

City of Oakwood
Linking Lake Lanier to our Community
Town Hall Meetings
November 15 & 17, 2011

Summary

Attendees: In addition to Mayor, City Council members, and City Staff, the meeting attendees are listed on the attached sign in sheets.

Presentation: City Manager welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Mayor, City Council and City Staff. He then gave a powerpoint presentation which include:

- Oakwood Overview
- Oakwood 2030 Update
- Linking Lake Lanier to Our Community
- Community Discussion

The presentation is available on the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofoakwood.net/Assets/Files/Nov2011TownHallMtgPresentation.pdf>

Summary of Community Comments:

11/15/11 Meeting:

- Don and Karen Walsh:
 - Came to Hall County 12 years ago (Gainesville address, unincorporated Hall County)
 - Live in the "pink" area (Oakwood Lake Lanier Growth Area)
 - Were thrilled to receive the post card
 - Great information in the presentation
 - Agree that linking to the lake is a good thing (should look at the unused area near the marina at the end of Flat Creek Rd)
 - Residential annexation would be ideal
 - Want to fit into Oakwood
 - This effort will help with creating an identity
 - Consider include bicycles in the plan (Mr. Brown noted that bicycle facilities are included in the Oakwood 2030 plan)
- Andy Byers
 - Has property the "pink area"
 - Oakwood is fortunate to have Mayor Lamar Scroggs and City Manager Stan Brown (gave a brief history of his past with the two and their history of results and service to their community)
 - Applauded the City for their progressive approach

- The kind of development in Oakwood and the City's ideas are very appealing to him and his family
 - Thanked the City for the opportunity to be a part of it all
- There were questions about how the City could work with the neighborhood on street lights. Mr. Brown stated that the City provides street lighting at no charge to its residents (cost is covered through property taxes). If neighborhoods became a part of the City, the City would work with the electricity provider on the details necessary to upgrade lighting when needed and to take over the payment of the street lighting accounts.
- When asked about sewer service, Mr. Brown noted that the City had a master plan for service to the "pink" area. For areas that become a part of the City, specific terms, conditions, and costs would be evaluated and discussed with those neighborhoods on a case by case basis.

11/17/11 Meeting:

- When questioned about why Oakwood would want to bring in residential properties, Mr. Brown explained that, although proud to have over 80% commercial/industrial property, the City does need more residents. Benefits to the City are higher population for grants opportunities, sales tax distribution negotiations with the County, and to have more people involved in the community.
- There are existing parks on the Lake. Why shouldn't the City see if they can adopt one. Mr. Brown stated that was an option. However, the city would want any park operated by the city to be located within its jurisdiction (for police and code enforcement).
- Very impressive presentation
- One citizen express concern about stormwater runoff and siltation in the lake from Balus Creek. He further stated that Gainesville and Oakwood have not been good stewards of Lake Lanier. Further development would only worsen the problem.
- Another resident asked about including bicycle along the roadway (not on the sidewalks) as a part of the overall plan. Mr. Brown concurred with the suggestion and noted that bicycles are an integral part of Oakwood 2030.
- When asked about any changes to addresses (Oakwood vs. Gainesville), Mr. Brown and Councilman Ron McFarland explained the post office zip codes were not tied to jurisdictional boundaries.
- When asked about the type of facilities that City would like to see in the area, Mr. Brown said they would like to see public boat access, walking trails, beaches, and picnic areas.
- One resident noted that Oakwood has a reputation of doing things of the highest quality (start slow, but finish strong).
- Looks like the City has a good vision – that will be good for our children and grandchildren.
- When asked about partnerships, Mr. Brown described examples of past partnerships, but emphasized that the one size does not fit all. The key is to look at the specific situation and to develop a win-win for both parties.

Meeting Wrap Up

- City will post the comments on its website along with the presentation.
- Mr. Brown thanked everyone for their input and participation.
- For additional comments or questions, contact Stan Brown at sbrown@cityofoakwood.net