



Josh Lane (seated) with fellow Leadership Greenville alumnus Paul Chambers

THE Vision's Voice Q&A WITH JOSH LANE

by Becky Mann
presented by The Cliffs Communities

Each month, this column gives a voice to Vision 2025, the plan for Greenville's future unveiled late last year. In this space, we'll be talking to many people involved in developing the plan and making it a reality. Since a plan is only a plan until it's implemented, we talk first to Josh Lane, who heads a Leadership Greenville alumni group charged with keeping the effort from being just words on paper. Here are Josh's responses to questions about the plan and the process.

Becky Mann: What is the Leadership Greenville Alumni Association's role with Vision 2025?

Josh Lane: To monitor the progress of the various goals outlined in the Vision 2025 document and then report that progress to the community annually.

BM: What is the greatest challenge your group faces?

JL: Developing the process for the progress information to flow to us from the various organizations and individual "thought-leaders" who are pushing various parts of the Vision.

BM: Where does Vision 2025 stand now?

JL: We developed a task force of approximately 15 Leadership Greenville alumni members who have forged relationships with Vision 2025's thought leaders. We are now formalizing the relationships regarding how information on the progress gets communicated.

BM: What parts of the plan are moving ahead the most rapidly?

JL: ICAR and the Parks and Open Spaces committees are making great progress. Rails to Trails has been embraced by many in the com-

munity. The aviation cluster, environment – specifically related to air quality- and health care committees have a lot of exciting initiatives being actively worked on – to name just a few.

BM: What areas are taking longer?

JL: Many are making progress, but some just take a little longer than others, such as the government initiatives. Other areas are hard to measure such as coolness and sense of place.

BM: Which parts of the plan impress you the most?

JL: What impresses me the most is that individuals in Greenville took the time to develop a plan and that the ideas, no matter how challenging it may seem to reach them, are ideas worth reaching for.

BM: What do you think Vision 2025 means for Greenville?

JL: It represents an opportunity to maintain some control in how our community changes by (a) keeping what we love about Greenville and (b) making Greenville what we want it to be.

BM: How old will you be in 2025?

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BM: What kind of place do you think Greenville will be then?

JL: I'm an optimist, so I tend to think it'll be one of the most desirable places to live and work (and known nationally as such a place). It'll definitely still have its challenges as a growing community, but I think the benefits and overall quality of life will far outweigh any of those challenges.

BM: What would you tell the future planners of Vision 2045?

1. Conduct an honest assessment of what's strong and what needs improvement in this community.
2. Invite and/or visit communities that Greenville would like to emulate AND those communities which are examples of what we don't want to become.
3. Be as inclusive of the community as possible.
4. Set goals you think are nearly impossible to reach.
5. Embrace change.

The final word . . .

Many people have asked me how they can get involved in Vision 2025 and the simple answer is to find a cause consistent with the Vision, economic, political, charitable, etc. that you're passionate about and get involved – volunteer, serve on a board, run for office or volunteer for a campaign, give your time or money. The Vision is just a collaborative document... words on paper... that in the end is intended to inspire people and organizations towards a common goal.



As Vision 2005 paved the way in the 1980s for the incredible quality of life Greenville enjoys today, Vision 2025 spearheads projects that will further elevate our city, culturally and commercially. The Vision's Voice is one of the many ways that The Cliffs is committed to promoting growth in Greenville.