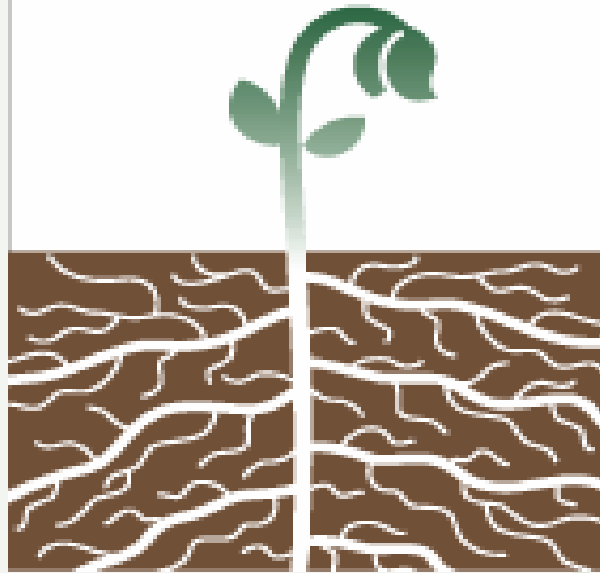
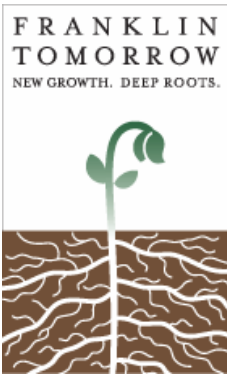


FRANKLIN
TOMORROW
NEW GROWTH. DEEP ROOTS.



BUSINESS TASK FORCE UPDATE

Compilation of Ideas gained at the Business Task Force
Breakfasts with the Mayors in March 2010



BUSINESS TASK FORCE

BREAKFAST WITH THE MAYORS

MARCH 11, 2010



www.franklintomorrow.org

Mission of Franklin Tomorrow's Business Task Force

To encourage communication between the citizens of Franklin, our government, and businesses creating opportunities to identify ways to support local business and our community.

Business Task Force Report submitted on December 7th of 2009. View full report online at www.franklintomorrow.org under Task Forces, Business.

On October 1, 2009 and October 6, 2009, Franklin Tomorrow held a breakfast meeting for community leaders at Boxwood Bistro in front of The Factory at Franklin in Franklin, Tennessee. We invited the Mayor of Franklin, John Schroer, and the Mayor of Williamson County, Rogers Anderson, to speak and join us as we listened to the Business Community. Between the two meetings, 126 people attended. The information we gathered is in our Business Task Force Report.

The structure of the breakfast included several opportunities to share information. We provided questions on cards, which we asked all present to answer anonymously. Each question and the compiled responses are in the report. We also facilitated a discussion between the business leaders and the Mayors. The discussion topics are found in the addendum at the end of the report.

The Business Task Force of Franklin Tomorrow sees the following as the most important items:

- Communication between the Business Community and the Government
- Promotion of Franklin as a viable place to do business
- Streamline approvals and systems for planning and codes
- The availability to money
- Ability to address the new Entrepreneur

We want to invite you to participate in the process of determining what Franklin Tomorrow will focus on and work toward. Please share your ideas or feedback. Also, please know that it is our desire to support our community and work together with local and regional government as well as local businesses to create the best community in which to live, work and play.

Please share your ideas or feedback with our Executive Director, Natalie Dodd. You can reach her at natalie@franklintomorrow.org or 615.794.0998. Thank you for your feedback and participation in this process.

Franklin Tomorrow is a non-profit community organization that communicates a shared and evolving Vision for the future of Franklin and focuses that Vision through education, advocacy, evaluation, implementation, and recognition of the Vision's specific goals and strategies.

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OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

Unclear Communication about process & Regulations

- o Change of standard?
- o Lack of communication?
- o Clear & predictable = hard with new projects because unaware of full project

Concerns about previous regulations for buildings/plots/allotments

- o Need to change some plot allocations
- o How do we justify that to the neighbors/community who is getting something different than planned?
- o Affordable & workforce housing
- o Looking for tools to create a more balanced housing plan
- o Looking for changes to regulations on this.

Development in small town

- o Some "codes" are gray & looking for logic/consistency in decision making to make it easy to move forward quickly
- o Communication is **Key**...Must have system & consistent

Concerns with real or perceived opinions of local government, and the open lines of communication.

- o Developers avoided Franklin when possible because of unsure dates.
- o Now: the communication has changed and there are maximum time frames to give feedback.

Availability of capital

- o Public and private capital
- o Money not as easy to get as it used to be

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT BREAKFAST TOPIC AS LISTED ON CARDS

1. Tourism
2. Columbia State Community College
3. Planning for traffic flow, especially on side streets, as growth occurs.
4. What can government do to facilitate job growth in the county?
5. Highlight small Business with a small business panel, maybe 2 panels.
6. Communication with the city & county residents. Franklin Tomorrow should put together a CD presentation (plus put on the web), a "know your community." I find that people in the community (outside the leaders) do not have the knowledge about: Our local government, Our heritage tourism, Our Downtown, Our business community, services, The advantages of having tourism & historic sites, How Franklin did a TIF district for Nissan, why & how it works and what it means
7. Tourism & the economic impact on the community
8. Address the number of currently approved "On Paper Lots," and how you address the need to be recut (?) to provide more lot diversity, increased density, affordable housing, but in keeping with the design standards & guidelines. What will be the process?
9. June Meeting – Affordable housing!
10. Discuss the traffic issues for the future
11. When county & city property taxes are going to be increased. If taxes are not raised, what services and programs will be cut or reduced?
12. Infrastructure Columbia Highway: When urban growth boundaries are set and you incorporate those areas, infrastructure must be a first. Where are our citizens going to go - traffic?
13. Tourism
14. Brunch with the Mayors
15. Are there any plans to "develop"/use on of Franklin's greatest resource – The Harpeth River?
16. Traffic: Anticipate & predict before the problem is so great.
17. What should the city/county do with the property that is ultimately owned by the citizens, which sit empty today? Shouldn't this property, vacant or empty, be sold or producing income back to their owners? Plan of action to the public would be helpful and maintenance to avoid leaks/deterioration of buildings.
18. Tourism
19. Mexican immigrants are a large population in Franklin, but totally not involved in the community. Hill Estates and other areas have large populations that do not associate, violate codes without regard, and allow/tolerate gangs. The city does not seem to want to take this thorn on, but it should.
20. Small business challenges: What can the city/county do to help/assist small businesses to survive in a tough economic climate? For example, health care for my employees is becoming harder to afford.
- 21.