

The City of Greenville
City Council Strategic Planning Retreat
January 20 & 21, 2012
Bradford Creek Golf Course Clubhouse
4950 Old Pactolus Road, Greenville

AGENDA

Facilitator: Margaret Henderson, The School of Government

Objectives of the Retreat:

1. Define “success” for the Council and the City
2. Create a timeline of issues that will impact Greenville in the next 10 years
3. Receive and consider information related to Community Prosperity and Safety
4. Identify the issues of greatest relevance for the City’s attention, and set related goals.
5. Clarify next steps

GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

The following ground rules have helped make meetings more productive:

1. **Participate fully.** It’s alright to disagree. Everyone should have the opportunity to state his or her own views, regardless of rank or other differences.
2. **Work on the problem.** Put other issues aside, including personalities, offices, or other differences. Show respect for each other.
3. **Focus on interests, not positions.** Explain why you favor a particular course of action. Invite questions so you can explain your reasons fully. Balance advocacy and inquiry.
4. **Share all relevant information.** Be specific. Agree on what important words mean. Discuss “undiscussable” issues.
5. **Stay focused.** Discuss a topic long enough for everybody to be clear about it.
6. **Decide how the group will make decisions.** Strive for consensus.

Adapted from *The Skilled Facilitator: Practical Wisdom for Developing Effective Groups* by Roger Schwarz.

Friday, January 20, 2012. 5:00 – 8:30

5:00 – 6:00

1. Call meeting to Order.

Mayor Allen Thomas

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

2. Overview of the day

Margaret Henderson

- Introduction of facilitator, the plan for the day, suggested discussion guidelines
- Tonight: Begin to identify the critical issues and events facing Greenville.
- Tomorrow: Clarify the City's goals in relation to those critical issues and events.

3. Introductions; defining "success" as a Council

- *If I overheard people talking positively about the Greenville City Council, what I would like to hear them say is _____.*
- Given that this is what you hope to hear people say, what actions and practices on your part -- individually or collectively, inside or outside Council chambers -- would generate these comments?

6:00 – 8:15

4. Timeline Exercise

Create and discuss the 10 year timeline for issues facing Greenville

- Events or issues originating within our City limits
- Events or issues originating outside our City, but with a local impact

- Discussion: What does the City need to do to respond to or prepare for these changes in terms of relationships, behaviors, resources, efforts....?

8:15 Review the plan for Saturday

8:30 Adjourn

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 8:00 – 3:00

8:00

1. Call meeting to Order.

Mayor Allen Thomas

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

2. Review and get organized for the day

Margaret Henderson

- Reflections on last night's work
 - Did we miss anything?
 - Did we under- or over-estimate the importance of anything?
 - How does this timeline exercise shape your thinking about the City's priorities or about our work today?

8:45 – 9:30

3. Financial Update and discussion

Wayne Bowers & Bernita Demery

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45 – 10:45

4. The Big Picture: Community Safety

- Receive updates on crime and key developments William Anderson
- Clarify how the City, given its responsibilities and limitations, defines "success" for this issue.
- Identify other individuals or groups involved in addressing this issue.
- Clarify which actions or decisions are immediately relevant for the next budget cycle and which will require a longer-term focus.
- Clarify next steps to take.
 - Concealed handgun ordinance
 - Pop-up alert system
 - Other issues

10:45 – 11:45

5. The Big Picture: Community Prosperity

- Review key developments that affect this issue.
- Clarify how the City, given its responsibilities and limitations, defines "success" for this issue.
- Identify other individuals or groups involved in addressing this issue.
- Clarify which actions or decisions are immediately relevant for the next budget cycle and which will require a longer-term focus.
- Clarify next steps to take.

11:45 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 –2:00

6. Clarifying Mutual Expectations

What will enable your best work on behalf of Greenville, in terms of:

- Relationships between and among the Mayor, the Council, the Manager, and city staff.
- Preparing for Council meetings, during the Council meetings, between the Council meetings.
 - The information shared (content, format, timing, considering different perspectives, etc.)
 - The behaviors (meaningful and efficient discussions, mutual respect, support for decisions made, etc.)
 - Rules relating to efficiency of meetings

Dave Holec

2:00 – 2:45

7. Finalizing the Council’s Goals for 2012-2013

- Review the highlights of the discussion so far, from the flipchart notes.
- Identify the issues of primary importance to the Council.
- Clarify what the desired change within the goal areas are.
- Seek any additional feedback that staff needs in terms of direction or preparation of the budget.
- Address the Aquatics Center Proposal

2:45 –3:00

8. Closure

- Summary and Next Steps
- Self-evaluation of our work today
- Adjourn