

## Government

### Meeting Notes

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Greenville Forward Office

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*Attending: Russell Stall, Brock Koonce, Mark Cothran, Philip Kilgore,*

- Introduction by Russell
  - Discussed what the task forces are doing; the gathering that just occurred.
- History of Government Task Force
  - 8 or 9 of the total task forces meet continually but the Government Task force is a group that traditionally has not met much (like the Economy Group and the Diversity Group).
  - Greenville Forward engaged in the city's comprehensive plan.
  - Last time they met was a couple of years ago.
  - Struggle of what the government task force can actually do.
    - Do we take on special purpose districts?
    - Host symposium with councils getting together?
    - City managers and mayors are getting together often but there is not very much media attention from these gatherings.
    - One Vision point is that Greenville has a collaborative government structure with an emphasis on communication—a community wide initiative.
    - Lacked focus when we met initially.
- New intent is not to put them on a committee that meets every month *YET...*
- Main focus is to get the government task force back up and running.
  - How often should we meet?
  - Who should be around the table?
- When choosing who to invite, thought of every municipality.
  - Want to have a diverse involvement.
- Thought it might be a good idea to conduct a targeted survey to gather information about what the public officials thought were some things that could be done to improve the efficiency of governmental relations.
  - Is a survey the best option?
  - Should there be a gathering of officials to talk instead?
  - Often have struggles with this because people bring up their own individual issues—elected members don't have many options to talk to each other; only talk when a problem arises so they do not build the necessary relationships.
  - After elections would be a good time to get officials to get together.
- Need to keep the legislative delegation involved.
  - Often well-plugged in to local districts.
- Greenville City Council and the Leadership Team all met for a day-long retreat to develop priorities as they put together the Capital Improvement project plan, etc.
  - Haven't done a good job of communicating what came out of that meeting.
- Housing is a great example of collaboration.
  - Great atmosphere of collaboration that we have not had for a few years.
- Why have things changed?
  - Different leaders that come from areas that are used to collaborating.
  - People are looking for more and more partners now.
    - School district, for example
  - Greenville Hospital adopted Greer Middle School this year to help with costs, etc.

- Great example of the kinds of partnerships we would like to pursue.
    - ⊗ These relationships come along when people in different sectors discover they have things in common.
- Greenville Forward in process of doing health assessment of Greenville.
  - ⊗ 10 years ago could barely get both hospital representatives involved.
  - ⊗ Russell's background is survey research so he would be willing to help in whatever way.
- Point of survey idea is to see what officials think is working well and what is not working well.
- What is the goal of the survey/result?
  - ⊗ Daily practice to make sure we are still following the vision?
  - ⊗ Pulse of where we are?
  - ⊗ Russell says it is important to determine what the vision of the Government Task Force should be.
- A survey like this would have to be completely anonymous because most officials wouldn't do it if they had to be recognized.
- Russell may have to visit committee meetings to get the officials to know this is necessary information that needs to be known in a timely fashion.
- Perhaps have a kick-off meeting with everyone together first.
- Helpful for local governments to get together occasionally to hear what each other is doing.
- Who would you invite to a meeting like this?
  - ⊗ Combine this gathering after the elections to take advantage of having everyone in the room.
- Daily/yearly practice to constantly evaluate your priority and your role.
  - ⊗ Constantly massaging/tweaking of vision.
  - ⊗ Much validity in having a survey to take the pulse of where we are.
- Survey up front
  - ⊗ Internet/phone
  - ⊗ Take that data (after the election) and use it to convene everyone together
  - ⊗ Then can revisit the vision from a perspective of not being just a couple of peoples' opinions.
- Would people come to a morning meeting?
  - ⊗ Check out the makeup of councils and see when they are free.
  - ⊗ Late afternoon meeting followed by a social hour.
- Russell will develop the first draft of a survey of some kind and then plan to meet next month sometime to review where we are on that initiative.
  - ⊗ Be ready to send out survey after elections.
  - ⊗ End of January would be best.
  - ⊗ To have a delegation there, need to do it on a Monday or Friday.
- Intergovernmental committee doesn't meet at all now.
  - ⊗ Had ownership issues.
  - ⊗ There was no one there to set the agenda.
  - ⊗ Would be good to have the outside ownership of something like Greenville Forward.
- Russell went to planning meeting at the Expo Center.
- Plan to meet again in one month—Sept. 23.

**Next Meeting**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**