

Connected and Collaborative Community Fabric: Core Value Chapter Synopsis

INTRODUCTION • This is about connectivity and the fabric that binds the community together – it is a function of both physical spaces and collaborative platforms and approaches. • The action areas around ‘building a collaborative and connected community fabric’ aim to create the connective tissue that will stimulate collaborative behavior. • This is a fundamental building block of a modern community and helps embed the ideals of an inclusive and shared vision and decision making.

ISSUES/ EXISTING CONDITIONS/ CONSTRAINTS • Changing demographics – Aging population, loss of younger population of adults, decline and loss of the Gullah Geechee community • Gated communities impose varying degrees of restriction regarding access, including no public access and ‘pay-to visit’ access creating a ‘community within a community’ phenomena. Societal values change, the gated community concept might not be as appealing to younger generations • Pockets of distrust due to historical inequalities and the ‘community within a community’ phenomena • Gentrification of older neighborhoods • Affordable housing • Employers are facing significant challenges in meeting their employment needs. • Perception of the quality of education and healthcare services to attract new residents and meet the needs of the aging population. • Technology infrastructure limitations • Lack of a centralized location for information about the community happenings and needs

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Connected and Collaborative Community Work Group (CCCWG)

Stakeholder(s):

Shea Farrar :
Submitter

Taylor Ladd :
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1. Planning

Ensure the planning process is inclusive, collaborative and ongoing, responsive to changing circumstances and stakeholder priorities.

Keywords: Planning, Technology. Elements: Community Facilities, Population, Land Use... About this Goal: • Builds alignment and focus within both the community and the planning outcomes • Idea that “community unites around a commitment and plan for progressive change.” • Building trust and transparency in local government and the planning process • Community engagement • Connectivity to external stakeholders: Building this connectivity will be important, as these external stakeholders offer direct access to expertise and resources that might help implement the vision. Plus, in many cases they are potential future residents. • Technology offers the chance to help strengthen the community’s virtual connectivity. The concept of being a technologically ‘fully connected’ community has appeal, and could offer future platforms for collaborating and community organizing.

1.1. Tools, Applications & Services

Apply tools, applications and services to facilitate sharing information supporting community connections and collaborative efforts.

1.1.1. Technology Infrastructure

Plan for technology infrastructure to facilitate best-in-class government services.

1.1.2. Brand & Social Media

Maintain a strong presence on social media and reinforce the Island brand.

1.1.3. Online Tools

Evaluate the development and use of technology like online tools, apps and services to facilitate connectivity, enhance transparency and increase outreach and public involvement.

See Excellence Tactic 3.6.2

1.1.4. Testing & Input

Solicit input from stakeholders when testing new tools for communication.

1.2. Participation

Ensure optimal opportunities are provided for citizen and stakeholder participation in the planning and policy development process.

1.2.1. Meetings

Consider citizen participation when setting meeting times.

1.2.2. Projects & Programs

Solicit input and participation from stakeholders in Town projects and programs.

1.2.3. Experts & Taskforces

Continue to engage experts and taskforces where needed to participate in the planning process.

1.3. Town Boards

Work towards a balanced composition of Town boards that reflects the diversity of the Island's population.

See Excellence Tactic 3.6.1

Stakeholder(s):

Town Boards

1.4. Regional Planning

Engage in cooperative planning efforts with officials from Jasper County, LCOG, the Town of Bluffton, Beaufort County and other regional localities/counties.

Stakeholder(s):

Jasper County

LCOG

Town of Bluffton

Beaufort County

Regional Localities

Regional Counties

1.5. Training

Identify similar areas in the state/region for cross training – look and learn from other places.

2. Built Environment

Promote designs for the built environment that capitalize on our natural beauty and community strengths, reinforcing our unique sense of place.

Keywords: Sense of Place, Built Environment, Modes and Nodes, Neighborhoods. Elements: Cultural Resources, Housing, Transportation, Land Use... About this Goal: • The design of individual spaces can promote connectivity and community building among people. • There is also a macro trend towards more intimate community neighborhoods with gathering and commercial centers. This concept is based on community nodes that provide stronger neighborhood feel, coupled with multimodal means of transportation or connectivity between nodes.

2.1. Public Spaces & Streetscapes

Support the development of public spaces and streetscape designs that encourage community connections.

See Infrastructure Tactic 1.3.1, Inclusive Strategy 8.2

2.1.a. Public Spaces

Support vibrant public spaces that provide rich social opportunities

2.1.b. Maintenance & Attractiveness

Support well maintained and attractive spaces

2.1.c. Pedestrians

Support pedestrian scale design

Stakeholder(s):

Pedestrians

2.1.d. Art

Support public art

Stakeholder(s):

Artists

Art Aficionados

2.1.e. Technology

Support access to technology that accommodates connectivity

2.2. Neighborhoods

Support community connectivity in the location and design of neighborhoods

See Inclusive Strategy 5.3

Stakeholder(s):

Neighborhoods

2.2.1. Nodes & Modes

Foster the creation of community nodes with multiple modes of transport connectivity.

2.2.2. Pathways & Gatherings

Encourage neighborhood designs that provide gathering spaces and connectivity to the pathway network.

Stakeholder(s):

Neighborhood

2.2.3. Interconnections

Encourage interconnection between developments to promote the establishment of neighborhoods and to provide safe and convenient access to neighborhood level public facilities, such as parks and schools.

See Infrastructure Tactics 1.10.3 and 6.2.1

2.3. Quality of Life

Find ways to ensure exceptional “quality of life” ideals are considered when reviewing proposed residential developments.

See Excellence Strategy 3.3

Stakeholder(s):

Residential Developers

2.4. Redevelopment

Consider creating incentives for redevelopment with goals of diversity in housing types and cost and types of transportation modes.

Stakeholder(s):

Housing Developers

3. Collaboration & Celebration

Enable residents and visitors to collaborate around common values and celebrate the realization of shared objectives.

Stakeholder(s)

Residents

Visitors

Keywords: Events, Organizations, Community, Elements: Cultural Resources, Population, Community Facilities...
About this Goal: • Working towards conduits for communication about shared ideals and outcomes. • Seeking to empower community organizations and leverage public events.

3.1. Involvement

Foster events, organizations and infrastructure that encourage involvement from the Island's entire population.

See Inclusive Strategy 3.1

Stakeholder(s):

Local Organizations

3.2. Nonprofit Organizations

Support data and planning requests to help nonprofit organizations more effectively meet community needs.

Stakeholder(s):

Nonprofit Organizations

3.3. Community Information

Encourage creation of a single source for community information, both online and in print, and participate by providing information on Town programs and events.

3.4. Community Building

Continue to identify, support and promote the many different organizations and groups that currently are involved in community building efforts inside and outside the Island's gated communities.

See Inclusive Strategies 3.2 and 3.6

Stakeholder(s):

Gated Communities

Local Groups

Local Organizations

3.5. Workshops

Evaluate the creation of workshops and education series on various topics.

Consider partnering with universities or other communities.

Stakeholder(s):

Universities

Other Communities

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4. Quality of Life

Ensure an exceptional quality of life for residents, outstanding experiences for visitors, and economic opportunity for our workforce.

Stakeholder(s)

Residents

Keyword: Quality of Life. Elements: Housing, Community Facilities, Population, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation, Economic Development... About this Goal: • There is a need for more variety in housing and more affordable options. • There is greater understanding of how integrated lifestyle solutions and technology can boost healthy aging.

4.1. Community

Foster a healthy, self-sustaining community that encourages economic and cultural diversity and demographic diversity by understanding the needs and assets of each of the Island's many different communities.

Stakeholder(s):

Communities

4.2. ADA Requirements

In support of aging in place efforts, encourage site and building designs that provide high quality experiences associated with ADA requirements, rather than just meeting the minimum standards.

Consider a policy that requires the retrofitting of nonconforming sites. See Excellence Strategy 2.4, Inclusive Strategy 5.2

Stakeholder(s):

People with Disabilities

Property Owners

4.3. Workforce Housing

Continue to implement the recommendations for the Workforce Housing Strategic Plan.

See Economy Strategy 6.1, Inclusive Strategy 3.3, Infrastructure Strategy 6.1, Regional Goal 2

Stakeholder(s):

Workforce

Housing Developers

4.4. Gullah Geechee Heritage

Continue to implement the recommendations from the Gullah Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Taskforce, and the Gullah Geechee Preservation Project Report.

Stakeholder(s):

Gullah Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Taskforce

4.5. Education

Coordinate with educational institutions in the community, including the Beaufort County School District, to provide high quality educational options, including online self-paced learning, and plan for school, libraries and lifelong learning.

Stakeholder(s):

Educational Institutions	Libraries
Beaufort County School District	Lifelong Learners
Schools	

4.6. Mentorship

Support organizations that provide educational opportunities and mentorships.

Stakeholder(s):

Students	Mentors
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4.7. Businesses & Schools

Foster the connection of businesses with schools to encourage local employment opportunities and workforce development.

Stakeholder(s):

Businesses	Students
Schools	Workers

4.8. Social Capital & Volunteers

Encourage the Beaufort County School District and other educational institutions to take advantage of social capital and volunteers to enhance educational opportunities.

Stakeholder(s):

Beaufort County School District	Volunteers
Educational Institutions	Students

4.9. Sense of Place

Reinforce Hilton Head Island's unique sense of place and quality of life through environmental education, protection and access to nature and wildlife.

4.10. Arts, Culture, History, Environment & Recreation

Celebrate and promote the Island's rich arts, culture, history, environment and recreation opportunities.