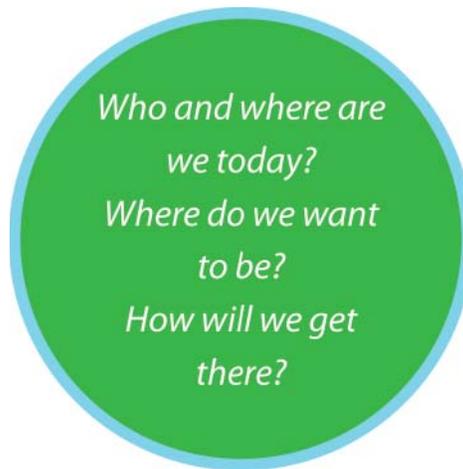


Community Participation Plan

Introduction

Imagine the year 2036 and the different needs you, your parents, your children and neighbors will have. What kind of city do we as a community want East Point to become by 2036? What real options do we have for becoming the city we envision? What steps will get us there?



During 2011, the City of East Point will update its Comprehensive Plan and wide reaching representative community involvement is needed to make the project a success which is why a *Community Participation Plan* is created. It's our shared future! The *Community Participation Plan* explains the overall planning process and presents the plan for engaging citizens, business members and other stakeholders with varying interests and perspectives. Following community participation, the City will have developed a Community Agenda. The Community Agenda will express the City's vision, short- and long- term actions to achieve that vision, and the policy commitments to make this great City of East Point even better over the next twenty years. Creating a great city takes decades of planning and investing, as we know from the wonderful historic, cultural and community amenities we enjoy about our City today.

East Point was named for its location to the Railroad where the Atlanta and West Point railroad tracks end on the East. Although the City of East Point was chartered August 10, 1887, it was busy long before this date. From 1820 to 1930, the City grew from an Indian territory with few people to a manufacturing city that housed 10,000 people.

Early history shows that East Point was prosperous due to its location and marriage to various transportation modes. From the railroad, to the horse and carriage, to the automobile, East Point has always been recognized for its location and accessibility. Even today, the commercial downtown area relies heavily on their attraction from the MARTA station located on Main Street.

After the depression, East Point experienced the same type of struggles as any southern city. Times were hard for everyone and little development activity took place. In 1947, the City experienced the largest building boom since the pre-civil war movement. New structures began to align the streets again. Today these early roots are still a tremendous asset for the city.

Like many cities in Georgia, the City of East Point has gone through and continues to undergo great transitions; the City is at point where a common vision generated with and through intensive citizen involvement is needed. Taking advantage of the need to update the Comprehensive Plan, there is the opportunity to actively engage the East Point's citizens and leaders in this process. As constituents, however, we

all have a right and responsibility to have informed opinions, with facts and data to add to our experiences and our realities and make a strong, realistic 2036 plan of action. The Comprehensive Plan includes a *Community Assessment* document to arm community members with data as they join the public discussions and debates. The City of East Point invites the community to join your neighbors and recommend the best path to take toward our shared future.

Purpose

As mentioned, the Comprehensive Plan includes: a Community Assessment; the *Community Participation Plan (CPP)*, this document; and a *Community Agenda*. The purpose of this piece, the *Community Participation Program*, is to ensure that the final Comprehensive Plan reflects the full range of community values and desires, by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the *Community Agenda*. This broad-based participation in developing the Community Agenda will also help ensure that it will be implemented, because many in the community are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through. The methods for which the public will be engaged are outlined below in the *Community Participation Program*, which includes:

- Structure of Participation Process;
- Identification of Stakeholder;
- Identification of Participation Techniques; and
- Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda.

Structure of Participation Process

The following chart shows the organizational structure and roles for the planning process.

The City's Department of Planning and Zoning and Consultant leads a **Project Management Team** that incorporates input from other department staff including Administration, Environmental/Public Works, Finance, Fire Department, Police Department, Recreation and Parks, and Transportation along with a consultant team with expertise in land use, public finance, transportation, infill and design controls. The plan will only be a success if all departments participate because the vision can only be achieved through cooperation. Each department has a uniquely important role to the communities overall success. The Planning & Zoning Department serves as Project Manager over the project.

The Council and Mayor hold ultimate responsibility and authority to approve and direct the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan documents, and, as the body that must deliberate budget constraints and competing priorities, may modify the recommendations that they receive.



Identification of Stakeholders

Attached List to be inserted, Geneasa is working on a revised list.

Each person who lives, works or serves in East Point has a stake in its success and plans for the future. To effectively manage a broad range of viewpoints, it will be effective to rely on existing networks and stakeholder groups. As part of targeted public outreach efforts, the Comprehensive Plan effort will engage existing networks including community organizations, businesses, service providers and small groups to serve as a source of input, information and recommendations. These groups will also be asked to distribute meeting notices, posters, and agendas to broader groups; they will also be tapped to provide feedback on how to improve the outreach process and shape the content of meetings and presentations so that they meet a variety of needs.

The City already has access to contact information (email, telephone and leadership) for a number of groups and businesses, as well as a series of Home Owner Associations (HOAs). The City considers it important for the stakeholder list to be a living document to allow for additional participants throughout the process. As such, the City will formalize the process for updating the stakeholders list through the monthly CPAC meeting, which reviews the list to ensure that a “snowball”

method of expanding outreach will occur.

To ensure the broadest representation of the City, community meetings will also include an opportunity for participants to add stakeholder representative names and contact should participants identify gaps. Along with other documentation regarding public engagement activities and efforts, the final list of stakeholders will be attached in an Appendix of the final Comprehensive Plan documents when the Community Agenda is completed. The attached list identifies potential stakeholders.

Participation Techniques

The Planning Team will conduct two (2) community meetings, and stakeholder interviews covering planning elements consisting of land use, transportation, design controls, natural and cultural resources, housing, economic development and visioning. In addition to the above referenced community meetings, an Open House will be held. The City plans to conduct two (2) public hearings and two (2) work sessions.

The City of East Point will engage the community using a variety of techniques, depending upon the purpose of achieving community involvement. The following section identifies different techniques and organizes them by purpose. The meeting schedule, agenda and minutes will be posted on the City's website: <http://www.EastPointgov.com/?????>.

Public Education/Information

Website/Media: A web link has been created on the City web page to post draft documents, video podcasts, fact sheets, meeting notices, and minutes. The Planning Team will prepare materials for updates to the website on a regular basis throughout the public participation process and will provide copies of draft documents for public review as they become available.

Lobby Displays: Post maps and information at City Hall.

Printed/E-mail bulletins: Flyers and newspaper information will be distributed.

Media/Press Releases: The City will contact local newspaper(s) to advertise meetings and/or status of the plan to the community. The following newspapers will receive press releases and announcements: **Name of Papers**. Example: Public Hearing on Community Participation Plan/Community Assessment and Community Agenda.

Mailing Lists: Email blast to stakeholder groups will be used by the City of East Point. This resource will keep the public informed of proposed meetings, changes to dates, changes to schedules, public review periods for draft documents.

Public Input

Official Hearings: Two (2) to three (3) public hearings will be held: one (1) to present the Community Participation Plan and Community Assessment and one (1) to present the Community Agenda. A third (3rd) meeting may be held. The community will have the opportunity to discuss the Community Assessment, Community Participation Plan and the Community Agenda with the City Council prior to transmittal to ARC and DCA.

Community Meetings: Three (3) community events are planned for the overall Comprehensive Plan.

Community Meeting #1 will cover Wards A&B and Community Meeting #2 will cover Wards C & D.

See Character Area Map attached for preliminary Character Areas used for planning purposes.

One (1) will be an open house.

Select Interviews: Select stakeholders and City Staff will be interviewed in order to gain more detailed information on certain topics, such as housing, economic development and local industry, population diversity, growth and needs, etc. In addition the consulting team will interview each City Council member individually.

Survey: Certain topics may require additional input to clarify the results of community meetings. A survey may be prepared. The results will be analyzed, a report submitted and the information will be incorporated into the report.

Workshops/Work Sessions: The consulting team and City Staff will hold workshops and work sessions with the City Council during the Comprehensive Planning process.

Schedule:

Review Process

In Georgia, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) determines the rules and regulations local governments must follow when preparing the Comprehensive Plan. Prior to the development of a Community Agenda, DCA requires that the local jurisdictions transmit the Community Participation Plan along with a Community Assessment for review. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional arm of DCA that reviews these two documents to determine whether or not they are complete; upon this verification, ARC in turn transmits these documents to DCA. DCA conducts a report of findings and recommendation, and ARC issues the local government a final report that includes DCA's comments. Similarly, once the community agenda is prepared, ARC and DCA review the document for approval.

Comprehensive Plan Schedule of Activities

The City has prepared the attached schedule for, community meetings, workshops, events and public hearings. While several target dates remain to be finalized, the City will adhere to this schedule and post it in local media outlets, along with periodic updates as dates and venues are determined. The schedule was reviewed by City Planning and Zoning Department and aims to provide for numerous opportunities for public involvement, in a variety of locations with different formats.

Updated: August 1, 2011*

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME	VENUE
Present PowerPoint at City Council Work Session (Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan) – Overview and Update	August 8 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Planning & Zoning Work Session – (Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan) – Overview and Update	August 11 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
Planning & Zoning Work Session: Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 8 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
City Council Work Session: Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 12 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Planning & Zoning Public Hearing to transmit Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 15 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
City Council Public Hearing to transmit Community Assessment/Public Participation Plan	September 19 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Stakeholder Interviews	September – October	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
Community Meeting #1: Wards A & B	October 27 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Jefferson Park Recreation Center
Community Meeting #2: Wards C & D	October 25 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Mt. Olive Baptist or Mt. Olive 7 th Day Adventist
Open House	November 3 6:30-8:00pm (tent.)	Jefferson Park Recreation Center
Planning & Zoning Commission Work Session	November 10 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 100
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting	November 17 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
First draft of Community Agenda made available to public	December 5	-
City Council Work Session	December 12 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400
City Council Meeting: Public Hearing to transmit Community Agenda to DCA	December 19 6:30pm	1526 East Forrest Avenue Suite 400

* Updates made periodically, please consult web page for most current schedule and activity reports <http://www.EastPointgov.com/???> or contact the Planning & Zoning Department at xxx-xxx-xxxx

CITY OF EAST POINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

DRAFT JUNE 7, 2011

UPDATE 7/30- GENEASA IS IN THE PROCESS OF VETTING LIST AND WILL PROVIDE UPDATE

Mayor and Council

City Staff

- City Administrator
- Community Development Director
- Deputy Community Development Director
- Planning and Zoning Director
- City Planners
- Chief Building Official
- City Attorney
- Community Relations Manager
- Grant Manager
- Economic Development Manager
- Community Development Program Manager
- City Engineer
- Director of Environmental/Public Works
- Deputy Director of Environmental/Public Works
- Environmental Programs Manager
- Environmental Education Specialist
- Director of Transportation
- Director of Finance
- Chief of Police
- Fire Chief
- Director of Recreation and Parks
- Historic and Cultural Affairs Manager

City Organizations

- Design Review Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Recreation Commission
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Sustainability Task Force
- Joint Inclusion and ADA Task Force
- Cultural Arts Board



- Historical Society
- Rotary Club
- Community Groups/Neighborhood Associations (*add here*)
- Homeowners/Condominium/Neighborhood Associations (*add here*)
- Garden Club
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts

Fulton County Organizations

- Fulton County Board of Commissioners
- Fulton County Board of Education
- Fulton County Sanitary Sewer/Water
- Fulton County Inspections
- Fulton County Health Department

Adjacent Jurisdictions

- City of ___ Director of Community Development
- City of ___ Deputy Director of Community Development
- City of ___ Mayor
- ___ County Director of Community Development
- ___ County Director of Planning & Zoning
- Fulton County Acting Director of Community Development: Angela Parker

Regional Organizations

- Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
- Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)
- Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

State of Georgia

- Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Environmental Protection Division (EPD)
- Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
- Metropolitan River Protection Representative

Public Utilities Serving the City of East Point and the City’s Citizens

- Fulton County Water & Sewer
- Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness

Business Associations

- Chamber of Commerce



Local Schools

- List of Schools

Local Developers

Local Places of Worship

Bicycle and Recreation Groups

Service Providers

- Housing Authority
- Senior Housing
- Senior Groups
- Group Housing
- Disability Rights Groups
- Habitat for Humanity
- Community Charities

Other Civic Group Leadership

- Education Associations
- Employers
- Key Corporate investors
- Local Land Owners and Citizens

