

SECTION 3 - CITY VISION AND POLICIES

A Vision for Smithfield City 3-1
Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee 3-1
Community Survey 3-2
Community Open House 3-2
Planning and Zoning..... 3-3
Adoption of the Plan..... 3-3

A VISION FOR SMITHFIELD CITY

Smithfield City Vision Statement

“Smithfield is a livable community that respects its heritage while facilitating responsible residential and commercial growth. This will be accomplished by providing necessary services to ensure a healthy, safe family environment that strives to foster environmental, social, and economic accountability. We welcome all who share our vision.”

SMITHFIELD CITY GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In early fall 2004, an advisory group of community citizens was formed—the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee. Citizens were invited to join the committee by recommendation of the Mayor and the Smithfield City Council. Committee members varied in age, occupation, residency in the community, and neighborhood to create a good representation of citizens. A list of participants is found in the Acknowledgments (page ii).

From November 2004 to April 2005, the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee met five times to provide input on community issues, goals and policies, infrastructure, land use, and the wording of text in the General Plan.

Because of the importance of agriculture and open space preservation, Mayor Winn invited John Meikle, a Smithfield City resident, to give a presentation on preservation of open space and conservation easements. In January 2005, Mr. Meikle led a discussion and update of conservation easement legislation. This information was well received by the committee and discussed as a potential tool for planning land uses in Smithfield.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

To ensure that community ideas and opinions were represented in the General Plan update, the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee formulated survey questions for the second workshop. These questions were then compiled into a community-wide survey by J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. Smithfield City Council members and the Mayor distributed the survey to the community in December 2004. This was accomplished by dividing the city into six geographic districts, with a Smithfield City Council member and the Mayor assigned to a district. The Smithfield City Council member canvassed the area, gathered personal input from citizens, and explained the questionnaire. If there was no response at a residence, the questionnaire was left and then retrieved at a later date. Over 400 responses were collected from the survey. The survey results were compiled and reviewed with the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee.

See Appendix A for the survey and the results.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

On February 15, 2005, the public was invited to a community-wide open house at the Smithfield Senior Citizen Center. Over 50 people attended to view displays and talk to the members of the General Plan Advisory Committee. Exhibits on population, infrastructure issues, and the community survey were presented. In conjunction with the open house, comment forms were available to obtain additional citizen input. This information was reviewed and many of the responses were incorporated into the General Plan.



PLANNING AND ZONING

After the open house, the Planning & Zoning Commission members met to review the information that had been compiled from the community survey and the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee. Their comments were compiled and incorporated in the General Plan.

ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

Using the comments from all aspects of the community, a draft of the General Plan was created and distributed to the Smithfield City General Plan Advisory Committee for review. Comments from the committee were incorporated in the plan. The draft was presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission and then to the Smithfield City Council for final approval. The Smithfield City General Plan was formally adopted by resolution on July 27, 2005.