

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Introduction

In preparing a comprehensive plan, it is important to work with citizens to identify the issues and challenges unique to their community. The comprehensive planning process begins with an evaluation of the current strengths and needs of the community followed by a vision for the future. Community involvement is a key part of the planning process in an effort to gain support for proposed programs from the public and to produce a document that best reflects the overall vision for the community. An innovative and comprehensive public involvement program will ensure that the public feels vested in the results of the planning process. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires that a Community Involvement Plan be implemented as part of the comprehensive planning process as outlined in the Rules for Comprehensive Planning, Section 110-12-1-.02.

Selecting the Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

The primary public involvement strategy used to facilitate the development and submittal of the Comprehensive Plan involved the formation of the Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. This Committee was established to provide feedback to the planners and shape the overall planning process.

The key stakeholders served on the Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee which was comprised of representatives from the general public, residents, professionals, business and industry leaders, civic leaders, media representatives, special interest groups, City staff and elected officials.



The Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee met from April 2018 to August 2018 to update the elements of the Plan.

The list below identifies the members that served on the Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

2018 Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Steering Committee Member	Organization/Position
Kenny Smith	City Manager
Toussaint Kirk	Planning and Development Director
Brant Keller	City of Griffin Public Works
Doug Hollberg	City Commission Chairman
Yvonne Williams	Downtown Development Authority
Bonnie Moret	Citizen
Carmen Caldwell	Citizen
Katheryne Fields	Citizen
Seetal Patel	Citizen
Markus Schwab	Citizen
Drew Todd	Citizen
John Joiner	Citizen
Rusty Statham	Citizen
Ryan Mclemore	Citizen
Phil Francis	Citizen
Jessica O’Conner	Citizen

2018 Griffin Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Cont.

Steering Committee Member	Organization/Position
Brian Miller	Citizen
Mike Yates	Citizen
Robert Mohl	Citizen
Cynthia Ward	City Commissioner
Jennifer Freeman	Marketing Operations Manager
Trudy Gill	Citizen
Shonda Jones	Citizen
Kimberly Walker	Citizen
Robert Dull	Citizen
Rodney McCord	City Commissioner
Dan Thompson	Citizen
Miles Neville	Citizen
Yoshanda Jones	Citizen
Wanda Smallwood	Citizen
Chad Jacobs	Spalding County Community Development
Jewell Walker-Harps	Citizen
Jermaine Bridges	Citizen
Kay Landham	Citizen
Kim Williams	Citizen
Steve Hendrix	Citizen

This Steering Committee included a number of key stakeholders such as appointed officials, elected officials, citizens, business owners, and other persons who have a vested interest in the City of Griffin. The major role of the Steering Committee was to review draft development strategies and issues and opportunities.

The following public involvement strategies have been selected by the City as part of the Community Involvement Plan and are discussed in this report:

- ◆ Steering Committee;
- ◆ Community Meetings;
- ◆ Public Hearings;
- ◆ Visioning Exercises;
- ◆ Handouts;
- ◆ Email Blasts; and
- ◆ Newspaper articles.

Implementing the public involvement segment of the Comprehensive Plan improved the overall quality of the Plan by defining the values of the community and working together to accomplish those goals. Additionally, involving the public during the planning stage helped to garner support for the Comprehensive Plan and its overall implementation.

Public Hearings

The state minimum standards require that two (2) Public Hearings be held to inform the public about the update to the Local Comprehensive Planning process. The 1st Public Hearing was held to introduce the planning process and increase public awareness about the Plan. The 2nd Public Hearing presented the results of the draft Comprehensive Plan and allowed the public to provide additional feedback about pertinent findings in the plan. Both Public Hearings were open to the public and advertised in accordance with DCA Rules for Comprehensive Planning and City procedures.

Community Meetings

A Kick-Off Community Meeting was held at Griffin City Hall on November 14, 2017. The initial meeting provided citizens and the city commission with an opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns about the proposed strategy for public involvement and plan development. It is worthy to note that these community meetings were held in addition to the two (2) required Public Hearings. These meetings provided an opportunity to gain much needed input from citizens.

Community Meeting Dates and Locations

MEETING. DATE/TIME	LOCATION	MEETING TYPE
Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 6:00 PM	Griffin City Hall Municipal Courtroom	Kick-Off Meeting and Public Hearing #1
Thursday, May 17, 2018 10:00 AM	Griffin Electric Utilities	Community Visioning
Thursday, May 17, 2018 6:00 PM	Griffin City Hall Municipal Courtroom	Community Visioning
Friday, September 14, 2018	Griffin City Hall Municipal Courtroom	Public Hearing #2

Community Visioning Exercise

In an effort to increase public involvement, a community visioning exercise was developed to gain feedback from citizens. The community visioning exercise was an effective tool that helped the citizens express their vision for the future of the City of Griffin.