

Mayor's Focus Group for the Southern Area – Town of Chapel Hill

Focus Group Meeting – Tuesday, December 10, 2019
101 Market Street, Southern Village. 1:30 - 3:30

In attendance

- Allen Buansi, Council Liaison
- Rachel Schaevitz, Alternate Council Liaison
- Alan Rimer, Compass Committee Representative
- D.R. Bryan, Southern Village Business Representative
- Susana Dancy, Compass Committee Representative (member SV HOA President)
- Pastor Ben Williams, Christ United Methodist Church representative
- Delores Bailey, Kidzu Representative
- Kathy Roberts, Dogwood Acres Resident

Brief of Previous Meeting-

Recap of the possibilities for Kidzu development near Sumac Road.

Alan acknowledged again that he has not been able to sit down with the director of the museum in Durham at this time. He will also meet with East West Partners regarding short and long term plans for Obey Creek, looking at potential integration with other development.

Design Workshop Proposal-

Prior meetings have identified possible avenues for the development in the area. The group agreed that an effective way to develop ideas of redevelopment in this area would be to plan a charette or design workshop.

Framing the Workshop- Multiple ideas as to how the workshop should be implemented were discussed, and final decision was to have two subgroups of the focus group, each to work with a designer to produce drawings or sketch plans of potential uses and layouts of the focus area.

- The assistance of the urban designer is to vision the context and provide space to think flexibly for the drawings. This is an opportunity to identify uses that fit

together, factoring in design components, and acknowledging pieces that exist currently and could be modified or programmed differently, such as the Park and Ride lot, the Church owned offices, the Southern Community Park, etc. This also allows space to work collaboratively, without fixed mindsets, while identifying goals and affirming priorities for the area.

- Acknowledgement that Town Council is the ultimate decider of what happen in this area, not the focus group.

Public Involvement- There were discussions of how the public should/could be involved in the process. These are open meetings and the public is allowed to attend, but the charge of the focus group should be made clear to the public. When the normal planning process is underway, there is an element of community involvement, the design workshop should not however be impacted by public comment during the actual workshop. The focus group will not be acting in a similar capacity as a developer, responding to public comment, but will however allot specific time at the end of the meeting for public comment. Comments will be collected and passed along to council.

Next Meeting

Noon- until 3/3:30 – Design workshop, lunch provided for focus group, will reconvene as a full group to solidify a written recommendation to council.