

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

*for the*

***City of Stone Mountain, Georgia  
2005 Comprehensive Plan Update***

Submitted for Review: August 2005

Prepared by: Robert and Company

## **Introduction**

The purpose of the Community Participation Program is to insure that the local comprehensive plan reflects the full range of community values and desires by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in development of the Community Agenda. Meaningful participation in developing the Community Agenda will also help insure that it will be implemented, because many in the community are involved in its development and thereby become committed to seeing it through. The Community Participation Program is a required component of the planning process for communities of all planning levels in Georgia. This program is intended to supplement the two public hearings currently required by the Local Planning Requirements.

## **Public Participation Requirements**

The *Stone Mountain Community Participation Program* is based on input from City leaders, staff and regional and state agencies (ARC and DCA). The program provides definition of a specific process to follow that will achieve City objectives and satisfy Department of Community Affairs requirements for public participation and “visioning” in the Comprehensive Plan Update process.

The DCA Minimum Local Standards for comprehensive plans include requirement for a “Community Vision” to be developed as part of the comprehensive plan update. The Community Vision, or “Vision for the Future of the Community” must

- be based on public input, assessment of current and future needs, and other elements of the plan;
- address Community, Regional and State planning goals;
- include pictures, illustrations, and/or descriptions of development patterns to be encouraged within the jurisdiction, including clear identification of areas to be developed, areas to remain as open space or rural land, and areas where mixed use development and similar development will be encouraged; and
- include both a generalized overall Vision for the community with more specific detailed Visions for sub-areas of the community.

For the City of Stone Mountain, the Community Vision should also address redevelopment opportunities, community character and regional/multi-jurisdictional visions.

## **Public Participation Goals**

The planning process used to develop the City of Stone Mountain Comprehensive Plan 1996 – 2006 met the minimum planning standards for public participation at that time. During the city's recent Village LCI study process the city greatly expanded its community participation efforts and conducted a series of very well attended and successful public meeting that greatly improved the quality of the LCI plan. Moving forward, the City of Stone Mountain is encouraged to build upon its prior commitments to public participation and strives to expand the opportunities for engaging citizens in the planning process. To achieve this, the following goals are established for the public participation in the *Stone Mountain Comprehensive Plan Update 2005 - 2025*.

Goal: Raise the level of awareness and understanding of planning in City of Stone Mountain.

Goal: Provide the citizens of Stone Mountain with meaningful opportunities for involvement in the planning process.

Goal: Involve and maintain close contact with identified key stakeholders throughout the planning process.

Goal: Identify and involve traditionally underserved communities (minority, low-income, elderly, etc.) in the planning process.

## **Identification of Stakeholders**

The City has chosen a large and diverse group of individuals to serve on a Citizen Advisory Panel. In developing this panel the city strove to include a wide variety of local stakeholders including business interests, developers, agencies and institutions, and community activists and leaders. The purpose of this group is to meet on a regular basis following the completion of the draft of the Community Assessment and Participation Program to guide the development of the Community Agenda. A variety of local stakeholders have been invited to serve on this panel. A list of the invited participants and their organizational affiliations or local significance is provided here.

*Invited Members of Citizen Advisory Panel*

<b>Panel Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ms. Erin Bailey	Hill Street Resident Chair of Historic Preservation Commission
Ms. Marla Bexley-Lovell	JBR Resident / Former Main Street Manager
Mr. Ted Bianco	Commercial Property Owner
Mr. Curtis Branscome	Stone Mountain Memorial Association
Ms. Emma Brooks	Shermantown Resident / ART Station Employee
Mr. & Mrs. George & Susan Coletti	East Mountain Street Residents / Main Street Board Member
Mr. Adam Emrick	Cloud St. Resident Local Business Owner – Attorney Main Street Board Member
Ms. Sharon Frierson	Oakridge Resident
Mr. Claus Friese	Local Resident Local Business Owner - Village Corner Restaurant Main Street Stone Mountain Board Member
Mr. Nelson Geter	Georgia Power Company
Ms. Belinda Grimes Walton	Local Business Owner – Lady B Boutique Business Association President
Ms. Denise Hicks	City Clerk / W. Mountain Street Resident
Mr. Steve Higgins	Ridge Avenue Resident
Hon. Jim Hinkle	City of Grayson Mayor / Local Commercial Property Owner
Mr. Cedric Hudson	Representative of DeKalb County Planning Dept.
Ms. Mamie Lane	Shermantown Resident
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Marianne Marseglia	Rockborough Residents
Rep. Billy Mitchell	Countryside Manor Resident / State House of Representatives
Mr. Cyril Mungal	Ridge Forest Resident
Hon. Nan Nash	City Council Member
Mr. John Oselette	Local Business Owner - The Cranky Princess Main Street Board Member
Mr. & Mrs. Hayne & Cindy Palmer	New Gibraltar Residents
Rev. Orea Parker	St. Paul AME Church
Ms. Jane Phillips	Local Business Owner - The General Store Business Association Board Member
Mr. Ralph Pressley	CSX Rail Representative
Mr. & Mrs. Pat & Michael Sabatelle	Main Street Residents
Ms. Rolene Shoemake	Shermantown Resident
Ms. Jane Singleton	Planning and Zoning Chair / Pepperwood Resident
Mr. David Thomas	Owner Local Cultural Center -ART Station / TR Resident
Ms. Classy Wadley	Shermantown Resident
Ms. Pat Wheeler	Mountain View Estates Resident Former Mayor Main Street Stone Mountain Board Member
Representative TBD	MARTA
Representative TBD	DeKalb County Schools

## **Identification of Planning Techniques**

The *Stone Mountain Community Participation Plan* will offer numerous and various opportunities for public involvement in the planning process. Stone Mountain citizens can consistently stay attuned to city activities through the regular schedule of Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Citizens can discuss issues with City staff and elected officials at these meetings or at any time via mail, telephone or email. City of Stone Mountain information is also available via the Internet at a City-maintained website: [www.stonemountaincity.org](http://www.stonemountaincity.org).

In addition to regular City meetings, special meetings, workshops and open houses will be held during the planning process. The following are types of public involvement opportunities that will be offered as part of the *Stone Mountain Community Participation Program*:

- ③ Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – The Citizen Advisory Panel
- ③ Public Workshops – Design Charettes
- ③ Open House Review Meetings
- ③ Public Hearings

Public meetings, including workshops and review meetings, will be held in locations in Stone Mountain that are conducive to encourage meaningful community input. In addition to use of City facilities, local cultural facilities and public schools will be used for public meetings.

## **Public Information Resources**

The City of Stone Mountain will maintain information dedicated to the *Stone Mountain Community Participation Program* and the Comprehensive Plan Update linked directly to the City of Stone Mountain homepage. The web page will include schedule information, public meeting notices, and means for reviewing draft plan elements. If possible, the web site will also offer an easy way for the public to communicate with City staff and consultants.

A community newsletter and major newspapers will be consistently used for public information dissemination. The City of Stone Mountain publishes the City News newsletter on a periodic basis and distributes the newsletter to all city households. The Champion newspaper is the legal organ for City information and also provides editorial and feature coverage of government activities. The Atlanta Journal/Constitution will also be solicited for articles and notices, especially within the DeKalb County special section and the weekly Horizon section.

## **Coordination**

Commensurate with Stone Mountain Community Participation Program public involvement efforts will be efforts to ensure that the planning process is highly coordinated at the local and regional level. To ensure coordination throughout the planning process, a Citizen Advisory Panel will be organized. This committee will include representatives from City of Stone Mountain neighborhoods, businesses, non-profit groups and the City staff/elected officials. The members of the Citizen Advisory Panel will be selected through consultation with staff and elected officials. .

## Schedule and Milestones

The following table of public participation activities describes a general recommended schedule for conducting the completing the Community Agenda portion of the City of Stone Mountain Comprehensive Plan Update

TASK	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	MILESTONE DATES
Submit DRAFT Community Assessment and Participation Program to City	■										by March 10th
Citizen Advisory Panel Meetings		■									March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , then 2nd Tuesday of each month
Public Presentation of Community Assessment & Community Participation Program	■										April 7, 2005
Community Assessment & Community Participation Program Review Period		■									April 7 – June 7, 2005
Public Hearing #1 City Council Vote to transmit Community Assessment to ARC / DCA			■	■	■						City Council Meeting June 7, 2005* Vote Delayed – Vote to Submit August 2, 2005
Submit Community Assessment and Participation Program to ARC / DCA						■					August 5, 2005
Community Assessment & Community Participation Program Review Period						■	■				Anticipate Comments by September 6, 2005
Refine Community Opportunities and Issues						■					August 2005
Refine Character Areas for Further Study						■					August 2005
Revisions to Community Assessment & Participation Program							■				September 2005
Visioning Workshops							■				September 5 - 16 2005 Meetings located in different Character Areas
Develop Future Development Map & Supporting Narrative								■			September - October 2005
Refine Community Goals and Develop Implementation Plan								■			September - October 2005
Develop Short Term Work Program								■			September - October 2005
Submit DRAFT Community Agenda to City									■		by November 14, 2005
Open House & Presentation of Community Agenda									■		November 17, 2005
Public Comment / Review Period for Community Agenda									■	■	November 17 – December 1, 2005
Revisions to Community Agenda										■	December 2005

**SCHEDULE**

TASK	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	MILESTONE DATE
Submit FINAL Community Agenda to City											January 6, 2006
Public Hearing #2 - City Council Vote to transmit Community Agenda to ARC / DCA for Review											By January 31, 2006
Community Agenda Review Period											Anticipate ARC Comments by July 19, 2006 (120 day review period)
Community Agenda Revision Period											July – August 2006
City Council Vote to Adopt Plan											September 2006
Adoption Deadline											October 31, 2006*

\*One-year extension from original date of October 31, 2005 due to adherence to new standards.

<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROPOSED MEETING TOPICS</b>	
<u>Event Type</u>	<u>Proposed Agenda</u>
<b>Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting</b>	
March 22, 2005	Review Community Assessment and Issues and Opportunities
April 12, 2005	Define Community Issues
May 10, 2005	Defining Community Goals
June 14, 2005	Character Area Discussion – What to Preserve what to Change
July 19, 2005	No Meeting
August 16, 2005	Future Development Map Charette and Implementation Brainstorming
September 13, 2005	No Meeting – Members encouraged to Attend Design Charettes if Possible
October 11, 2005	Review Future Development Map and Discuss Implementation Plans
November 8, 2005	Review & Review Implementation Plans
December 13, 2005	Review Draft Community Agenda
<b>Public Hearing</b>	
June 7, 2005	Present Community Assessment & Public Participation Program
January 2006 – Date TBD.	Present Community Agenda
<b>Workshops</b>	
September 5 – 16 2005	Visioning and Goal Setting for Character Areas and City-Wide
<b>Open House Review</b>	
November 17, 2005	Review of Community Agenda