

Focus Group 1:

Open Space:

- Contiguous with neighbors (landscaping and vegetation)
- No clear cutting for land use options
- Town must work with Palm Beach County for tax exemptions for “green belting” on their properties
- Jungle Properties: clear exotics and dead vegetation to reduce fire hazards. Too many areas neglected; have become detriment to snakes and possible wildfires.
- Actual “green belting” with very specific standards.
- Open spaces must be accessible to the public.
- People should do what they want with their property; that’s why people moved here. Don’t regulate too much because that is not what Loxahatchee is all about.
- Restoration of existing land; more horse parks and public facilities.
- Preserve the open space we have.
- Decide what the open areas should be in the long run.
- Since the Town doesn’t have the funds to buy open space private properties should consider granting conservation easements (defined by the deed restrictions attached to them). Restricts further development by granting this easement.
- Too much public accessible property would promote bigger issues that we don’t want to deal with.
- Look into grant opportunities that could support getting funds for open spaces.
- “Rare Species Conservatory”: Non-profit organization that the Town can work with for open space dedication.
- Educate the property owner as to the value of their wetland. How to maintain and improve what we have. Get rid of exotics if you have the resources to do that. Public assistance could help residents get rid of exotics.
- Promote our town as a NATURAL township; educate residents and new residents as to what to expect when they move here. Where we’ve been, where we’re at and where are we going. We are a natural conservancy.
- Town should promote not regulate tree canopies (tax incentive for owners)
- Be aware of salt-water intrusion.
- Junk yards are a concern with a lot of the open spaces.

Loxahatchee Groves
Strategic Visioning Workshop
Saturday, April 12, . 2008
Facilitator: Dr. Herb Marlowe, Analytica

Water Sourcing:

- Each town will need to develop it's 20 year plan for water sourcing.
- We need to clean our water now because as time goes on it will get even more expensive.
- Don't give in; pushback against SFWMD in reference to canals.
- We are a agricultural community; we should be treated differently.
- Water lines will be cost prohibitive

Other Questions you would like to see covered in the last visioning session:

- Do you want to have standards for commercial architecture?
- What percentage of commercial do we really want?
- New land use designation? Natural?
- Are you neighbors going to stay? Why are they going to stay or go?
- Traffic deterrence without paving?
- Commercial on Southern?
- What is the purpose of the government we are forming? Is our vision rural?
- What types of land use do we see? What land uses are detrimental and non-conforming and what can we do about it? What really is "agricultural"?
- How are churches defined and restricted in size?
- Church uses?
- Equestrian group in the community?
- Environmental and water issues in other groups.
- How do we protect our freedoms for land use that has historically taken place in the Groves for years? (with the exception of health and safety)
- Possible moratorium on churches?
- We need something legal on the books to protect canopies.
- Validate the need for commercial for a revenue stream?
- Should we freeze commercial at certain levels?
- Is the new F road paving acceptable for the future?
- Should Town Council put an immediate moratorium on paving until comprehensive plan is passed?
- Should there be an environmental survey to identify the pollution hotspots?
- How do we feel about banning communication towers with strobe lights on them?
- How do you feel about light pollution?
- Coordinate with D.O.T. on Southern
- Existence of Town Council with LGWCD?
- Create a mission statement.

Focus Group 2:

Environmental Issues:

- No restrictive code enforcement. Just when it's environmental issues.
- Quality of the water. Protect our water supply.
- Keep trees along canal banks.
- Blatant clear cutting is detrimental.
- Replace and replant trees when clear cutting.
- Get help getting the Florida Wholly out and replace with pine trees.
- Get Town to help replant and replace trees.
- Educate as to preserve and maintain trees.
- Quality of water is very important.
- Assist residents with disposing of hazardous materials; make it very easy; this will prevent pollution.
- Physical pollution is a huge issue.
- Municipal garbage cans.
- We need to encourage more recycling.
- Educate people as to the rules of clear cutting of trees.
- Rules need to be communicated and more consistent.
- Bottom line: we need better water quality and more canopies.
- We need businesses that will not damage our water supply.
- Stop illegal hauling and dumping of manure.
- Locally modified ordinances to protect the people and be more tolerant.

Other Questions you would like to see covered in the last visioning session:

- Information site for residents to access to get facts for land use codes and how to do things.
- Lower speed limit to 25mph (low on dust)
- Okeechobee speed limit to 35 mph.
- Combine the Town & LGWCD together in one entity.
- Protect the quality and quantity of water; canopies
- Detail of equestrian trails and park system.
- Maintain individual canals for better flow.
- Allow for horses to travel on the roads safer.
- Suspend road paving until after comprehensive plan
- All land owners have equal and fair rights.
- Sample entire community for better feedback during visioning session.
- Sanitation and recycling needs to be addressed.

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- What businesses do we want?
- Bring the equestrian community together.
- Economics and financial impact.
- Senior living and facilities.
- Why are we focusing on the NOW; we need to focus on the FUTURE!
- Look at increased revenue base; we must pay for the services and the future.

Focus Group 3:

Environmental Issues:

- Tree replacement program
- Assistance with replacing trees (financial)
- Well developed plan to replace trees; educate people.
- Get with local nurseries and find out what native plantings are available.
- Filter water
- More trees planted along the roads; Okeechobee Blvd; example is North Lake
- More vegetation growing along canal banks.
- Protect wildlife and rare birds
- Stop the fishing of turtles with nets.
- Regulate unsupervised fishing.
- Speeding, widening of roads leads to road kill
- Too much garbage in the canals.
- Environmentally unfriendly items being stored on properties.
- Drinking Water
 - Concerned with FPL drilling into our water reserves
 - Concerned with outside towns forcing us to go onto county water.
 - Mining has a direct impact on drinking water.
 - Regulate water run off from horse manure.
 - Enforcement to impose on violating parties. Be very specific with ordinances.
 - Health and safety issues need to be handled by government.

Other Questions you would like to see covered in the last visioning session:

1. Concerned about equestrian trails
2. Would like to survey residents as to who wants OGEM?
3. How much more money do we need?
4. Negative growth on the Town.
5. Current ULDC codes that effect quiet enjoyment.
6. What type of senior living facilities does the Town want?
7. Where do we want Tangerine to go?
8. What type of restaurants do we want? Do we want any at all?
9. What type of commercial?

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10. Natural preserve?
11. Inventory of businesses we have now?
12. Costa analysis of commercial. What does it give to the town's bottom line.
13. Codes: protect my rights from your rights.
14. Should the Town front the paving or LGWCD do paving?
15. Property values dropping almost 20%.
16. How important is neighborhood serving commercial.

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	All Participants
Law Enforcement				
Need will grow	19.00%	15.00%	19.00%	
Expectations will grow	24.00%	0.00%	24.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	52.00%	54.00%	52.00%	
Same as today	5.00%	31.00%	5.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Code Enforcement				
Need will grow	10.00%	25.00%	10.00%	
Expectations will grow	10.00%	25.00%	10.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	48.00%	25.00%	48.00%	
Same as today	29.00%	25.00%	29.00%	
Less need than today	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	
Fire Protection				
Need will grow	10.00%	8.00%	10.00%	
Expectations will grow	3.00%	0.00%	5.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	43.00%	33.00%	43.00%	
Same as today	43.00%	50.00%	43.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
Emergency Medical				
Need will grow	18.00%	25.00%	18.00%	
Expectations will grow	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	36.00%	33.00%	36.00%	
Same as today	45.00%	42.00%	45.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Recreation Programs				
Need will grow	14.00%	0.00%	14.00%	
Expectations will grow	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	45.00%	8.00%	45.00%	
Same as today	32.00%	75.00%	32.00%	
Less need than today	5.00%	17.00%	5.00%	
Parks				
Need will grow	0.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
Expectations will grow	14.00%	0.00%	14.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	38.00%	25.00%	38.00%	
Same as today	48.00%	58.00%	48.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	8.00%	0.00%	

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	All Participants
Emergency Preparation & Evac.				
Need will grow	10.00%	0.00%	10.00%	
Expectations will grow	10.00%	8.00%	10.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	43.00%	33.00%	43.00%	
Same as today	38.00%	58.00%	38.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Libraries				
Need will grow	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Expectations will grow	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	29.00%	8.00%	29.00%	
Same as today	67.00%	58.00%	67.00%	
Less need than today	5.00%	33.00%	5.00%	
Building Permits				
Need will grow	15.00%	8.00%	15.00%	
Expectations will grow	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	35.00%	58.00%	35.00%	
Same as today	30.00%	33.00%	30.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Occupational Permits				
Need will grow	14.00%	8.00%	14.00%	
Expectations will grow	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	41.00%	50.00%	41.00%	
Same as today	41.00%	33.00%	41.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
Land Use Codes & Regulations				
Need will grow	10.00%	17.00%	10.00%	
Expectations will grow	5.00%	8.00%	5.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	62.00%	67.00%	62.00%	
Same as today	24.00%	8.00%	24.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Public Information & Commun.				
Need will grow	10.00%	17.00%	10.00%	
Expectations will grow	10.00%	0.00%	10.00%	
Both need and expectation will grow	57.00%	75.00%	57.00%	
Same as today	24.00%	8.00%	24.00%	
Less need than today	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	