

Conyers Activity Center Investment Policy Study

an Atlanta Regional Commission Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study

CORE TEAM MEETING #1 SUMMARY

February 26, 2009
Conyers City Council Chambers
6:00-7:30pm

ATTENDANCE

John Fountain	R.J. Fields
Carol Fountain	Deborah Manget
Harriet Gattis,	Kandie Beck
Stevie Holt	Charlotte Gellert
Michael Smith	Aubury Webb
J.P. Alexander (Conyers)	Marvin Flannigan (Conyers)
Megan Will (JJG)	Charlotte Weber (JJG)

AGENDA

Opening and Introductions	<i>Marvin Flannigan</i>
Conyers LCI Project Overview and Status	<i>Megan Will</i>
Lifelong Communities Design Charettes Briefing	<i>R.J. Fields</i>
Role of the Core Team	<i>Charlotte Weber</i>
Review of Kick-off Meeting Results	<i>Charlotte Weber</i>
Discussion Session	<i>Core Team</i>
Closing and Next Steps	

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS (SWOT) ANALYSIS NOTES & DISCUSSION

The Core Team was asked to review the SWOT notes from the kick-off meeting and discuss items that need to be added, the following are the comments from the committee.

- Bridge is needed to allow pedestrians to cross safely over Green Street and the Railroad tracks into Olde Town, specifically at Oakland.
- In thinking more towards the commuter population, begin planning for commuter rail. Possibly use the Dinky site as a park-n-ride – then a commuter stop. Move the Dinky to a different location to allow more access to it as well.
- A parking garage would benefit both Olde Town and West Central Conyers. Also using more mixed-use would be a benefit.

- This side of Bryant Street/Dogwood needs a park – could use the natural springs to dam it up for a lake to have more recreation opportunities - paddle boats, fishing, picnic areas, recreation center, bridge over the water, etc.
- Multi-use trails/biking routes needed parallel to arterials.
- The streets should be categorized to determine best use (roads that are too narrow to have bike lanes, vs roads that would benefit to have them). Use of alleys, and pedestrian vibrant streets.
- Question was asked – what are some of the transportation solutions that are being sought? Long-term and short-term projects that could include streetscaping, traffic calming, connector streets, sidewalk projects, etc.
- A local trolley would be a benefit to Conyers – make it inexpensive and very accessible to all parts of the city.
- Use incentives in businesses and events to attract people to shop, visit, and participate (prizes, money)
- Some Strengths and Opportunities not listed are the hotels at both ends of the study area that need to be utilized. A trolley system would be a great benefit. Other strengths are the arts center and Olde Town, this and the hotels should be capitalized upon.
- Strengths - the judicial center and court house in town.
- An Opportunity – Need pedestrian areas, need specific pedestrian areas in certain parts of the city that have established parking and pedestrian areas. When communities have pedestrian only streets, and they are attractive, open, inviting and safe feeling environments, it attracts people to park and walk. However, there need to be ADA and senior citizen friendly drop zones if pedestrian environments are created.
- When new structures are built, plan for the future by creating structures that can easily be adapted to new uses. Such as building a flat parking decks that could one day be converted to loft space.
- Jobs are in Atlanta – commuter rail will bring residents here, need to plan for it. Identify a space for terminal for commuter train and parking (longer term) and park and ride lots for commuter buses (short term). 1st step to rapid transit is the bus.
- West Central Conyers and Olde Town need to become a destination.
- A question as asked that because churches are such big assets to the community, but are limited in the ability to grow due to location, would there be assistance for those who would want to relocate.

- Strength: the Carr Center has a new health department as well that has a multitude of benefits to the community.
- The barrier of access for pedestrian to Olde Town is not the railroad track, but more the traffic on Green Street. Need to change the attitudes of drivers. Streetscaping and traffic calming are options.