

Public Comments on 2011-2012 Smithville Comprehensive Plan

The main goal of a comprehensive plan is to protect what we have while we continue to grow and improve quality of life while making sure any growth does not detract from it.

Attendance:

Chris Holtkamp, LCRA facilitator	Charles Diltz
Tim Sanders, BEFCO Engineer	Grant Gutierrez
Mike Kahane, Mayor Pro-Tem	Miriam Vaughn
Joanna Morgan, City Council	Emily Hewitt
Scott Saunders, City Council	Virginia IIseng
Jill Strube, Grants Administrator	Edward Alexander
Judy Bergeron, Director of the Public Library	Amanda Wood
Andis Goble, Parks and Recreation Director	Mary Moore
David Herrington	Dick Moore
Terry Hagerty	Whitney Goble
Amy Kleinwachter	Robb Davis
Tommy Leytor (?)	Diana Kuninger
Chris Gilbert	Mike Morgan
Mary Burns	Ronald Jones
Howard Burns	Jim Horton
Courtney August	

Comments expressed at the Sept 27 public meeting:

- Be sure to emphasize hike and bike trail priorities in the 2011-2012 plan
- Strong objections to the 7th Street SRTS infrastructure improvements are noted
- Provide a workshop for people on 7th Street affected by the SRTS infrastructure
- Address street lights in neighborhoods to make them safer at night
- Use traffic calming and signage to reduce speeds on residential streets
- Control traffic with yield and stop signs (in particular at Hudgins and 7th Street)
- Address drainage and flooding issues
- Improve communication with the public (make better use of utility bills; make a newsletter)
- Enhance public education

Comments provided through email

From Miriam and Robert Vaughn

Thank you for hosting the meeting regarding the Smithville Comprehensive Plan yesterday. My input is to keep green belts and hike and bike trails high on the priority list.

In particular enabling pedestrian and bike access between River Bend Park and downtown Smithville would be a long term value to the quality of life here.

- Obtain property easements now. Over time it may get harder if there are more property owners to deal with. It would already be next to impossible to get easements on the west side of the river. Finalize the trail on the east side while it is doable. Another option would be for landowners to donate riverfront to the city. This would eliminate liability issues for these landowners and provide a tax deduction.
- There are people who walk loops around this town to get in mileage. A new trail would allow an out and back access and river view.
- The trails would enhance the viability of the Hwy. 95 bridge and River Bend as canoe, kayak, or tubing take out points
- The trail would allow families a safe and easy access away from traffic for biking with kids and observing nature
- Look at the value the City of Austin Green Belts and hike & bike trails have provided. It is a selling point for business as it enhances the appealing quality of life.
- Currently River Bend is hard to get to and very removed from the inner city of Smithville. This would make River Bend more of an active venue for the city.

From Jeri Nell Winslett

Hey Jill,

I would like to let you know how much it would mean to so many of us "displaced" folks to have a hike & bike trail that would place our feet back on solid ground & give us a chance to reconnect with the nature we've lost. And what nature it would be! I would just love to have a good view of the river and the birds as I walk instead of dodging cars and getting distracted. It's a real meditation for me to spend time walking in nature. Please do all you can to push this forward.

I'll help in anyway needed.

Thanks,
Jeri Winslett