

Community Engagement

City Facilities & Parks

October 16, 2012

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in City Facilities and Parks?

Responses:

- Lighted football fields & soccer fields
- Consider Cricket fields
- Open field parks beyond toddler size needed
- Generate awareness of available field locations/ resources
- Concern that development takes place of park/ green space
- Need to manage open spaces
- Has been no new park space in 35 years
- Plan for park space
- Protect park space needs for increase in residents
- Extend winters branch trail. It will connect communities to Dean Park and give people places to go.
- Study extent to which we meet VA Outdoor plan guidelines
- Advertise existing facilities – generate awareness
- Have more activities that bring people to the parks for the purpose of advertising
- Trash needs to be addressed. Is there more that can be done to keep parks clean?
- Downtown cleanup good - look closer at sites outside of downtown
- Recreation for at risk youth - programs should be expanded (computer programming/ game/ arts/ reading)
- Need youth club (beyond boys and girls club) organized teams for 5- 10 year olds
- Can City (parks) reach out for business sponsorship for clubs and activities (vocational)
- Partner with school to create new club or event for youth. This will generate advertising as well
- Update the swimming pool (lights, bathroom)
- Boys and girls club needs beefed up
- Partner w/corporation for youth
- Need more youth opportunities
- Metz field is in bad shape- (being used as pet walk)
- Need another athletic field (soccer) practice held in PWC due to limited field offerings.
- City sponsored Community Center (sports, library, programs) needed for youth.
- Reinstate museum programs (civil war history, STEM)
- Evaluate (reduce) entrance fee for museum/ increase advertising/ encourage attendance
- Intra-city cooperation museum/schools
- City facility upgrade- (green) lighting in parks
- Advertise freebies!

2. Are there any existing City Facilities and Parks programs or services you feel you could live without?
 - Focus on programs that generate revenue. For example, the Manassas Museum stores 95% of collection when it could generate revenue
 - Invest in programs
 - Review existing infrastructure before launching new projects
 - No!

3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?
 - Attract businesses generate income
 - Expand turf fields (rather than grass)
 - LIGHTS!!!!
 - Increase attention to informing citizens – advertisement
 - Take advantage of other publications/correspondence that the city is paying for to advertise parks.
 - Increase the use of Web 2.0!!!
 - Move towards green fuel - more energy efficient actions.
 - Balance building renovation with improving infrastructure
 - More corporate investors/less taxes
 - City must solicit partners to provide volunteers space expertise for youth programs (GMU too)
 - Move to digital age- better approach to advertising (advertise electronically!! Online)
 - Use face book and twitter
 - Update Manassas website
 - Exploration of innovative use of existing office space could be used for programs
 - Facilities be aligned with neighbors (centers, facilities, updated infrastructure)
 - Update payment system (no fees)
 - More trees (green space)
 - Metz- more integrated math/Science programs particularly in GT
 - Focus on Historic Presence – play to our strengths
 - Need a better sense of community. Get involved!

Community Engagement

Public Safety

October 16, 2012

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in Public Safety?
 - Building/providing training facility for primary police
 - Where will above be located? How much will it cost?
 - Where can we build it?
 - We need to upgrade or build new fire station
 - Should schools use Police Dept. Building for Admin Offices
 - Big bang for the buck...combine/joint public safety building and a training facility that can meet multiple needs
 - We need a fire and rescue station out by the airport. Can the airport fund a new facility there?
 - The Police Station needs a Command Center that does not do double time as a community meeting facility.
 - Concern over officers going 2 hours away to practice shooting – we need them to be here and available for responding to situations.
 - Funding for all that is needed is a concern – can we combine our needs and assets?
 - The police Department is in need of a new facility. Also the fire station.
 - Improve response time. 4 – 6 minutes is the critical time. Hastings area is taking more time to get there. The department wants to provide better response time.
 - We need a good training facility for our police officers and fire personnel.
 - Carcinogenic (diesel exhaust) in fire station facility is a concern.
 - Tickets for not shoveling and/or mowing.
2. Are there any existing Public Safety programs or services you feel you could live without?

Much of the discussion during these sessions centered around what services are delivered by Police and Fire & Rescue and which services were mandated and which were extra. Each group felt nothing should be cut from these programs. The discussion that ensued is below:

- Are motor carriers mandated? (No, answer given by Chief Keen)
- What are the current Public Safety Programs?
- Fire and Rescue – emergency response, fire marshal's office, coordinate with region
- Police are mandated to respond to and investigate crimes. Extras are - gang task force, narcotics, sex and property crimes, violent crimes, and Crime prevention,
- Training facility in Orange County, VA is a concern – distance/time
- Chief Keen would like an indoor range to be considered.
- Possibility of using existing police station for increasing school footprint.

- Some are mandated – police and fire
- F/R – operations (fire trucks and ambulances, fire marshals, emergency manager (grant funded), administrative staff
- Police – mandated by code to respond to crimes – specialized detectives that respond to specific crimes are not
- City officers train at Route 28 and Route 7, with the exception of firearms training (Orange County – antiquated facility)
- Quantico has eliminated all off-site facilities options for training
- Racetrack an option? No.
- This lack of training facility is a regional problem. Many people will “partner,” but a location must be found. Private partners as well as public partners are looked at.
- What are they?
- Police mandated to respond to and investigate crimes.
- Fire and Rescue – ambulances and fire trucks – emergency management function – city and regional coordination (planning purposes). “Lean”
- Concern about what programs we **need** to have. Recidivism rate in jails (incarceration)
- Chief Keen explained downsizing as a result of economic turn down – ie, school police officers. Crime prevention programs trying to get involved in now, but they are expensive. Currently have one part-time individual working on this. They group explained that they wanted MORE officers, not less.
- Police and fire personnel and programs are almost invisible, because they are so effective. We support them, their safety, and their efforts.
- What happened to the HUD housing in the city? For public safety, this was eliminated.

3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?

- A specific plan to improve public safety – improvement in facilities
- Accommodate growth (infrastructure)
- Small town mentality vs. large cosmopolitan center (city) – The group explained that they wish the government to respond like a city, not like a small town.
- Improve technology
- Airport – would a fire station/public safety station at the airport increase the chance of the airport to expand?
- Self-supporting (like the airport) for public safety? (Must change tax structure per City Manager)
- Expand – historical building restrictions
- Adequate EMS/Fire/police
- City working with the school division for mutual growth and goals for its citizens – we are one community.
- Public Safety – fire and police departments need to be able to work with an increasingly complex environment
- Community involvement is necessary as decisions are being made
- Eradication of gangs in our community
- Quality of community – police, fire, schools that have up to date equipment and personnel.
- Safety is prime importance to long-time residents.
- Provide facilities that allow for response times that save lives (Hastings, Wellington).

- Concerns over multiple families residing in one residence – vehicular congestion (commercial).
- What is the old courthouse being used for? PWC property. “The hole in the donut”.
- Chief Keen explains that meetings are occurring right now to look at the feasibility of building joint facilities (fire/police).
- Would like the Fire Chief to have overall authority of the fire and rescue department – even over volunteers.

Community Engagement
Transportation & Drainage
October 16, 2012

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in Transportation and Drainage?
 - Streetlight aligned (timed), so not stopping at each light.
 - Every intersection needs to have bicycle friendly sidewalks
 - No need to increase drainage if the proper amount of people are living in a dwelling unit. Not multi-families living in a home.
 - School St. drainage – needs improvements.
 - (There is an improvement in Prince William Street and a section of School St that is being addressed to help this situation. It is not slated to start for a while, some right a way issues need to be resolved. To get funding is taking a long time and dependent on the City until the bonds are sold. It is going to take 12 months to resolve right a way. Comment from City staff)
 - Could not get out of her home on South Grant, Street was blocked off due to sewer work. She is off a private road off of South Grant. She was not notified of the work. She had to walk to corner of Hasting to meet a friend to get out of neighborhood. 107027 South Grant.
 - Been at City mtg. concerning because these projects are not solicited well among citizens. The trail along Wellington Road needs repairs, have to call the City to mow around trail. Many have safety and security issues.
 - Drainage pipes over 100 years old, how good is that. (It is not good, however, it is worse in some areas. It is funding issue to replace. Comment from City staff)
 - We are adding more townhouse communities. Are we upgrading the systems leading to these developments? (They do analyze the systems in the area. They are required to look at storm sewers. Comment from City staff)
 - (Looking at areas that flood. The area around Portner. Some of that storm sewer was put in 1950, 1960 that are in good shape. At west and Portner that flooded people’s basements. We analyzed and programmed 5 CIP projects. Comment from City staff) Piper Lane and Observation Road are really bad. (This is broad run issue when it is at or over capacity. Piper lane at the trestles is a county issue. Pipers Lane is in a flood plan. Comment from City staff)

- What is the working relationship between the county and city. (We have a joint planner or coordination of efforts. We do an effort to work together, and plan regionally. It is a solid working relationship. In the 80's and 90's not working well, but in the recent years we are working well. VRE had a capacity issue during a snow event, we lifted parking restrictions. Comment from City staff)
- 1 immediate need seems the City has lots of flooding in basements, is that due to old drainage systems?
- Flooding at Portner, Battle and Main Meet September and October cor 2 CIP programs one to address this issue.
- Up and down Park St. floods as well.
- (Currently Design curbs and gutters to take 8 feet of storm. Comment from City staff)
- (Deal with storm water getting into storm water, The city has budgeted 250,000. to deal with flooding and low capacity in pipes. You should be able to see improvements. Comment from City staff)
- (Large project for sanitary receptors near hospital. Comment from City staff)
- (For 1 million gallons of sewer capacity cost. Comment from City staff)
- Any plan to install missing portions of sidewalk in old town. Look at current plan on line. (Battle and West are in the CIP plan. The area is subject to power lines, telephone lines underground. More is Portner to Church. CIP is online. Comment from City staff)

2. Are there any existing Transportation and Drainage programs or services you feel you could live without?

- (Winters Branch Trail is no longer funded in next years CIP. Comment from City staff)
- FY15 budget the Winters Branch Trail is removed.
- (Projects to widen Liberia to the railroad tracks. And widen Godwin to the airport. Prioritize projects, based upon demonstrated needs. Some projects we just need more lanes or bike paths. Traffic signal coordination projects. Explanation from City staff).
- Maintain projects that focus on transportation that focus on needs.
- What do bike paths cost? (It depends on how they are funded, bond funded are cheaper than federally funded path. Bike trail enhancement has 653,000.00 throughout the City. Explanation from City staff).
- We are bike path poor in the City.
- (City's Capital Improvement Plan is available on line. Comment from City staff)
- City should join into a network of bike trails with prince William
- Talking about bike paths, priority wise, adding sidewalks to accommodate wheel chairs. We have bigger needs than bike trails.
- Last year bike lanes in the streets very little cost.

3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?

- Really like Farmers Market, others are coming from other counties. Make the Farmers Market year around, at an indoor facility in winter.
- Want to be certain City Council represents what the residents really would like.
- Transportation – all City vehicles be more efficient, electric, solar etc.
- A forecast or the City to become an area where sustainability or become a leader in this area. Many buildings need improvement, schools are not up to par, Moving forward I would like to see the City be a leader.
- Keep Old Town as an attraction. Many structures being built can cause problems down the road. Requests of what builders should be tempered for the best improvements in the City.

- Be certain we are not taxing our water and electrical needs in the City.
- The transportation with the new townhouses and homes, everyone needs to work together so area to not bottle neck up. Sudley Road it takes 20 to 30 minutes to get to 66. Look at traffic flow with the influx on townhomes.
- Rule in City if you are selling car you should have to park it at your home, not down the street. If there is a house of 6 or 7 cars the number of tenants should be investigated. As well in Georgetown South keep tabs on this.
- Make certain snow removal is completed in a timely fashion.
- It is cheaper to take a car around the northern Virginia area than to use public transportation.
- The road and drainage you do not notice unless you are affected directly.
- The City is only going to get bigger and need more roads. Done an extremely good job with Old Town.
- Underground utilities would be nice.
- We have very active priorities of what we will make underground.
- Joint effort to pay for all of it. Van Meter
- Growing Old Town – 30 years ago it is dead- empty store fronts in the 90's. Continue to bring in business and residents into Old Town.
- Do something with Main Street and get rid of the hotel. Decide to sell or keep hotel. Restoration and renovation of Old Town. Need more businesses in Old Town.

Community Engagement
Utilities & Airport
October 16, 2012

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in Utilities and Airports?
 - Anything aging needs to be replaced. Now while interest rates are low
 - Move services online
 - Moving things underground. Very important.
 - Opening the lake for fishing
 - Is there a plan for a fire station at the airport? (Not at this time, but there is a need for one. Response time from the firehouse may not be fast enough at this time. Comment from Chief Bowman)
 - More wiring underground
 - Upgrade of buildings – discussion of improvements in regards to green energy/sustainability?
 - If money is needed for things, it shouldn't be added to the base price of utilities. Raise the price per unit rather than the base fee.
 - Loss of 9-1-1 service. Part of utility system?
 - More business at airport
 - Before increasing infrastructure for utilities, need to monitor number of people/families living in homes straining infrastructure in those areas.

2. Are there any existing Utilities and Airport programs or services you feel you could live without?

- Utilities are an area where if you don't pay for it now, you'll pay for it much later. Take advantage of low interest rates, to upgrade and put things underground, improve infrastructure before they are failing.
- Airports are self sufficient
- Is airport in a position to take advantage of FAA moving air traffic to smaller airports? (Yes, runway extension underway. Air traffic control tower in place. Response from Airport Director Juan Rivera)
- Don't cut marketing plan for airport
- Don't bring extra people from outside to help restore power when we lose service

3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?

- Continue to keep utility rates low for business owners and homeowners
- Keep competitive edge with utilities and airports
- More development around airport.
- Compatible businesses around airport, business park?
- Self-sustaining. Become a leader in sustainability. Look to upgrade and set standards for building green structures
- Solar powered streetlight? Need way to store solar power to light at night
- Encourage residents to utilize solar power w/ buy back program from Utility department (energy credits)
- Be able to go to airport and fly major carrier to another country. Want public transportation to and from airport
- Buy more land for airport now. Take advantage of low interest rates.
- All electric lines underground