

Quality of Life Focus Group



Below is the meeting summary for the third Quality of Life Focus Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to select approximately three objectives for each goal established at the second meeting. All of the Focus Group information will be incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan document which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors later this year.

Meeting Date: 4/4/16

Recorder: Jordan Carlisle

Meeting Location: Glenvar Middle School

Number of Participants: 15

Number of Small Groups: 3

Hosts: Supervisors Joe McNamara and Al Bedrosian

Lead Staff: Doug Blount and Billy Driver

Staff Facilitators: Lindsay Blankenship, Dave Weir, Jordan Carlisle, Sandy Walton, Bruce Lowe, Scott Pfouts, Nancy Duval and David Henderson

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Topics with Top Three Goals from Meeting 2 [Suggested Staff Wording]

Topic 1: Fundamental Services for a Lifelong Community

Goal 1. Expand broad band and improve service [Be at the forefront of communication technology]

Goal 2. Promote regionalism

Goal 3. Improve educational opportunities for higher/vocational education and business [Improve lifelong educational opportunities]

Topic 2: Recreation & Entertainment

Goal 1. Be progressive in developing emerging recreational activities

Goal 2. Improve and activate access to outdoors/infrastructure

Goal 3. Expand cultural/arts entertainment opportunities

Topic 3: Natural Resources Management, Protection & Conservation

Goal 1. Develop and improve accessibility to natural resources

Goal 2. Develop wiser waste management

Goal 3. Protect and improve air, water and soil quality

Objective Development: All Objectives Discussed for Each Goal

Topic 1: Fundamental Services for a Lifelong Community

Goal 1. Be at the forefront of communication technology

- Objective 1: Accessibility to residential high-speed internet for all citizens.
- Objective 2: Expand and improve cell service after performing a cell coverage analysis.
- Objective 3: Implement and expand broadband.
- Objective 4: More vendor choices for cable providers.

Goal 2. Promote regionalism

- Objective 1: Expand public transportation infrastructure to include sidewalks, greenways, electric charging stations, bus service and bike lanes to improve connectivity and access throughout region.
- Objective 2: Establish which services need to be regionalized.
- Objective 3: Regional summits to identify and explore shared service options.
- Objective 4: Promote economic development regionally.
- Objective 5: Expand public transportation throughout region.
- Objective 6: Explore opportunities for shared services.

Goal 3. Improve lifelong educational opportunities

- Objective 1: Establish and encourage partnership with businesses to encourage vocational education at all levels and workforce readiness.
- Objective 2: Close workforce skills gap.
- Objective 3: Expand multi-generational education opportunities.
- Objective 4: Expand and promote awareness of CCAP with VA Western.
- Objective 5: Increase access to libraries.
- Objective 6: Providing adult education programming at schools.
- Objective 7: Educate citizenry to available educational opportunities.
- Objective 8: Increase operating days/hours for libraries (South County, Vinton, Glenvar and Hollins).
- Objective 9: Planning for initiating public daycare.

Topic 2: Recreation & Entertainment

Goal 1. Be progressive in developing emerging recreational activities

- Objective 1: Develop Explore Park.
- Objective 2: Complete Roanoke River Greenway in next 5 years.
- Objective 3: Build an in-river whitewater park.
- Objective 4: Increase canoe/kayak access.
- Objective 5: State-of-the-art playgrounds at all parks.
- Objective 6: Implement Spring Hollow Master Plan.
- Objective 7: Develop disc golf.
- Objective 8: Develop skate parks.
- Objective 9: Develop dog parks.
- Objective 10: Develop camping opportunities.

Objective 11: Improve, develop and maintain greenways, blueways and trails.

Objective 12: Develop bike trails.

Goal 2. Improve and activate access to outdoors/infrastructure

Objective 1: Canoe/kayak access.

Objective 2: Restrooms along the Greenway.

Objective 3: Build an entertainment venue and encourage performers/vendors (beer, wine, music) food trucks; open mic night.

Objective 4: Improve athletic fields/drainage (County and schools).

Objective 5: Establish facility standards for parking and bike racks.

Objective 6: Lighted athletic fields.

Goal 3. Expand cultural/arts entertainment opportunities

Objective 1: Develop an art center with studio space.

Objective 2: Promote and encourage regional cooperation for events.

Objective 3: Develop botanical gardens.

Objective 4: Develop a 4th of July celebration.

Objective 5: Expand musical opportunities outdoors.

Objective 6: Develop a riverwalk.

Objective 7: Increase Roanoke County historic representation in Western VA historic society.

Objective 8: More outdoor sculpture art.

Topic 3: Natural Resources Management, Protection & Conservation

Goal 1. Develop and improve accessibility to natural resources

Objective 1: Continue to expand greenways and trails.

Objective 2: Directional signs/marketing.

- Promote existing amenities
- Online directions/maps
- One source of information

Objective 3: Improve safety on greenways.

- Mile markers/dashed line on greenway (safety)
- User etiquette/education (carriages/strollers, dog walkers, walkers and bikers)
- Rules to improve user safety/enforcement
- Speed limit
- Courtesy patrol/volunteers

Objective 4: Improve parking accommodations.

Objective 5: Protecting land through easements and acquisition for public use.

Objective 6: Establish/expand blueways (access to).

Objective 7: Increase/provide public access to Spring Hollow Reservoir and Havens Wildlife Management Area.

Goal 2. Develop wiser waste management

Objective 1: Ban plastic bags or create “disincentives” for use of plastic bags.

Objective 2: Develop recycling program.

- Business incentive/mandatory

Objective 3: Investigate community best management practices.

- Litter removal/reduction
- Deposits on glass/plastic for grocery store/retail credit
- Public school/SOL programs
- Volunteer programs
- Convert garbage trucks to biodiesel
- Pay for garbage bags
- Weight-based refuse fees

Objective 4: Fix garbage trucks to prevent loose refuse; better utilization of inmate crews for refuse collection; expand programs for tires, hazard materials disposal.

Objective 5: More hazardous waste and paper shred-a-thon, electronic and medication throw away days.

Objective 6: Composting program for community.

Goal 3. Protect and improve air, water and soil quality

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy.

- Encourage sustainable development techniques through land development regulations
- Aesthetics/earth-friendly landscapes

Objective 2: Stormwater implementation and increase education County-wide.

- Stronger enforcement of E&SC laws
- Increase TMDL water quality programs

Objective 3: Encourage renewable energy sources/reduce carbon footprint.

- Incentives (i.e., energy audits, create County staff position)

Objective 4: Increase marketing and education.

- Promote in public schools/SOL program/volunteers
- Businesses/households/multi-family dwellings

Objective 5: Access land for conservation (i.e., ridgetops, view shed protection, headwaters).

Objective 6: Develop laws for protection.

Objective 7: Expand “Clean Valley Days” → increase to quarterly basis.

- Promote community activism

Objective 8: More proactive enforcement of litter laws (i.e., more patrols, steeper fines, etc.).

Objective 9: More trash and/or recycling containers.

- Art contest to design trash receptacles

Objective Development: Group Consensus on Top Three Objectives for Each Goal

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