it going to be like when there are 1,500 more cars?"
- Another noted that the Statewide "Smart Growth" initiative – conceptually – would target this urban area for growth.
- There were concerns regarding the 1901 West Street development – that the developer gave local residents "a marketing pitch" saying it would be 200 units but they are building something different. There were differences between the two meetings held by the developer in terms of what was promised. There appears to be no accountability to adhere to promised that were made to the citizens. "How are they allowed to proposed something to use and build something different?"
- Another smaller development occurred where four units were approved for a site that should have only gotten three. The participant noted that the 4th house is only 1.5 feet from his property and flooding is occurring during storms. When he built his house two years ago, he was not allowed to have a paved driveway but all four of these new houses have paved driveways.
- All were concerned about schools. They felt that in the past kids got a good education in the public schools but that the schools have changed a lot.
- People are sending their children to private school.
- Fireman, teachers can't afford to live in the neighborhood – this affects the population structure. "Our children can't afford to live here. If you've only got \$00,000 you have to go up to Baltimore." Concerns about housing affordability for the elderly.

- One noted that 20% of residents send their kids to private schools. “If the schools are so bad, people don’t want to live here.”
- The group felt that overall crime is low and contained in a sliver of Annapolis that they avoid. “We all know where it is. I’ve seen people do drug deals.”

Definition of Quality of Life: Walkable areas, where it is easier to walk and bike ride. Kids in teams playing sports. The walking path near the Stadium. The Public Library. All agreed that the Library was a vital part of the community and expressed deep concern about developments that could impact it. Growth must be balanced via a process that incorporates infrastructure improvements, schools improvements, and crime prevention. The quality of schools was the deepest concern.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

Overall, the group was satisfied about the sense of community in Annapolis.

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

- One participant noted that the City has a 5-citizen planning committee and Anne Arundel County has no formal process for citizen input. “It’s a struggle to get something from the County. If you call the City’s Planning and Zoning, they will answer.”
- The Mayor has worked hard to get the word out but it’s still hard to access information. We need open and honest government and accountable government. One participant noted that a “traffic expert” from a consulting firm tried to tell a group of people that 1901 would have no traffic impact. How do you add that many cars and not have traffic impact? But no one questioned it.
- Flooding after a storm is a problem. All buildings should be held to the highest possible stormwater management standard every property should handle its own stormwater.
- The dense development is an indication that “you can’t combat people with power” (i.e., developers)
- One participant noted the importance of the comprehensive plan “its like the bible” for regulating development
- The Germantown-Homewood community is a microcosm; they are not interested in mixing with the high crime areas.
- There is space available in Mill Parole and Germantown Elementary schools. Bates is also low.
- The racial mix is 70% black, 20% hispanic, and only 5-10% white. This is a huge change from years past.
- With so many children going to private school, the balance is upset. The low-income kids bring problems to school that take away from education and impact the rest of the students. For example, when English is a second language.
- The quality of teachers has changed. In the past, Annapolis High School teachers also taught at the Naval Academy. There were concerns about the school’s ability to attract and retain quality teachers.
- Several parents of older children did send their kids to private school for various reasons. A participant with a toddler would like to send his children to public school but is very concerned.
- The County school system is frustrating. They can’t promise anything until their budget is approved in July.
- Parents need to get more involved.

Definition of Community: Eyes and ears watching out for each other's. Sharing parks, streets, and the library. Communities happen in schools, as children become friends with kids outside the neighborhood. Children link communities.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

To be continued.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

To be continued.

Recommendation: Improve the elementary and middle schools by either giving the City (and the parents) control over the school or creating charter schools.

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 2 46-65 5 66+ 1

Genders: Male 5 Female 3

Races/Ethnicities: All Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

The group included eight participants plus the facilitator. Three of the participants worked for government agencies in planning or stormwater management. One worked for the City.

The Homewood-Germantown Community Association is very active. They regularly have 30+ people at their meetings.

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Dear Neighbors,

I would like to put forward more clearly what my suggestion was with regard to the "School Issue", and suggest some further resources to consult about what the potential is. My suggestion was that the citizens of Annapolis gain more local control over the school system by using the existing charter school law in Maryland.

The following link will provide additional information about what the law is in this state. Although the law is not the best, it does allow for charter schools to occur, provides funding for such, and includes teacher benefits etc. Improvement in the law can be lobbied for, since it now exists. **Most specifically note that an existing public school can petition to become a charter school.**

<http://www.edreform.com/index.cfm?fuseAction=cLaw&stateID=1>

Having given it some additional thought, here is some suggestions for how this could evolve.

For the school year 2006-2007, the City should provide regular transportation from Annapolis Middle and Bates Middle to the new Wiley Bates Center, and the Annapolis and Hillsmere Libraries on a circular route after school. Wiley Bates will be offering tutoring, after school programs, sports programs, wood shops, computer labs, etc. The libraries have books, a homework resource center, and computer access. Grants may be available for transportation (a small bus or van running on a continuous loop). The educational gap that develops during the middle school years needs to be address.

Next, the City of Annapolis would appointment some sort of School Advisory Board to support, encourage, oversee and champion a Annapolis Chartered School System. Their role would be to maintain the overall vision of educational excellence for all children living in the City. They could lobby with the County School Board, lobby for legislative changes at the State level, and act as an oversight level for the local school system. They would be the first line of contact for parents, or teachers concerned about actions at individual schools.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the two middle schools in Annapolis should move forward to become charter schools. *This is recommended both because they have excess space, because this is the level at which most parents have the greatest concerns, and this is the time when the educational gap widens.* The city should apply for grants to provide consultant/support services to help write charter, set up infrastructure, to make this happen. Bates Middle would be designated a Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, due to its proximity to Maryland Hall; Annapolis Middle would be designated a Center for Math and Science. **Both middle schools would offer pre-IB classes, which would include a foreign language and Algebra 1, but neither school should be designated the "IB School".** The school would be structured as a 5 through 8 grade middle school, with 5-6 and 7-8th grade teams so teachers interact with children for two years, and have a better understanding of their needs. Annapolis Middle would offer a middle school sports program, due to its wealth of athletic fields. A shuttle between the two would continue after school to allow the middle school children to enjoy sports or arts activities. Middle school students should be given transit cards to travel on the City bus system, and the use of public transportation should be encourage to cut down on transportation needs, and traffic, within the City. Because there is excess space available at both schools, construction could begin and move forward to support the new charter middle schools for implementation in the 2007-2008 school year. At this time, 5th graders would move to the middle schools as part of 5-6 grade teams, and alleviate some of the overcrowding at the elementary schools.

Charter schools status would be permitted for any elementary schools choosing to participate in the 2007-2008 school year. Special assistance, in the form of consultants or other technical support, would be offered to any elementary school in a "failing" status to the extent of

resources (I don't know which elementary schools are currently in this status). The next level of schools would be provided with support in the following year, until all elementary schools were chartered. Since so many of the Annapolis schools are now suffering with classroom trailers, and inadequate facilities, as each moves into charter status, it should be rewarded with some of the needed physical improvements. It is impossible to predict how long this would take— but charter status may allow for some grant funding, or direct requests to the legislature. Mike Busch lives in the Germantown-Homewood Neighborhood (although his kids attend St. Mary's) We are HIS district.

After the 5th grade moves onto middle school, available space should be assessed in all of the elementary schools to see if some of the trailers can be remove. Students within walking distance of the school and within the current feeder boundaries of a school should be given first preference to attend their local school, unless there is a magnet program they would rather attend.. Students who can reach the school using public transit should be given second preference. A priority sequence should be developed from there.

Local parents within the feeder boundaries should be involved in writing the charters and governing each school, and each school should be accountable to an umbrella Annapolis Educational Advisory Board..

The timing of the high school is tricky, so I would say: whenever it is ready, but as soon as possible. Again, free public transit should be provided by transit cards, encouraging after school activities and sports, and access to Maryland Hall for arts classes, or AACC.

In closing, Annapolis is the capital of the state, a state heritage site, and a vibrant location with many enrichment activities to offer. Our schools should represent, and take advantage of this. Do our schools represent the best Maryland has to offer? Do local students take advantage of the proximity of the state and county government (right next to the high school)? Are County and State part-time jobs and internships made available to Annapolis students to connect them to state and local government, and future job opportunities? Does the existing system build what we want to see in the future --?

The Mayor, as a former representative of teachers should be very open to this concern, and other workable solutions. And I welcome your response and ideas at our meeting next Wednesday.

Kim Finch
Resident of Germantown-Homewood since 1983.

Kim,

You definitely have put a lot of thought into this option of charter schools. I will be out of town this coming Wednesday, so I wanted to be sure the group had my thoughts on your proposal.

I especially like the 2006-2007 precursor - the transit loop to bring middle schoolers to the library, the Bates Center, Annapolis Middle (for sports), Bates Middle and Maryland Hall (for arts). Because the city budget for this year has been struck and most grants for this academic year also have been awarded already, the funding may have to come from private sources. I have no idea of the cost but some local group or business may be willing to front the costs.

I like the idea of charter schools, but not set up as you suggested. Although I can understand your logic in making Bates Middle a visual and performing arts school and Annapolis Middle a math and science center (with both offering the IB program), it's been my experience that many of the top math and science students are also your top musicians. In my son's grade, three of the four top math scorers in the county played musical instruments, were the soloists in the school choruses and performed in theater. In a friend's child's grade, the valedictorian and the concert mistress were the same person. I don't think these are isolated incidents.

Instead, I think middle school is a time for children to try out different talents so they will begin to get an idea what they do best. At the same time, the academic side has to remain rigorous and maintain discipline in the classroom. So, while an IB curriculum would be great, I don't think we should divide the curriculum further.

An article recently in the Baltimore Sun studied two classrooms over several weeks - one in a charter school stressing academic rigor and discipline and one in public schools stressing self esteem. The charter students were reading "To Kill A Mockingbird," "Of Mice and Men" and some other equally worthy classic. The public school students were reading two teen novels, neither of which was a classic. And while charter students were expected to behave in class and only speak during discussions, the public school class teacher spent most of her time trying to control the classroom. While comparative scores for these specific classrooms weren't available yet, charter schools in general have reported higher scores.

If we need an example to view, we could go visit that Baltimore charter or one private school in the county that does middle school very well (and there may be others, but I have direct experience in this one), Indian Creek School. I have been generally critical of most of my kids' education, but I found little to fault here. Teachers there make sure students understand grammar, the importance of spelling and can master various styles of writing, really understand math and science concepts and know the history/geography of the United States and the world. And their teachers and staff are gifted in finding a child's sometimes hidden talents and then nurturing them so that the child develops even more strengths (and thus gets self esteem from actual accomplishment).

I also agree that more needs to be done to make Annapolis schools stellar and that the city has many enrichment activities available. I like the idea of making sure our city kids see all that is special about our city, from archaeological digs to the oldest State House in continual use, to the room where George Washington resigned his commission to modern-day legislative goings-on. Part of the problem, though, is - unlike many schools in the county - Annapolis schools can't ask parents to pitch in to fund transportation costs too many times. Buses cost money, and children on the free breakfast/lunch program (probably close to 90 percent of students) don't have extra money for buses to even nearby enrichment opportunities (Germantown fourth-graders walked to and from the State House but in these days of more inclusion of kids with disabilities, that may no longer be possible). If we set up some kind of Annapolis school system, it needs to include funding for these transportation costs OR funding for a person whose sole responsibility is to find grants to fund such excursions and enrichment activities for all the schools in the city. We need to provide all our school children with the same or similar experiences as their peers in other schools. Otherwise, they start middle school, high school or beyond at a disadvantage.

I, too, have thought about this a long time. Generations of our city students have dropped out of school because they can't catch up. Without a way to get good jobs with a future, they turn to jobs requiring no skills and providing much quick cash - drugs or crime. Two of my daughter's classmates are in jail for murder. Another was a murder victim. Several didn't make it through high school - still doing low-end, no-future jobs, many with babies of their own. Of the boys that my son played football with, two are dead, several are in jail and others are plying the drug trade in Robinwood or off Admiral Drive. Only about four or five went to college. Many dropped out of high school. The basketball players fared better. Only one in jail - the rest college grads. We have to stop this destructive cycle, and it starts in elementary and middle school. We need to change the culture so it's cool to be smart. Maybe charter schools will be the best vehicle.

I also have some ideas for the future of development, but that's another essay.

Susan Gross
Resident of Germantown-Homewood since 1981.

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 14, 2006
Group name: Annapolis Recreation Board
Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor
Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor
Place of the conversation: Truxtun Park (pool area)
How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Leisure time; open-space environment; human-scale development; organized activities (seeing people at recreation generates positive feelings); programs for kids; programs for adults; alternatives to crime; serenity; scale; health – mental and physical fitness.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

One idea suggested was to connect the city's parks and recreational facilities by multiple means (e.g., paths and bike trails, bus service,). Others included developing smaller community-based centers and programs, and offering special programs for the Hispanic community, such as soccer. Yet another was the creation of non-sports-based activities such as a music and dance program to encourage involvement for diverse cultures.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Annapolis should have more parks and open space; an adequate recreational facilities ordinance restricting the development of new homes unless there are adequate recreational facilities available; more maintenance and refurbishment of recreational facilities; and more bus & bike routes to connect parks and recreational facilities.

Action Item***What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?***

Create a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan at the same time as the City's overall Comprehensive Plan, going through a similar process, and having the P&R Plan become a component of the General Comp Plan. A survey to adjust programs to specific wants and needs of residents would be part of the pre-plan review.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 3 46-65 5 66+ 0

Genders: Male 3 Female 5

Races/Ethnicities: 6 Caucasian; 2 African American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 21, 2006
Group name: Ward 6 Community Assn.
Reporter's name: Ald. Julie Stankivic
Person leading the conversation: Hollis Minor
Place of the conversation: Eastport Fire Hall
How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied - 3 Neutral - 5 Unsatisfied - 6 Very Unsatisfied - 3

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Lack of transportation alternatives.
Traffic/overdevelopment/losing small town feel/greenspace.
How much shopping do we need? Do we need Parole Mall?
Keep neighborhood as it is, maintain integrity of neighborhood.
Schools, affordable housing, drivers right of way/cell phone/food.
More foot & cars patrolling.
Increase # of physicians.
Honor rec/parks.
Accept change.
Circle etiquette, signs.
Feel like politicians bought/paid under table.
Powerless even when able to participate.
Redirect priorities in police department.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral - 2 Unsatisfied - 12 Very Unsatisfied - 2

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Out of towners want to tell us what to do.
Dialogue with Latino community.
Immigration/concerns over increase in illegal immigrants.
Overcrowded houses.
Subject illegal immigrants to same rules & regulations.
Police cars/fire trucks/buses slow down.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic - 1 Very Pessimistic - 6

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Not Jetson's.
People friendly.
Unity, getting along.
Walkable communities.
Downtown historic for residents.
Local businesses.
Redevelop older shopping areas to similar density.
Metro to Annapolis.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Need to feel safe. Want Police in Public Housing and walking in community. Reduce murders of young black men.
Affordable housing.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 7 46-65 7 66+ 3

Genders: Male 7 Female 10

Races/Ethnicities: Latino, African American, Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
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Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 28, 2006
Group name: Germantown-Homewood Community
Reporter's name: Hollis Minor & Susan Gross
Person leading the conversation: Hollis Minor
Place of the conversation: Trinity Church, 1300 West St.
How long did the conversation last? 1.5 Hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

See earlier Trinity Report.

Also, we re-capped the earlier discussions. The group's feelings about quality of life, included concerns about:

- A. Over-development in general, especially of the West Street corridor – people are worried that all the recent development is putting stress on our infrastructure, particularly stormwater runoff, water/sewer capacity and traffic
- B. Housing affordability – high prices of housing and apartments leads to less diversity (age – fewer young and fewer seniors; types of workers – fewer teachers, police officers, firefighters, artists, musicians; race and immigrants); less diversity means less vibrancy.
- C. Schools – not performing up to expectations; people choosing to place children in private schools, leaving public schools less diverse.
- D. Need to preserve walkable, bike-able neighborhoods, the library, playground and playing fields, growth of human scale rather than massive development.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

See earlier Trinity Report.

Also, we re-capped the earlier discussions. The group's feelings about community, included:

- A. The community has factions, according to age, age of children and activities (walking, book club, community activities, etc.). There's no desire to mix with the more crime-ridden area along Admiral Drive.
- B. Schools are unifying aspect – or they could be if more residents sent their children to the neighborhood schools. One person reiterated her suggestion for local control, creating Annapolis Charter schools – she would start with the middle schools where most people see the least satisfaction; another felt that

we should start with the elementary school to build that unity. Lots of discussion on how the charters might be structured – suggestions including making both middle schools magnets – one science and math, one performing arts; both would have IB program for middle schools – would draw children now sent to private school; charters still have roots in county system, but Annapolis would have more control over programs and how schools are run. Decided to defer till later to discuss as a possible action item.

- C. Also discussed a first step of providing bus transportation to middle schools with city buses – buses would make loop of schools, libraries (Hillsmere, too), playing fields at Annapolis Middle and Maryland Hall for Performing Arts and new Bates complex that will have computer programs, woodworking workshops, tutoring, a gym.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic 10 Neutral 3 Pessimistic 3 Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Overall we need a better balance between building, support infrastructure, and population growth. The City must work more closely with the County to best balance amenities/quality of life issues – both too separatist in making decisions now.

- A. Development – Hollis had us try to define human scale. All felt Park Place and 1901 West Street were too massive, although a few were intrigued by the possible amenities proposed for Park Place. Would like more “neighborhood-convenience” types of stores within walking distance (e.g., deli, grocery, etc.)
- B. One person suggested that 1901 West was about one floor too tall. Several talked about unhappiness at being hoodwinked by developers, who at neighborhood meetings stressed the affordability of the units, suggesting that children of residents could move in. Actual prices had been announced the previous night in the newspaper and no one found those “affordable.”
- C. Several others were concerned about how close all the new, big buildings are to the street, so no expansion of the road is ever possible.
- D. One person urged us to think what we’d like the street to become between West Circle and Legion Avenue and between Legion Avenue and Route 2 – should the land become available. For the West Circle to Legion Avenue area, we talked of possibly mixed use, with shops neighbors could use on the ground floor and apartments above – but not massive like 1901 West. A couple of people suggested it be modeled on Kentlands in Montgomery County, but that had been a planned community and a couple others weren’t sure that would work. Hollis also cautioned that those retailers (Kentland’s) relied on enough density so that enough clientele would come to their shops. The group still liked that idea. One suggested using style of big old homes that are in our residential section as model for storefront/apartment combos. Overall, limit scale of new buildings (too much “N VA” scale right now), possibly three stories is ideal maximum. Low-rise MXrecommended (office, retail downstairs and living quarters above), plus townhouses and multi-family dwellings (to support desired stores). More development like Acton Landing and Park Place OK, but limit heights.
- E. Hollis said in the transportation “Let’s Talk” sessions, the idea was proposed that more residents are needed to support the bus system, so they would suggest more density in the corridor. However, this group disagreed. Many of the group work where there is no public transportation and there’s no guarantee that the new residents would be any different, meaning more people getting into their cars and even greater gridlock.
- F. Hollis asked if public transportation were available, would people use it? The community has a fair number of residents who commute to Washington, D.C. or Baltimore and use the bus or bus/subway

combination. But those who work around the county or in other counties said it is not feasible to use public transportation – public transportation triples the time needed to get to work and outside of the city is not particularly reliable. She asked if jobs were available in Annapolis, would people use city public transit. Most of the group could not envision their jobs moving to the city.

- G. The group wanted a balance of growth and preserving what's important to the quality of life – the library (present level of service), the Poplar Park walking trail, the playing fields, the stadium walking trail, the schools PLUS better ways to get around by bike or walk – maybe wider sidewalks; definitely more lighting – many of the streets are way too dark to make walking/biking feel safe at night; and more walking destinations within the community. Also, a safer way to cross West Street – maybe using flags at crosswalks to draw cars' attention to the need to cross; a problem getting flashing lights because West Street is a state road. City must support a tasteful, walkable City (e.g., lights that control pedestrian traffic only, more street lights) with appropriate landscaping (Mayor's support of more trees is great – helps to sustain more "human scale").
- H. For the Legion Avenue to Route 2 area, one group member had heard suggestions for realigning the Admiral Drive/Chinquapin Round Road intersection by making a rectangular park where the bank and car dealership are and moving traffic around the park. However, most of the group wasn't convinced that it would be feasible to walk to that park with all the traffic. One person said if that were to come to pass, it would make sense that the surrounding land parcels (now industrial/commercial) be changed to apartment complexes to provide people for that park. But the group feared that that would lead to too many more cars. A suggestion was made to build smaller homes, such as are in some parts of Parole and Eastport, instead of apartment complexes if it were converted to residential, so that it could be truly affordable and be for working people, such as teachers, firefighters, police officers. In general, the City needs to make a strong stand on providing affordable housing.
- I. Want to see downtown/City Dock remain vital for locals (restaurants, specialty boutiques, entertainment – no chains) amidst all the new growth (Parole, mall expansion, Park Place, outer West St. development). Annapolis too tourist-oriented now, want to see it be more local-resident oriented (this group sees "segregation" in Annapolis as tourists vs. locals).
- J. Force developers to pay for building onto the infrastructure that their developments will impact (re: roads, alternate transportation, schools, stormwater management, water, sewer, etc.) prior to project completions.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The group returned to the idea of giving the city control over its public schools as their actionable item. As the capital city, the Annapolis-area schools should be a model of what is the best in the state instead of its present, struggling system that is serving fewer and fewer students well despite the good intentions and good teachers.

- A. First step – Hire a consultant to set up an advisory board. The board would set up a process and help schools that are interested in it to make the change.
- B. Something that could be done this school year was to get after-school transportation for middle school students who want to move between their schools, the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts (next to Bates Middle), the new Bates complex, Annapolis Middle sports fields and the two libraries. Possibly come up with free passes for students to tie in with city buses so that school buses unnecessary. Need to check for grants.
- C. The idea is to bring the middle class back to the public schools. Because the middle schools are least successful, start there, but any school that would like to apply to be a charter school could do so. One person knew of several possible models, saying the two that were established this year were both geared for special populations. The Annapolis charters should be more mainstream, geared to high

expectations for all students. The group felt the IB program for middle schools, Middle Years, might be a draw and would discuss possible magnet schools in addition, as big draws.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 5 46-65 8 66+ 4

Genders: Male 6 Female 11

Races/Ethnicities: 16 Caucasian, 1 African-American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

This group is very eager to continue being involved in dialog and action to make its suggestions (especially Charter Schools) a reality.

This group has done a fair amount of research on the Charter School issue and Hollis Minor has suggested that they submit it with their Report.

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160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversations: April 3, 6:30-7 30pm, May 1, 6:30-730pm, June 5, 6:30-730pm
Group name: Housing and Community Development Committee
Reporter's name: Hollis Minor
Person leading the conversation: Hollis Minor
Place of the conversation: City Hall – Council Chambers
How long did each conversation last? 1 hour each

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied 1 Satisfied 3 Neutral Unsatisfied 2(w/room for improvements) Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Want to preserve the historic, neighborhood, small town (people and buildings) feel; Annapolis should be a safe place to live with hope for our kids and the ability to get to and from activities; a place to live and shop. The components we'd like to preserve are: walkability, small businesses, people, maritime businesses, and our waterfront. We believe that the way to protect and improve our City is to: develop, promote and encourage use of alternatives to cars; implement lots of planned activities (festivals, ballgames, parades, etc.); promote attention to the environment; preserve greenscape, parks, trails, etc.; reduce density of development; moratorium on development and annexation; put more police on the streets – walking; City take more active role in schools; enlist more volunteers to become actively involved in City issues.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied 4 Neutral Unsatisfied 2 Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Should not have large sections of the poor living together (increase diversity within neighborhoods); improve the public housing facilities; increase opportunities in public housing sectors; teach public housing residents how to get out of their situation.

Mo. Co. buys apartments and rents them; here there's no real opportunity for ownership.

Public Housing - Reduce the view that public housing is scary. Get neighborhoods to mix. Make them (public housing) pleasant, beautiful. Start a mentoring program. Perhaps have a church adopt a neighborhood program. Increase public-private partnerships to replace public housing.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic 1 Optimistic 4 Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic 1

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Annapolis should become known as a "green and blue" capital, famous for its attention to the environment (its parks,

trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities).

Must define a “philosophy” through such mechanisms as this Let’s Talk program. There is no overall vision/path to follow.

City must come to a consensus on its Zoning and redevelopment vision.

Keep Eastport and downtown as urban – not suburbs (suburbs want to be suburbs), but without resorting to high-rises.

City requires an “environmental” change – set building and stormwater run-off standards, as well as appropriate scale and density that keeps the history, charm and smaller-town feel, small businesses thriving downtown. Don’t want to turn into a bedroom community that empties out the businesses from downtown.

Need to concentrate on not losing our historic core. Parole could kill downtown.

Need to have more open dialogue with and work more closely with the County.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Pass a law that bars discrimination based on income source, so that 8a vouchers can be accepted anywhere in the City.

In addition, we need to better the public housing (PH) property management, including beautifying facilities, redeveloping facilities, accountability, security, and counseling services (about how to exit PH), education outreach to dispel myths about PH tenants. Give people a vision for getting out of PH and help them to do so. Make PH a better place to live, as well as the neighborhoods surrounding them. Attempt to make PH a short-term option. Redevelop PH through public/private partnerships. Work with the courts to gain support; the Housing Authority must follow rules – but then it is not supported by the courts. Property Management should be more rigorous. Study the success stories for PH around the world, and implement the best solutions here.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 2 46-65 4 66+ _____

Genders: Male 50%Female 50%

Races/Ethnicities: Caucasian and African-American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let’s Talk Annapolis
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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: March 9, May 11, July 13. 2006.

Group name: Annapolis Conservancy Board

Reporter's name: Stephen Carr

Person leading the conversation: Stephen Carr

Place of the conversation: City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 4.5 hours each

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied 1 Satisfied 3 Neutral 2 Unsatisfied 1 Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

*The small town feel of Annapolis (which we are rapidly losing).

*No clear vision and no one seems to be articulating it if it does in fact exist.

*Water and green space make Annapolis a great place to live.

*We must connect the water to the land for more Annapolitans.

*We must make shorelines more accessible so people can better enjoy our waterfront areas.

*We must preserve more open space and woodlands for future generations.

*Reduce traffic and enhance alternative forms of transportation other than the automobile.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied 1 Satisfied 4 Neutral 2 Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

*The rest of Maryland sees Annapolis as one community, but most Annapolitans believe that their own individual neighborhoods are the community, not the whole city.

*Link each neighborhood together through greenways & trails.

*Provide better access to the water & shorelines, preserve & protect more green space, and provide more recreational opportunities for all Annapolitans.

- *Provide accessible facilities for all - recreation, jobs, etc.
- *Better advertise the water access at street-end parks and provide adequate parking.
- *We can't make it one big neighborhood, but we can make it compatible.
- *Work with the County to develop more logical boundaries between jurisdictions.
- *Annexation can provide opportunities to link communities.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic 2 Optimistic 3 Neutral 1 Pessimistic 1 Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

- *The next 10 years are critical because we are rapidly losing undeveloped land and green space.
- *A city that promotes walkability and provides bicycle/pedestrian linkages between neighborhoods.
- *A city where more than 30% of the green space on each development parcel is saved in perpetuity.
- *A city where there is better access to the water.
- *Limit the number of piers that impede shoreline access.
- *Develop a good working relationship between the City and Anne Arundel County.
- *A city with logical boundaries that meet the needs of all Annapolitans.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The City's Comprehensive Plan needs to establish clear and achievable environmental benchmarks in order to measure existing conditions and measure success and failure in a quantifiable way. These benchmarks should include the following:

- A. Identify high quality open space through the Open Space Task Force and double the City's protected open space land for a total of 400 acres by:
 1. Requiring that the Planning & Zoning Department work with developers to ensure that the environmentally sensitive portions of any development site (and no less than 30% of the total acreage) be preserved in permanent conservation easements administered by the Annapolis Conservancy Board
 2. Program Open Space funds
 3. Partnerships with other land trusts

4. MAPFE

5. Soliciting private donors to place a portion of their property into a permanent conservation easement

6. Developer incentives through the Planning & Zoning Department and by ordinance

7. Following the Open Space Task Force recommendations

B. The City needs to develop a partnership with the owners of conservation easements in order to create, fund, and implement maintenance plans for invasives removal through:

1. Requiring Developers/Homeowners Associations to post bonds to pay for the long-term maintenance of conservation easements

2. Providing City resources to individual homeowners to help defray the costs of maintenance

3. Support HOAs and homeowners in pursuing environmental grants

4. The City needs to ensure the integrity of easement properties where the City is not the owner, like with properties owned and managed by Homeowners Associations that no longer exist.

Please tell us a little about your group. Indicate numbers of people in each category.

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 8 66+ _____

Genders: Male 6 Female 2

Races/Ethnicities: Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
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Annapolis, MD 21401
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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Group Name: Wardour

Reporter's Name: Denis Seynaeve

Person Leading the Conversation: Gretchen Clift/Denis Seynaeve

Contributors: Laure Synaeve, Don Roland, Kathy Roland

Place of Conversation: 6 Kent Rd.; Clift home

Quality of life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Our immediate neighborhood

We are fortunate to live in a very pleasant neighborhood, with easy access to all necessary services (doctors, grocery store, local primary school, restaurants and shops).

There is a true village feel to West Annapolis. It is quiet, walkable and safe.

We have excellent access to the water.

Annapolis

We all like the "Small Town Atmosphere" of Annapolis, although it seems to disappear a bit more every year.

Our historic, but lively downtown is a very walkable city, and our downtown feels safe around the clock.

Annapolis' connection to the bay is also very special. From the numerous seafood restaurants to the maritime industry and all the nautical activities (from Wed. Night racing to Volvo stopovers).

Threats:

Current building boom and increased congestion is threatening our quality of life: our city's center is becoming a tourist trap, while we have to abandon it and shop in suburban-style malls.

Annapolis has been discovered. Skyrocketing estate taxes are shutting out young middle class families, while property taxes are driving older citizen couples away.

The very fabric of our community is at risk.

Ideas:

We should slow down development. No more "islands" of over-development such as West Street 1909, Park Place.

Instead of relying on more and more taxes from more and more development, Annapolis should require much more contribution from State, County and USNA for services provided.

Creating community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Satisfactory

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Because the most valuable properties are on the water and part of older, established neighborhoods, Annapolis does not have VA McMansion enclaves, and is much more inclusive (Eastport is a clear example).

Still, Annapolis is actually made of a number of communities, some crowded, and the recent real estate boom made things worse.

In addition, the influx of immigrants from El Salvador is changing the fabric of our community.

All city services must adapt to a bilingual reality. In particular law enforcement and first responders. Lack of Hispanics and/or Spanish speaking officers in the police force is a serious problem. There is a real risk that gangs might fill a void if Latinos do not feel adequately protected by the police.

Recent increase in violent crime is worrisome.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Optimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Annapolis should build on its assets:

Remain a city where walking is a pleasure.

Downtown traffic issue must be addressed. More options must be offered to entice tourists (and especially buses) to park away from town's center. The tourist center should be relocated at one of the city's gateway, with parking, and easy transportation to downtown.

Beauty must be enhanced: all utilities must be buried underground.

Annapolis should not turn into a living museum:

Our Maritime industry must remain strong.

Our city must attract a diverse array of businesses.

Annapolis must retain its older citizens, and attract middle class families:

Reform property taxes.

We must avoid becoming a city polarized between the “haves” (happy few able to afford living here) and the “have nots” (immigrants and African Americans living in ghettos), like so many in this country.

Action Item: What is one specific priority the group recommends?

Annapolis must remain a safe city. Growing insecurity is the biggest threat to our quality of life and must be addressed before it becomes irreversible.

All efforts in preserving Annapolis’ unique quality of life would be wasted if our citizens could not freely enjoy their city.

Safety has to be our first priority.

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 12 & 26, July 9 & 11, 2006

Group name: Southwoods group

Reporter's name: Keren Dement

Person leading the conversation: Kris Valerio

Place of the conversation: Valerio home

How long did the conversation last? 4 sessions, 1.5 hours each

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied

Satisfied

Neutral

Unsatisfied

Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

June 12, 2006

Participants: Nancy Roth, Cindy Shaffer, Erik Slokovitz, Keren Dement, and Kris Valerio

Consensus: We are neutral about our quality of life. We feel satisfied with many of the facets of our quality of life, but feel vulnerable because of what might happen around the bend in part from development and overpopulation. Overall the group felt the city might be on a slippery slope downwards.

Reasons we love living here; what we value:

- Maritime Heritage
- Fishing Industry
- Naval Academy
- Chesapeake Bay
- Accessibility to water to just sit and watch the boats go by
- Accessibility to downtown from Southwoods on foot or by bike
- History
- Quiet Waters Park
- The Maritime Festival
- The feeling of a small town, a village with a slower pace vs. being an urban center
- State Capital
- Small and friendly place
- Internationalism
- Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts & Ram's Head
- Affordable tickets for culture
- The cultural diversity and richness
- St. John's College
- Greenness – true communal green spaces (vest pocket parks)
- Walking trails/Greenways/Bike Trails
- Unique, one-of-a-kind locally owned and operated businesses (on Main Street, Maryland Avenue, West Annapolis, West Street, West Village – Mills, Stevens Hardware, Pinky's, the Candle Shop)

We formed our consensus about preserving and protecting around two main points:

1. Protect our special and unique businesses and encourage residents to patronize them.
2. Preserve our special quality of life with better planning and coordination. Make a concerted diplomatic effort to improve intra-governmental communication and cooperation between all of the parties (and their agencies and laws) that affect our quality of life. Bring all with whom we share this common cause – e.g.: the city, the county, the state and the federal government -- to the same table.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

June 26, 2006

Participants: Nancy Roth, Christine Jorgensen, Keren Dement, Kris Valerio

Consensus: We are neutral about the sense of community in Annapolis.

One participant said that she is “satisfied”, but felt that the community was kind of on a precipice. The reason is that her perception is that local people don’t go downtown and it’s hard therefore to feel a sense of community because although Annapolis still has a small town feel, there is a noticeable impact from changes caused by the influx of million dollar homes, the many mostly Latino people who are employed providing services for the town, and from the separateness of the African-American community.

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

We want it to be a place where people can live, find opportunities and succeed and to keep it as a place we all love to live. Our suggestions:

1. Make a commitment to support, maintain and sustain, and improve the amenities valued by diverse residents that enhance the quality of life already in Annapolis. For instance:

- LIBRARY (Keep it in the City of Annapolis)
- Accessible, affordable housing, integrated into city neighborhoods (consider use of housing vouchers)
- Schools
- Parks
- Pool
- Locally owned businesses
- Walking and biking trails
- Accessible waterfront

2. Communicate and market these amenities and others to the residents of Annapolis to encourage their use. Make the Annapolis resident feel special and differentiated from the tourist visitor. Use available resources to do this:

- The Annapolis City magazine
- The City of Annapolis Utility Bills

· Commercial outlets (the Capital; What's Up; etc.)

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

July 9, 2006

Participants: Nancy Roth, Keren Dement, Kris Valerio

Consensus: We are nervously neutral and leaning toward being pessimistic because of the direction toward which we believe the area to be headed in particular with regard to vehicular traffic.

We asked: "What's between us and (becoming) THAT (i.e. Northern Virginia)?"

With growth has come traffic that is far too dense for our old streets and grids to handle. The traffic light at George and Chinguapin Round Road, for instance, is increasingly difficult to negotiate at a.m. and p.m. rush hours; Chinguapin Round backs up in one direction to a backed up West Street; in the other direction it backs up onto a backed up Aris T. Allen Blvd or Route 225. Left turns across West Street are apt to be deadly. Drivers push their cars too fast through the neighborhoods on either side of Chinguapin. The merge from two lanes to one on eastbound West Street resembles a NASCAR raceway competition. And this is only one small community from one small area of the city. We who live here feel a perpetual sense of anxiety when thinking about driving almost anywhere and worried for our children, not to overlook bicyclists and pedestrians.

We don't want to become Northern Virginia or Rockville and suggest:

- City bureaucracy should open its doors and windows wider to encourage and regard greater public input;
- Making the zoning hearing signage bigger and more easily read by passersby;
- Insist on, make a priority of, intergovernmental cooperation at every level.

What should Annapolis become in the next 10 years and beyond?

1. A model for courageous, bold, progressive, forward thinking and problem solving;
2. Open up the process and make it hip, sexy and fun;
3. Televising the process;
4. A model for bringing together and supporting the best local innovative minds to lead the problem solving and change process;(Ex: Kathryn Goetzke-White; Debbie Gosselin; Jeff Penn; John White; Jerry South, etc.)
5. A model for multi-government cooperation;
6. A model for multi-government-citizen two-way communication.

Our group recommends emphasizing:

Green development
Storm water management
Innovative transportation (Zip cars; gondolas)
Benefits both for city and county residents to encourage local use of the city and its amenities

Demographically blended communities
Economic opportunity for all.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

July 11, 2006

Participants: Nancy Roth, Cindy Shaffer, Keren Dement, Kris Valerio

Action Item:

The one specific priority action item we recommend is:

Improve communication by investing in a state-of-the-art professional public-relations/communications organization to facilitate effective, authentic dialogue, problem solving and change.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 4 46-65 2 66+ _____

Genders: Male 1 Female 5

Races/Ethnicities: _____Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

In addition, we would like to also recommend the following:

Engage the brightest, most highly evolved minds to deal with our problems from a corporate (vs. bureaucratic/governmental) perspective. We highly recommend they examine and recommend change to communication at all levels including:

1. Within the city government (inter and intra departmental);
2. Between the city and all other governments that should be our partners but too frequently are our adversaries (intra-governmental);
3. And, with the citizens of the city (the sending out of information and the receiving back of information).

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c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Lets Talk Annapolis – Conversation Report

Date of Conversation: June 20, 2006 and July 11, 2006
Group Name: Presidents Hill Community Association
Reporter: John Birchfield
Person leading conversation: Hollis Minor
Place of Conversation: O'Callaghan Hotel and Loews Hotel
How long? 1 hour 30 min. and 1 hour

1. How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied: 1 Satisfied: 3 Unsatisfied: 1

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Preserve:

- Neighborhoods
- Sense of Community
- Safety
- Pedestrian Environment
- Diversity of Neighborhoods (Economic/Cultural)
- Scale of Architecture
- Relationships with neighbors
- Pedestrian access to services
- Adequate medical facilities
- City/County Govt. relationship
- Access to parking
- Maritime heritage
- Environment
- Greenspace and urban parks
- West Street as a functioning arterial
- Focus on the Arts
- Small local restaurants
- City and People's influence on development and direction of the city (as opposed to developers).

2. How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied: 5

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

- Affordable housing
- Arts
- Events
- Beautification
- Improve the Schools and use them as a center for diversity

3. How optimistic doe the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic: 2 Optimistic: 6 Pessimistic: 1

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

- As it grows, we should export historical Annapolis and charm, not import a metropolitan atmosphere.
- Our non-historical cityscape should be more similar to Bethesda (attractive buildings, thriving business centers).
- We should not become trapped in our own city, thus we need to ensure that the infrastructure (traffic, parking, schools, hospitals, pedestrian walkways/lights, etc.) is sufficient before allowing runaway growth.
- Create/support shuttle services throughout area.
- Increase measures to protect pedestrian mobility and safety (i.e., pedestrian stoplights, more foot-police patrols).
- We should promote the arts as a way of maintaining diversity and the community spirit.
- We should continue to embrace our maritime focus.
- We need to maintain greenscape.
- We should keep our focus on protecting the neighborhoods, small-town atmosphere and charm that we feel slipping away.
- We (as residents) should organize with businesses to align efforts toward like goals: combating crime, etc.

4. What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The city needs to strengthen the mission and the staffing, including legal support, of planning and zoning to better analyze the holistic affects of proposed developments and growth with protection of the quaint neighborhoods and quality of life as the overall mission and goal, as well as enforcement of regulations.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

June 20 – Questions 1-2

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 3 46-65 1 66+ 1

Genders: Male 3 Female 2

Races/Ethnicities: All Caucasian

July 11 – Questions 3-4

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 4 46-65 4 66+ 1

Genders: Male 6 Female 3

Races/Ethnicities: All Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

While the group agreed on one primary action, one participant submitted a more detailed list of additional recommendations discussed (attached).

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160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Submitted by: Mike Parker
28 Madison Place
mQarker@usna.edu 40-293-6211

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. Institute a new parking district - #5 - that will cover only properties in the MX District rather than include new West Street residents in Districts #3 or #4.
2. Ensure that the 15-foot buffer between parking and residential areas be made mandatory, without negotiation, for all MX properties. Code should stipulate that buffers are permanent, regardless of property sales, unless use of property changes. No grandfathering allowed. Permits and Inspections needs to inspect buffers on an annual basis to ensure that they haven't been infringed upon (Presidents Hill Neighborhood Plan Recommendation IV.8).
3. Require traffic circulation, a well as light and air studies for all projects in MX Zone (Presidents Hill Neighborhood Plan Recommendation IV.4 and IV.5).
4. Gradually eliminate MX as a zoning category. This category was established in 1986 as a spur to development; once the development has taken place, the property should revert to the closest applicable category, e.g., C1 or R3. There needs to be a reversion mechanism.
5. Relocate regional power distribution lines that run along Madison and Jefferson Place to underground conduits on Taylor Avenue (Presidents Hill Neighborhood Plan Recommendation 1.5).
6. Pursue undergrounding across the City. Presidents Hill, Munroe Court and Hill Street would be quick and relatively easy candidates for undergrounding (Presidents Hill Neighborhood Plan Recommendation 111.15).

Transportation Board Report

Background

60 days ago, Mayor Ellen Moyer asked the Transportation Board of the City of Annapolis to consider issues related to the immediate and long term future of transportation alternatives for the city. This was initiated as part of the "Let's Talk" comprehensive planning process the Mayor started earlier this year.

We believe that the timing of this request could not have been better. The city is facing a series of significant challenges related to transportation that must be resolved.

The Current Transportation Environment in Annapolis

The City of Annapolis operates one of the most extensive small city transportation networks in the nation. This busy network forms a vital part of the 'grid' of transportation alternatives allowing citizens to live and work as efficiently as possible. The transit system exceeds that of most communities the size of Annapolis, offering services seven days a week, past 10 PM at night and providing support programs such as a guaranteed ride home, assistance with tax incentives and late night employee subsidies. As a result patronage on Annapolis Transit far exceeds most small community bus systems, approaching the rider levels of medium to large cities.

No public transportation system in the nation is self-sufficient. Unfortunately, public debate often centers on subsidies given to public transportation systems. The costs of those subsidies are far outweighed by economic development, enhanced access to employment and education, decreased air and water pollution and an improved quality of life. Savings and efficiencies in other public programs are created by the availability of public transportation.

Annapolis has built its transit system by obtaining Federal grants.

As national financial priorities change, the federal government is reducing and curtailing many funding mechanisms. Grants formerly distributed to demonstrated projects on a regional and local basis are now formula funds. These changes are reducing federal funds available for Maryland transportation systems.

In the 2000 census, Annapolis was designated part of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

Large urban areas, such as Baltimore, do not receive operating grants.

While the Annapolis Transit system only serves the Annapolis area and rural Anne Arundel County, as part of the Baltimore Metro Area it can no longer receive operating funds.

In 2002, the year this census change was announced, Annapolis was eligible to receive \$850,000 towards operation of the transit system. With the recent passage of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), a schedule was set to phase out all Federal operating funding.

Annapolis will not receive any operating subsidies based on Federal funds after FY 2008.

Therefore, based on a highly questionable bureaucratic definition, over \$800,000 will be lost to our community.

In addition, SAFETEA-LU changed the system of awards for Federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grants. These grants have been used in recent years to supplement and expand transit routes. These routes connect Annapolis to locations in Anne Arundel County, and are vital links to employment and education for many Annapolis residents. JARC funds total over \$300,000 each year. These federal changes will reduce revenues needed to develop these new routes, and the effects could be felt as early as FY 2007.

Today's fuel costs have escalated to a level unanticipated by flat line budgeting and are already causing a severe fiscal strain on the system. Maintenance costs have also skyrocketed, causing further unprecedented expenses. The combination of rising fuel prices, escalating parts cost, and loss of grant funding can not be accommodated within the current flat municipal budget.

Historically, planning for transportation needs in our region has been poor. The now infamous master transportation plan projects a fixed world of transportation alternatives but proposes no ways to get there and is already out of date in a number of respects. The cross-jurisdictional nature of our area with city, county, state and federal governments further complicates planning and processes.

Plans for development on Forest Drive and West Street included the presumption of existing and expanded transportation services along these corridors. Loss of services would have a severely negative impact on these areas. Unprecedented growth in Anne Arundel County, especially in areas like Forest Drive, demands that public transportation issues be coordinated with the City of Annapolis.

Additionally, driven by swiftly increasing real estate values and assessments, some political leaders have continued to push for a reduction in tax rates and a shift of resources away from transportation. The Transportation board views the deterioration of public transportation networks for political purposes to be patently irresponsible.

Summary

The City of Annapolis faces serious transportation challenges.

The causes are clear:

- Loss of Federal transportation operating grants and subsidies due to definitional changes forced upon the city by the Federal Government.
- Increasing demands by the Annapolis City Council for tax cuts at the expense of city services
- Dramatically increased costs in areas of fuel and maintenance.

Allowing the current situation to develop unchecked could result in:

- Increased gridlock on main arteries
- Loss of additional parking in downtown, Eastport and West Annapolis
- Direct economic losses to citizens forced to shift to cars from alternate forms of transportation
- Direct economic losses to businesses due to a loss of customers
- Increased pollution and loss of quality of life
- Decreased use of alternate transportation and no economic capacity to develop new alternative forms of transportation (e.g., water shuttles)

We believe that political leadership must clearly communicate to citizens about the likely repercussions of the above events, including the possible loss of services. If decreased availability of public transit forces more travelers to drive, citizens can expect:

- Increased traffic congestion in all parts of the city, but especially along feeder routes currently served by Department of Transportation bus services. Most impact will be felt along Forest Drive, West Street and downtown Annapolis. Commute times will increase further to main highways US 50, I-97 and the USNA Bridge. The board estimates that private vehicle traffic will increase 15%.
- Parking, especially in current high demand areas, will become even more scarce and in demand. Overall, the costs of parking (direct and indirect) will escalate. "Overflow" parking into neighborhoods and Eastport will increase. It will also create more enforcement costs. The modest improvements seen in the last two years will quickly disappear.
- Due to the increase in the use of private vehicles, costs to all citizens, but especially those using public transportation today, will increase. This means many people who are already under severe economic stress to maintain a life in Annapolis will be put under further economic stress.
- Businesses, especially businesses downtown, will see a decrease in customers and an increase in their employment costs to off set the additional costs to employees in commuting and parking. This, combined with the anticipated affects of the Parole development, could cause lasting economic damage to the city and both commercial and residential real estate values.

- With increased use of private vehicles will come additional pollution, traffic and safety concerns, especially downtown where there are the highest housing and commercial densities. This reduces the intangible quality of life – living, visiting and doing business in affected areas will become less attractive and this will have real estate value and even historic preservation implications.
- Finally, the oft spoken of attempts to create additional transportation choices will halt. Cleaner commuting will be severely impacted and marine commuting would stay a long-term dream.

The worst case scenario is coming to fruition: Loss of grant revenues during a period of escalating costs. Service improvements are not possible in the current fiscal environment. Those seeking an answer to worsening congestion will not find it in additional public transportation services. We cannot have cuts in tax rates and expect enhanced public systems.

The challenge to Annapolis is to replace nearly 1 million dollars in lost resources, while continuing to enhance services.

The board believes the city must:

- Explore new cost-effective ways to provide transit services.
- Develop new local funding mechanisms.
- Continue to provide current services.
- Plan for improvement of services in the long term.
- Increase public awareness and consensus on issues of transportation, their priority within the city budget and choices that need to be made among alternative transportation choices

Solutions

Annapolis can have a superior transportation system, offering a menu of enticing alternative to single occupant auto travel, such as:

- Bus routes serving the Annapolis Neck to reduce traffic from that corridor.
- Free and frequent shuttles throughout the downtown area, including along West Street.

- GPS outfitted buses with time of arrival displays at key bus stops and shelters.
- Smartbike kiosks for public use.
- Automated on-call taxi and para-transit services for late night workers and special needs travelers.
- Parking and traffic information at all city gateways.
- A coordinated ferrybus serving our waterfront destinations.
- Signal priority to keep public vehicles moving through traffic.
- An attractive multi-modal terminus for all transportation services.

These projects will not happen without funding. Without them, however, there will be a gradual deterioration of the quality of life in our community. For less than the cost of one-highway interchange project, Annapolis could have the most advanced public transportation system in the nation.

One solution, which should be explored, is contracting out some functions traditionally completed by city employees. A for-profit company has the flexibility to pay salaries and bonuses which are both effective and competitive.

The Transportation Board stands ready to assist city staff and the administration in making these points to the city council, the press and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

G. Mayor's Coffee Reports

Mayor Moyer hosted 'Coffee with the Mayor' at City Hall for eight Fridays in a row between May 12 and June 30. There were some continuous and some new participants at each of the conversations. Mayor Moyer attended and participated in all but one.

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: May 12, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Daria Hardin

Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor

Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The most important elements of quality of life ranged from the built and natural environment, to the sense of community and connectedness. Education and ownership of both property and the community came up as important.

This group felt that the sense of community and caring about this place was the strongest factor in keeping a high quality of life in Annapolis. The sense that people care about the community shines though in how we care for ourselves, our infrastructure and our environment.

The challenge facing the community is how to keep this feeling and caring as change comes, such as the changes with rising property values, decrease in affordability and a changing population.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

The group didn't settle on one yet. The ideas centered on the following:

Find a way for the City and its residents to be heard by the County in the area of Education.

Convert one public housing property into a co-op to further encourage a feeling of ownership. There was discussion on this concerning how to convince residents that this is possible, how to work with HUD and HACA, and how to overcome disengagement.

Begin a public service campaign possibly entitled, "Come Together Naptown" to encourage that pride of belonging that comes with a feeling of ownership, whether or not people actually own their properties.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 3 46-65 3 66+ 1

Genders: Male 3 Female 4

Races/Ethnicities: 5 White, 2 African-American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

There was a feeling that even if the concrete ideas from the discussion didn't happen, that the discussion itself was very valuable. Just knowing that others are concerned is heartening to many.

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: May 19 & May 26, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor

Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor

Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

The group reviewed points from the previous week's meeting and worked to develop a fuller understanding of the term "Quality of Life". Through its conversation the group came to understand that the term represents many different ideas, some of which seem to resonate with most of the participating in the conversation. They included feelings of personal connection to the city, a feeling of belonging and even ownership. A general feeling to keep things the same (e.g., physical buildings and infrastructure) was the first group expression. It was also suggested that any new development be on a more human scale, meaning less height and overall size of individual developments, and that more space be set aside for people (i.e., downtown as a walk-only district, bike lanes on all Annapolis roads and more parks and trails). As the discussion continued interests settled around the look, feel, and culture of the city. Suggestions were made to have an Art Center in the downtown and others suggested that a multiple town-center approach might be the perfect idea to help control congestion on the roads. The group was reminded that they would need to think about how we could do one thing to improve our quality of life versus all the things we could possibly do. The group will take up this conversation again next week.

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 6 66+ 2

Genders: Male 4 Female 4

Races/Ethnicities: European-American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 2, 2006
Group name: Mayor's Coffee
Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor
Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor
Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall
How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Our conversation focused on the quality of life at a human scale:

Communication, personal contact, personal connections (like Let's Talk). Time & Community.

Civil Society; conflict resolution; being a good neighbor; integrity; focus on the positive.

It might to have ambassadors – people that actively outreach and serve as a catalyst for positive change.

Have kids working with kids.

Use state connections or private grants to gain financial support for community building projects.

In general the group wanted to maintain small-town feel; keep Annapolis the way it feels now; some suggested that there was too much pressure to build the inner city; and that they wanted to keep the inner City the same by building outside the City (satellite town centers); follow City's Charter; must consider how area is used – not just how it looks; in general individuals in the group wanted to sustain and improve the quality of life based on their personal perspective of the quality of life the city provides.

A suggestion was made to conduct a study of how we use the city.

Promote Art-Center culture.

Create a fair and equitable process for broader planning (this may mean more awareness of the Comprehensive Planning process).

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 3 46-65 2 66+ 1

Genders: Male 3 Female 3

Races/Ethnicities: All Caucasian

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 9, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Ray Weaver

Person leading the conversation: Alison Kelly

Place of the conversation: Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

The overriding theme was "better communication" between the "haves" and the "have nots". That Annapolis has become two divided cities, and how to get them together.

Communities don't want promises that aren't kept.

That the fear of going outside in some neighborhoods has become a life and death issue.

And that the idea of crime isn't just "over there" anymore. That it is throughout the city.

Many questions posed as to why there are obvious, open-air drug markets that aren't being broken up.

No matter what folks feel about the "small town" appeal of Annapolis, this isn't Mayberry, and we have real "big city" problems.

Mention was made of black on Hispanic violence, particularly when the Hispanics were leaving work late at night.

Public Housing areas are a key problem in the community, each area appears to be declining and crime is increasing. Group felt there was a need to address this.

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Lights at Saint Anne's Cemetery. Surveillance cameras

More educational outreach. Group agreed that effective change could happen through educational programs in the school for children and in the neighborhoods for parents. Eleven participants signed a sheet to be considered as future volunteers to make this change happen.

Establishing scholarships for children in challenged neighborhoods, so they can become role models.

Much talk about the benefits of uniforms in public schools.

There should be a playground in every Ward.

Elevated pedestrian walks for places like Bestgate Road

Engaging the sailing community in educational outreach

The solution that every one agreed on, to varying degree, was that education, early and often, was the best "how to" to start bridging the divides.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 66+ _____

Genders: Male 3 Female 11

Races/Ethnicities: _____

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

Please return this form to: Let's Talk Annapolis
c/o Dept. of Planning & Zoning
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 16, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor

Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor

Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Consider differences between "making points" vs. "having dialogue" in small group communications.

Categories for community-based segregation are many: generational, geographical, language, age, sub-culture, ethnic, suburban/urban, social-economic, nationalism, values. Differing values may include: stewardship of land, mistrust of government, fear of a dominant culture. One goal of a successful program would be to decrease community and individual fear. Increase awareness and available information on city problems.

Institute an ambassador program – so that there is always someone welcoming, always with a smile

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 2 46-65 3 66+ 1

Genders: Male 3 Female 3

Races/Ethnicities: 5 Caucasian, 1 African American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 23, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor

Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor

Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

A number of ideas were discussed for the final week's meeting. They included:

1. Build Community

Tennis for all

Overcome mistrust and fear, believe in each other

Engage community leaders in continuing *Let's Talk* conversations

Link communities through public service

Better-informed citizens

Conduct a "Come Together" & Civility Conference to promote individual rights and civility

Institute monthly "Values Conversations"

2. Reduce Congestion

Improve public transportation (to reduce traffic)

Create bike lanes

Encourage foot traffic

Reduce road-anger and road-rage

3. Other

Improve public safety

Enforce drug laws

Increase awareness of public resources (parks and rec)

Create ownership programs

Increase urban open space

Support youth in arts

Keep kids in school

Encourage volunteers

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 3 46-65 5 66+ 1

Genders: Male 4 Female 5

Races/Ethnicities: 8 Caucasian; 1 African American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

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Annapolis, MD 21401
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Let's Talk Annapolis - Conversation Report

Please answer the questions that are relevant to your conversation. In cases where you did not touch on the subject, it is okay to leave the question blank. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date of the conversation: June 30, 2006

Group name: Mayor's Coffee

Reporter's name: Don Lamb-Minor

Person leading the conversation: Don Lamb-Minor

Place of the conversation: City Council Chambers, City Hall

How long did the conversation last? 2 hours

Quality of Life

How does the group feel about the quality of life in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

What are the most important parts of our quality of life in Annapolis, and how do we protect and improve it?

Creating Community

How does the group feel about the sense of community in Annapolis?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied

How do we build a unified community that honors our rich diversity?

Future of Annapolis

How optimistic does the group feel about the future of Annapolis?

Very Optimistic Optimistic Neutral Pessimistic Very Pessimistic

What should Annapolis become over the next 10 years and beyond?

A City that cares; create a "Climate for Care". Annapolis should work to build well-informed community.

Promote: "ownership" of City; reduction of traffic congestion and creation of more directional signage; civility; "neighborhood weekends"/community parties.

Action Item

What is the one specific priority action the group recommends?

Support continuing *Let's Talk*-type small conversations to resolve the above-mentioned issues. Have 4 citywide topics per year and increase public awareness of the program - promote it in the City magazine, through PSAs and signage, etc. The first three topics could be built around "Come Together Annapolis", "Civility Conference", and "Ownership of City". Have the *Let's Talk* rules laminated on big cards, support hosts, have a launch party. Maintain a program coordinator.

Please tell us a little about your group. *Indicate numbers of people in each category.*

Ages: Under 25 0 26-45 3 46-65 5 66+ 2

Genders: Male 5 Female 5

Races/Ethnicities: 7 Caucasian; 3 African American

Is there anything else you would like to share from this conversation?

This group will re-convene in August to establish a support plan for their recommended action.

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Annapolis, MD 21401
Fax: 410-268-0122

BUILDING COMMUNITY in ANNAPOLIS **-within neighborhoods and between neighborhoods**

COMMUNITY comes from people interacting with each other, getting to know each other, through **communication** and **cooperation** in a way that **affirms** one another.

HOW to do this? It's a long-term goal.

One way might be to have a Neighborhood/Community weekend- a little like First Night but between neighborhoods (possibly the weekend after memorial Day). Each neighborhood would develop a program that would tell others what is distinctive about the people in their neighborhood, what they celebrate about themselves, what they want others to know about them. This would entail each neighborhood getting to know something about others in their neighborhoods, talking with each other, assessing the talents people have in the various sections of their neighborhood and putting together a kind of program. This would give Annapolitans an opportunity to get to know neighborhoods they might not otherwise visit.

PROCESS for doing this.

1. Contact leaders in the neighborhoods (ministers, business people, professional people, social workers, etc) and sell them on the idea of developing a community within their neighborhood. ...And preparing to present a program for a particular date in the future (so there is a timeline).
2. Leaders get together with others in their neighborhood to assess talents and qualities of their neighborhood they'd like to showoff (Music, dance, skate boarding, gardening, parenting etc.). Then the group begins to work out what they'd LIKE to do.

EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS MIGHT WORK.

Edgewood Road peninsula includes Bay Woods, Heritage Harbor, several other Senior and other condo areas, private homes, three marinas, a sailing camp, etc. The Senior areas might want to show off their facilities, their grounds, a few apartments, and give tours. The marinas might want to take people for a tour around their facilities and a short sail.

Each neighborhood program would be presented during a morning, afternoon or evening over the weekend. How many neighborhoods would be in each time slot depends on the number of neighborhoods in Annapolis that would participate. Buses could continually go between the neighborhoods as they do on First Night.

Al Brown & Maudy Burgus

H. Business Community Surveys

The business community participated in Let's Talk in a slightly different format. The Eastport Business Association (EBA), Annapolis Business Association (ABA) and West Annapolis Business Association participated. At an association meeting, members were given a 7-question survey to fill out individually and send back. Survey responses were compiled to discuss at future business association meetings.

The seven survey questions were:

1. As a business person, what do you most fear will happen in Annapolis over the next 10 to 20 years?
2. What do you consider are the greatest challenges facing Annapolis in the next 10 to 20 years?
3. What should Annapolis NOT become over the next 10 to 20 years?
4. Given your answers to the above three questions, what recommendations would you propose to minimize or eliminate the possibility of those concerns becoming a reality?
5. What are the greatest barriers you see to developing a consensus among the various constituency groups in Annapolis?
6. Are those barriers insurmountable or can they be mitigated or even alleviated? If so, why and how?
7. What resources will Annapolis need at its disposal to achieve the recommendations suggested in question 4? What roles will the various constituent groups have in ensuring that Annapolis has access to those resources?

| Business Associations Responses 2006 (updated 7-27-06) | |
|--|--------------|
| Questions 1, 2, 3, 5 Issues of Concern | Total |
| lose small town/neighborhood quality of life/character/historical charm/too commercial | 35 |
| traffic/gridlock | 32 |
| overtaxed - infrastructure, schools, parking and increased drugs and crime | 29 |
| poor planning/lack of vision/uncontrolled overdevelopment - especially no-style | 26 |
| lose downtown's quality stores/businesses/restaurants; too much competition from outer Annapolis malls, etc | 26 |
| lose diversity/elite wealthy only/class issues/no affordable housing/too much overpriced housing | 24 |
| too tourism-centric/boutique tourist trap/resort; not enough attention paid to current residents' issues | 11 |
| lack of strong government/business leadership, too much political sellout, ego/personal agendas/inability to compromise | 11 |
| higher taxes | 10 |
| fewer maritime businesses/culture | 9 |
| not enough communication; apathy/not enough public interest/involvement | 8 |
| too much developer greed/influence | 5 |
| harm to the Bay | 4 |
| historic preservation not allowing for renovation/innovation/growth | 2 |
| not enough public transportation/and use of such | 2 |
| overpopulation/overcrowding | 2 |
| decisions based on private/individual/family view vs. community view | 2 |
| focus on residential vs. business concerns | 2 |
| Question 4, 6, 7 Recommendations | Total |
| more dialogue/communication/consensus building/public awareness/involvement/volunteer advisors | 23 |
| good planning/smart zoning to protect affordable housing/diversity/business rents; limit hght, size, capacity; keep small-town/charm | 23 |
| efficient, dependable public transportation within and out of City/conduct study/develop fringe pkg | 14 |
| elect better/more long-range and quality-of-life, less-development-oriented focused leadership | 12 |
| work more closely with County and metro area to improve infrastructure, schools, etc. | 9 |
| better leadership/vision/accountability/less squabbling | 9 |
| support maritime businesses - enforce zoning/tax credits | 6 |
| construction moratorium until Master Plan developed | 6 |
| improve amenities/infrastructure: street lighting, green spaces, roads, sidewalks (support walkers), bike/motorcycle parking | 6 |
| decrease rate of growth/development | 5 |
| better way to handle crime and drug offenders/get them help/jobs | 5 |
| government needs to keep pace with business needs, and have econ. dev. in mind during planning | 4 |
| obtain expert talent in various fields and fund it | 3 |
| limit or eliminate chain stores | 3 |
| focus on environment/air and Bay restoration | 3 |
| support businesses we already have (tax relief, other advantages) rather than try to recruit new ones | 3 |
| clean up/reduce the public housing projects | 2 |
| strengthen historic preservation | 2 |
| give business a seat on the City Council | 2 |
| hold growth beneficiaries responsible for infrastructure improvement/quality of life after building | 2 |
| give more resources to the Economic Development Office | 2 |
| strong/active design review committees, including community volunteers | 2 |

I. Lessons Learned

At the close of the first six months of the 'Let's Talk Annapolis' initiative, we pause to note how well it worked, and what lessons have been learned.

General Observations

1. Let's Talk conversations are a good model for community-building. Most participants enjoyed the conversations, met people they had not formerly known, and got to know each other better. Many noted that it felt good to be heard. Others felt heartened that they were not alone with their own concerns. Numerous individuals said if they did nothing but participate in a conversation, they felt enriched by the experience. The majority of participants would like the Let's Talk program to continue, with a mechanism to mix groups up more.
2. Some groups observed that they were fairly homogeneous by age, social background, or ethnicity. One participant commented that every person in his conversation group was already active and involved in the community. Many wished for more diversity and differing points of view, but were not sure how to accomplish it. Other groups naturally mixed people with a variety of view points and backgrounds.
3. It was difficult for groups to recommend one specific priority action, which was the fourth and probably most difficult question posed to the group. This may have been due to:
 - It takes time for a group to come to shared understandings and a recommendation. Since the majority of groups met only once, there simply wasn't enough time.
 - It takes knowledge and information that was not always available in the group.
4. Scheduling posed some difficulties. Changing locations, dates & times caused attrition.
5. We did not attempt to keep track of everyone who participated in Let's Talk. The program relied on individuals self-registering for the Let's Talk email list or staying in touch with the group's host or facilitator. While this simplified the administration of the program, it poses challenges to follow-up efforts, and puts the burden of staying informed and involved on individual participants.
6. Many groups had the organization and interest to meet only once. (The groups that met more than once *tended to* be pre-existing, thus already having a meeting schedule, meeting place, and group leader.) As a result, the conversations provide insight into what people care about, but provide less guidance on action steps that should follow.
7. The Mayor's Coffee format allowed information-sharing by the Mayor. Participants noted that this helped the group have a very constructive conversation about aspects of City governance. That group met eight times, and hope to continue meeting in the Fall of 2006.

Lessons Learned

1. Regular and predictable meeting times and locations should be part of any future Let's Talk program, eg. every other Thursday evening at the same location. This will facilitate participation and continuity.
2. The email list and web site worked well for disseminating information to those with access to computers and the Internet. These involved a minimum of cost and staff time.
3. Notifications seemed most effective when they were both mailed and e-mailed. If notifications are to be distributed via mail, a mailing list that is updated with new participants' information must be maintained. Providing updates in the Annapolis City magazine is a second method to reach city residents by mail, although the magazine cannot provide the most timely information.
4. Conversations were easier in smaller groups (10 participants or less). Keeping the small group format should be an important feature of future conversations.
5. For the Actions proposed by conversation groups to become implementable, considerable follow-up and clarification will be needed.

J. Mayor's Comments - August, 2006

Mayor Moyer's comments regarding the themes raised in the Let's Talk conversations:

1. Traffic Congestion. A survey is being developed to poll residents along the Forest Drive corridor about commuting patterns, other travel destinations, and under what circumstances they would use public transportation as a step in reducing congestion. The methodology of the sampling is still being decided.

2. Public Transportation. On July 19th the first forum was held with the business community to evaluate the challenges raised in the report from the Transportation Advisory Board. Transportation experts will spend the next 6 weeks examining the possibility of expanded shuttle service between city neighborhoods and city businesses to facilitate travel to and from work. Partnerships with Anne Arundel County and entities such as Anne Arundel Community College are also being explored.

3. New development and infrastructure. It is important that we do a better job giving the public the facts. There are actually no "high-rises" in Annapolis. Much concern has been expressed about Parole and the so called "Edge-city", which is actually located in Anne Arundel County and over which the City of Annapolis has no jurisdiction. An Adequate Public Facilities bill for the city will be voted on at a City Council meeting soon.

4. "Small Town Feel". Things like the West Street revitalization are vital to continuing the "small town feel" of Annapolis. Lemongrass and the renovation of the BB&T building on Sixth Street are benchmark examples of reclaiming buildings that help to rescue and renew the neighborhood where they are located. The much-maligned 1901 West Street development is honoring the MPDU program and making moderately-priced rental housing available. As the West Street revitalization continues, more opportunities such as these could become a reality.

5. Public Schools. The City is establishing a new education commission to look at ways to improve all of our public schools.

6. Social Unease/Public Housing groups. The City is promoting the "Come Together, Annapolis" event. In October, during "Stop the Violence" week, the Civility Conference will continue and be expanded from prior years.

7. "Powerless". Annapolis is perhaps the most volunteer-oriented, participatory city in the country, and we are continuing our efforts to give every citizen a voice. Residents are encouraged to participate in the democratic process that informs the rights and the laws that protect and govern the City of Annapolis. The Mayor appears every week on a live radio program, and invites residents to call in with questions and comments (Mondays at 2:00 pm on WNAV). The "City of Annapolis" magazine is delivered three times each year to every city resident. The City website (www.Annapolis.gov) is one of the most comprehensive municipal websites anywhere. The city plans to expand the information available on our Comcast Channel

and to continue to promote connecting our communities via brochures, direct mail and through our community associations. We need to do a better job letting people know that all of these things are available. The idea is that we are all in this together, and that none of us should demand more of the city or our neighbors than each one of us is willing to take responsibility for.

8. The Environment. Annapolis is a model environmental city. We are committed to increasing our tree canopy, decreasing impervious surfaces and continuing to reclaim areas like the Back Creek Nature Park. Back Creek is a living, breathing example of what can be done by volunteers and “sweat equity”. Mayor Moyer was one of only 50 mayors nationwide invited to the Sundance Film Festival to view the premiere of Al Gore’s film, “An Inconvenient Truth”. We are recognized nationwide for our conservation initiatives, and are always looking at ways to improve.

K. Next Steps

What is the future of Let's Talk?

In October, Mayor Moyer will continue to host Let's Talk conversations on Friday mornings at City Hall. Check with the Mayor's Office to confirm dates, 410-263-7997. Other conversation groups are also expected to form. Venues for these groups to meet on a regular basis are being explored, as well as the idea of conversation topics, as suggested by at least one group. An interactive Let's Talk website is also being developed. It could feature, among other things, live chat with City officials.

The Annapolis Comprehensive Plan

A citizen advisory committee has been assembled to work with consultants and City staff on the update of the Annapolis Comprehensive Plan. Numerous committee members are Let's Talk participants. This report will be provided to the advisory committee and consultants at the outset of the planning process.

Appendix A

Materials for conversation groups

How Does “Let’s Talk Annapolis” Work?

Let’s Talk Annapolis is a 6-month process to involve the people of Annapolis in a community-wide conversation.

Let’s Talk Annapolis invites interested individuals to form or join a small discussion group. The group will engage in a conversation about the central concepts of “quality of life” in our city – understanding that the term means something slightly different to each of us.

What will we talk about?

Each group will begin with the same three questions:

- How do we protect and improve our quality of life?
- How do we build a unified community?
- What should Annapolis become over the next 10 to 20 years?

The conversations will be as varied as the participants in each group.

Each group will answer the 4th question in their own way, based on their conversation about the first three questions. The 4th question is:

- What should we do to address one specific priority?

When and how will we meet to talk?

Each group determines its own meeting times, locations, how many times it wants to meet, and whether it wants assistance from an outside facilitator.

After each discussion session, the group will complete a conversation report – a short form to document major conclusions or outcomes of the conversation.

What happens with the results of the conversations?

In August, 2006, the conversation reports will be published. The reports will inform City actions and policies, including the Comprehensive Plan and other initiatives.

In the Fall of 2006, a citizen advisory committee to assist with the update of the Annapolis Comprehensive Plan will be formed. The committee is expected to spend 18 months on the Comprehensive Plan update. The Comprehensive Plan sets City policy governing land use, zoning, transportation, housing, environmental stewardship and other aspects of city life. Broad direction for the Comprehensive Plan is expected from the outcomes of the Let’s Talk conversations.



So you want to host a >Let=s Talk= conversation..... ...how to get started

1. ***Form a group.*** You can form your group through another group you are already affiliated with or simply by inviting some friends or associates to get together. It may be helpful to have a friend co-host with you. The ideal size of a group is between 4 and 20 people, to allow everyone to speak more than once and hear each other easily. The goal of the group is simply conversation, where everyone can deepen and broaden their points of view.
2. ***Decide how you want to facilitate the conversation.*** As the host you can choose to facilitate the conversation yourself or invite another person to facilitate.
 - A) *If you want to facilitate the conversation yourself,* the materials in this kit can get you started. Call any of the >Let=s Talk= staff (contact information below) if you have further questions.
 - B) *If you want a little more training and explanation how >Let=s Talk= will work,* attend a training workshop. Workshops are being offered at 3 times & dates. Please sign up so we know you're coming. The sign-up sheet is in this packet and available on the City website. The dates are:
 - \$ Saturday, March 4, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 - \$ Monday, March 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 - \$ Friday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 - C) *If you would like an outside facilitator to help start the conversation,* contact >Let=s Talk= staff Virginia Burke or Daria Hardin (contact information below) to request an outside facilitator.
3. ***Decide how many times you might like your conversation group to meet.*** Let=s Talk is centered around three open-ended questions and a fourth question about an action step. You might want to meet four times to talk about 1 question per meeting, one time to talk about all 4 questions, or any other way you prefer. Let your participants know how you hope the conversation will go.
4. ***Register the date(s) and time(s) of your conversation*** with Daria Hardin or Virginia Burke, via phone, email, or the Let=s Talk web site. If you wish to welcome other members of the community to attend your conversation, please indicate that.
5. ***After each conversation fill out a Conversation Report*** (included in this packet and can also be downloaded from the City of Annapolis web site). The Conversation Report is not intended to be notes or minutes, simply the overall outcome or major conclusions of the conversation. If needed, sheets can be attached to the report. Recording could be done by the host, the facilitator, or by someone in the group. Reports can be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Final deadline for sending the Conversation Report is July 15, 2006.

Contacts:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| Daria Hardin | DDH@Annapolis.gov | 410-263-7961 |
| Virginia Burke | VJBurke@Annapolis.gov | 410-263-7961 |
| Kirby McKinney | KJMckinney@Annapolis.gov | 410-263-7926 |
| Hollis Minor | HollisM@TheMinorGroup.com | 443-482-9785 |
| Don Lamb-Minor | DonLM@TheMinorGroup.com | 443-482-9785 |
| Let=s Talk website | www.Annapolis.gov | |

The Agreements

Open-mindedness

Listen to and respect all points of view

Acceptance

Suspend judgment as best you can

Curiosity

Seek to understand rather than persuade

Discovery

Question old assumptions, look for new insights

Sincerity

Speak for yourself about what has personal heart and meaning

Brevity

Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on

let's talk

let's talk

ANNAPOLIS

WHAT should ANNAPOLIS become in the next **10 years**?

HOW do we protect and improve our **QUALITY of LIFE**?

HOW do we **BUILD** a unified community?

WHAT should we **DO** to address any of these questions?

Facilitating 'Let's Talk' Conversations

Why do it?

A good meeting not only gets work done, but also involves, supports and empowers the participants, creating a high level of energy and enthusiasm. A sense of community and connection to fellow group members is the basis for successful group work and social change. Good facilitation will help achieve all of this.

What does the Facilitator Do?

A facilitator is essentially a helper for the group to have an efficient and inclusive meeting. Superficially a facilitator fills a role similar to that of the traditional chairperson. There are, however, important differences. A facilitator never "directs" the group without its consent. At no time does the facilitator make decisions for the group or take on functions which are the responsibility of the group as a whole. A good facilitator stays neutral and helps the members of the meeting to be aware that it is *their* business being conducted.

Depending on the group, a facilitator might:

- Help the group to decide on a structure and process for the meeting and to keep to it.
- Keep the meeting focused on one item at a time until decisions are reached.
- Regulate the flow of discussion – drawing out quiet people and limiting over-talking.
- Clarify and summarize points, test for consensus, and formalize decisions.
- Help the group in dealing with conflicts.

Tools for Effective Facilitation

Brainstorming – A way of quickly gathering a large number of ideas. Start by stating the issue. Ask people to say whatever comes into their heads as fast as possible without censoring it. This encourages creativity and frees energy. Write down all ideas for later discussion.

Go-rounds – Everyone takes a turn to speak without interruption or comment from other people. Go-rounds help to gather opinions, feelings and ideas; as well as slow down the discussion and improve listening. Make sure that everyone gets a chance to speak.

Talking Stick – People may speak only when they hold the talking stick (or other nominated item). This makes people conscious of when they interrupt others.

Small-group Discussion – When the organization/group is large, it may be necessary to break out into smaller groups to discuss certain topics/ideas.



Facilitating a Meeting - Beginning to End

Preparing for the Meeting

- Review Let's Talk material; prepare an introduction/overview to the group.
- Decide what Facilitation Tools you may use.
- Plan in breaks, especially if the meeting will be longer than 1½ hours; plan in time for an end-of-meeting evaluation.
- Write the proposed agenda on a blackboard or flip chart, or give individual copies to everyone; ensure that copies of The Agreements are available for display.
- Ensure that everyone is informed about time, place and content of the meeting.
- Distribute pre-meeting materials if possible.
- Be aware of the physical arrangements such as temperature, air quality, and ability to hear and see; arrange the seating in an inclusive way.
- Find an alternative facilitator who can take over in case of emergency, or if the main facilitator tires or wants to participate more actively in discussion.

Facilitating the Meeting

- Introduce yourself and give an overview of Let's Talk.
- Set the boundaries of the meeting: explain the time frame, subject, aims of meeting, responsibility of facilitator, and what you aim to do.
- Outline what behavior is acceptable/not acceptable in meeting (see The Agreements).
- Appoint other roles such as *recorder* (note-taker) and *timekeeper* (reminds facilitator of time/progress of meeting).
- Be firm if necessary. Allocate time for each item and set a realistic finishing time.
- Go through the agenda question by question. Keep the group focused on one item at a time until a decision has been reached, even if the decision is to shelve it for some other time.
- Use consensus decision-making (i.e., show of hands) to complete the Conversation Report's rating questions. Make allowance for extra time to go deeper into the issue if necessary.
- Invite and regulate discussion. Clarify proposals put forward.
- State and restate the position of the meeting as it appears to be emerging, until agreement is reached.
- Introduce tools such as *Brainstorming*, *Go-rounds*, *Talking Sticks*, or *Small-Group Discussions* to equalize participation and to create a safe atmosphere for expressing opinions and feelings.
- Regulate the flow of discussion by calling on speakers.
- Help everyone to participate – draw out quiet people, limit over-talking, don't let anyone dominate the discussion.
- Be positive: use affirmation and appreciation, and comment on special contributions of members and accomplishments of the group.
- Close meeting by thanking members for participation and explaining next steps, e.g., details of next meeting or completion of Conversation Report.



Appendix B

Newsletters

Let's Talk Annapolis

Six months of conversations in Annapolis

Newsletter No. 1 of 2 (April 2006)

Annapolis is talking!

Let's Talk Begins

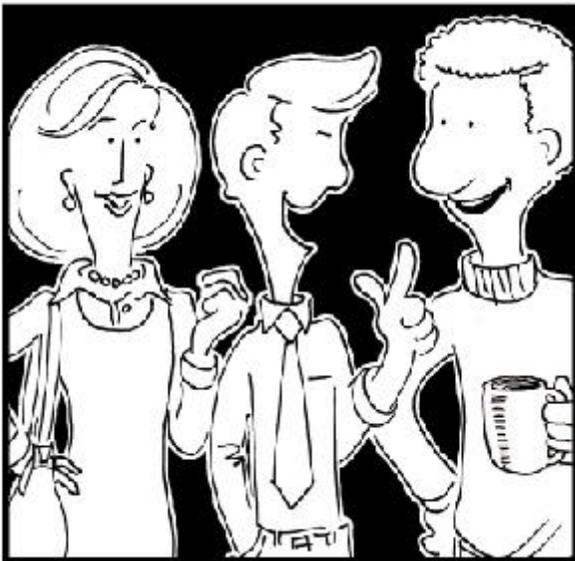
More than 80 people attended the Kick-off Event on February 24. Since then, 13 groups have met for a Let's Talk conversation, and 18 more are scheduled. Each group is talking about four questions about the future of Annapolis:

Question 1. **How do we protect and improve our quality of life?**

Question 2. **How do we build a unified community?**

Question 3. **What should Annapolis become in the next ten years?**

Question 4. **What is one specific priority, and what should we do to address it?**



Conversations are open for you to join:

Wednesday, **April 19**

7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Annapolis Library meeting room, 1410 West St.

Saturday, **April 29**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Taylor Avenue Fire Station, 620 Taylor Avenue

Conversations around topic areas:

Environmental Stewardship

Thursday, **April 13**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 160 Duke of Gloucester
Hosted by the Environmental Commission

Diversity

Saturday, **April 22**

10:00 a.m. - noon

Gardner Center, 2nd floor, 1908 Forest Drive
Hosted by the Islamic Society of Annapolis

Transportation

Sunday, **April 23**

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Café Gurus, 601 Second Street (Eastport)
Hosted by Dave DiQuinzio

Children

Wednesday, **April 26**

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Chesapeake Children's Museum, 25 Silopanna Rd.
Hosted by Debbie Wood

Question 4

The 4th question may be the most important outcome of the Let's Talk conversations. The 4th question challenges us to think beyond simple and quick answers and ask, "What should we do, and *really*, how do we do it?"

A recent conversation group gave this answer to question number four: "We need to take better care of our senior citizens." The group went on to propose ten ways that this could be accomplished, including free public transportation for seniors, controlled rent for seniors, and employment opportunities. Then the conversation ended and everyone went on their way.

We have asked this conversation group to talk more about which of the ten actions the group *agrees* is the *most* important. And to try to answer how it could be accomplished. Who would have to be engaged to make it happen? How would it be administered? What costs are associated? Thinking through these questions is the essence of answering question number 4.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be part of a group to share my thoughts and ideas about Annapolis? Can I send in my ideas directly? The vision for 'Let's Talk' is to have people connecting with each other to examine life in Annapolis and to propose actions. The process is not purely about gathering information from individuals, as might be done in a survey or opinion poll. Let's Talk conversation groups allow for collective problem solving.

I have invited some people to join me for a 'Let's Talk' conversation. Can someone help my group get started? Yes. A facilitator can attend your conversation to help get the conversation going and stay on track. Contact Let's Talk staff Virginia

Burke or Daria Hardin, by phone 410-263-7961, or email: Virginia: VJBurke@Annapolis.gov, Daria: DDH@Annapolis.gov.

Do I have to be a resident of the City to participate in Let's Talk? No. While the invitation to participate in Let's Talk was extended primarily to people who live or work in Annapolis, anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

What is the relationship between 'Let's Talk' and the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan? Let's Talk and the Comprehensive Plan are two different, although related processes. The update of the Comprehensive Plan, which is a minimum two year process, does not begin until the Fall of 2006. It will incorporate some ideas and take broad direction from the Let's Talk conversations.

Mayor's Coffees are coming

Starting May 12, for four Fridays, Mayor Ellen Moyer will host Let's Talk conversations at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation, however, the number of participants is limited to the first 15 individuals who RSVP. To RSVP, call 410-263-7961. The Mayor's Coffee dates are: May 12, May 19, May 26, and June 2.

E-mail List and Website are humming

From the City website (www.Annapolis.gov) click on:



to access the Let's Talk website and sign up for the Let's Talk email list. Also on the website find the up-to-date schedule of Let's Talk conversations, and materials to help get your own conversation started.

Let's Talk Annapolis

Six months of conversations in Annapolis

Newsletter No. 2 of 2 (June 2006)

Annapolis is talking!

How is the Let's Talk program going?

By our current estimate, approximately **350 people** have participated in a Let's Talk conversation since it began in February. Groups have met in people's homes, in church meeting rooms, in coffee shops, community meeting rooms, at the library, at City Hall, at the fire stations, and any place suitable for a gathering. Most conversation groups have been helped by a facilitator.

Please send in your conversation reports by July 15!

Each conversation group is asked to send in a conversation report. We want to hear about the major topics the group discussed, and any conclusions the group reached. All of the conversation reports will be released in a report in August.

To submit a report, go to the Let's Talk web site (www.Annapolis.gov/info.asp?page=7781) or request a blank report form by calling 410-263-7961. From the website, the conversation report can be filled out and submitted online, or downloaded as a MS Word document or PDF document.

Let's Talk T-shirts

Walk in to the Mayor's Office to claim your free Let's Talk Annapolis T-shirt while supplies last. All t-shirts are size X-Large. The office is open 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday, at City Hall, 160 Duke of Gloucester.

What happens next?

The conversation reports from each group will be released in a summary report in August.

In September, a citizen advisory committee will begin meeting with City staff and consultants on an update of the Annapolis Comprehensive Plan. The Let's Talk conversations will provide broad direction for that planning process. The Comprehensive Plan sets City policy governing development, growth, infrastructure, environmental stewardship and other aspects of city life. It was last updated in 1998.

Anyone interested in serving on the citizen advisory committee is invited to apply by filling out the questionnaire on the back of this newsletter and returning it to the Department of Planning & Zoning by **July 31**. Further information about the committee is available at:
www.Annapolis.gov/info.asp?page=8953

Comprehensive Plan
Citizen Advisory Committee
Questionnaire

This questionnaire will help the Planning Department assemble a Citizen Advisory Committee to assist with the update of the Annapolis Comprehensive Plan. The Committee is expected to meet monthly for approximately 18 months, beginning in September, 2006.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Neighborhood/Community: _____ **Ward** _____

Other Affiliations: _____

City boards, commissions or committees on which you have served:

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail Address: _____

How do you prefer to be contacted?

- ' mail
- ' phone
- ' e-mail

Age: Under 25 _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 66+ _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Occupation: _____

Location of work: City _____ State _____

How long have you lived in Annapolis? _____

I am interested in serving on the Comprehensive Plan Committee because:

Please return this form to:

Planning and Zoning Department
Attention: Brittany Dunkleberger
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Or, by fax: 410-268-0122
or, by e-mail: BRD@annapolis.gov