

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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{163.3191(2)(j)}

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Planning Division engaged the services of a planning consultant to run the six community meetings outlined below and to summarize the issues and concerns raised by the Public. The consultant provided a Powerpoint presentation of the issues and solicited Public Opinion for compilation and inclusion in this report.

The evaluation undertaken to determine whether the objectives of the Orange County Comprehensive Policy Plan have been achieved in an effective manner, would not be inclusive without capturing the observations of the County's residents. The County developed an effective public participation strategy that spanned the course of one year for this evaluation. This Chapter will provide a summary of the activities undertaken to successfully gather critical input from citizens in addition to the County's numerous departments.

5.2 MAJOR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

In 1998, the legislature amended Chapter 163 Florida Statutes to incorporate new criteria for Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR). Section 163.3191(1)(c) was modified to require local governments to identify the major issues and provide an analysis of these issues to further the community's goals. Input from the community, received in public meetings, served as the basis for identifying the major issues to be addressed in the EAR. The identified issues form the heart of the EAR analysis. The issues were established based upon numerous public discussions over the past few years and closely reflect Mayor Crotty's vision. The following activities outline Orange County's process to identify and evaluate these nine (9) major issues.

- A Scoping Meeting for all agencies and other local governments was held on November 14, 2005. At this meeting, the first draft of the issues was presented for comment and evaluation.
- A publicly advertised Workshop was held on November 29, 2005, at the regular Board of County Commissioners meeting to gather input regarding the nine (9) major issues and to provide information regarding the evaluation process and required contents of the EAR. Subsequent to that meeting, the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) agreed to accept the County's nine (9) major issues through its Letter of Understanding.
- A publicly advertised Workshop was held on April 20, 2006 at the monthly Local Planning Agency meeting to present the issues and to provide information regarding the process and required contents of the EAR. Staff presented the first draft of the evaluation and identified which objectives in the Comprehensive Plan most affected the nine (9) major issues. The workshop identified the progress that had been made to date, refined the timeframe for

transmittal, and provided information about the County-wide Neighborhood Meetings which were the primary public participation strategy prior to the public adoption hearings.

- The community meeting schedule was established (see below) and advertised in the Orlando Sentinel (twice), the Apopka Chief, the East Orlando Sun, Orange TV, and the online Orange County Internet News. The schedule also was posted on the County's EAR webpage. The adoption hearings were advertised in the Orlando Sentinel and online. A copy of the community meeting advertisement is shown below.
- Numerous e-mail notices were sent out to property owners associations, business and professional organizations, and environmental organizations inviting them to the series of community meetings and public hearings. E-mail notices also were sent to members of the Public who had provided their e-mail addresses during attendance at past community meetings around the County.

In addition to the informal and formal meetings with participation of numerous internal and external stakeholders, there were numerous in-house departmental meetings held before the public participation meetings took place. One meeting was an EAR Kick-off meeting. Several brainstorming meetings were held to define an approach to the EAR and prepare an initial list of EAR issues, background and activities needed to address those issues. Additional brainstorming sessions were conducted to address specific issues. The following Orange County departments and divisions were included in the data collection and stages of comparing the achievements of the Comprehensive Policy Plan in relation to the nine (9) major issues.

County Administrator's Office, Office of Management & Budget	Comprehensive Planning Section
County Attorney's Office	Research and Strategic Planning Section
Community and Environmental Services Department	Intergovernmental Coordination Section
Environmental Protection Division	Urban Design Section
Neighborhood Services Division	Orange County Public Works Department
Parks and Recreation Division	Stormwater Management Division
Orange County Growth Management Department	Transportation Planning Division
Housing and Community Development Division	Orange County Utilities Department
Fiscal and Administrative Services Division	Engineering Division
Geographic Information Systems Section	Solid Waste Division
Orange County Fire-Rescue Department	Water Division
Planning Division	Water Reclamation Division

The departments and divisions above were requested to have representatives at all neighborhood meetings and were requested to provide input on the draft evaluation of elements most closely related to their respective disciplines.

5.3 SPECIAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The most extensive effort in the public participation program involved the neighborhood meetings. The County hired a professional consulting firm, Land Design Innovations, Inc., to

facilitate a series of neighborhood workshops to gather critical citizen input regarding the nine (9) major issues.

The program strategy included one neighborhood meeting for each of orange county's six (6) Commission Districts. The intent was to ensure that all citizens had easy access to at least one of the meetings. However, any citizen could attend any of the meetings, and they were encouraged to invite anyone that had not attended to the upcoming meetings.

The consultants prepared a PowerPoint presentation that identified the following: Background and Purpose, explaining the purpose for the EAR and meeting; Schedule, identifying where the project was in the evaluation process; Major Issues, Identifying each of the nine major issues and requesting feedback for each; and the Adoption Process, explaining future opportunities for citizen input.

Handouts were provided that summarized the nine major issues and the intent that had arisen from the previous scoping meetings. Comment forms were provided to obtain additional input subsequent to the meeting or from the attendees' neighbors and friends that could not attend the meetings.

The six neighborhood meetings were scheduled at convenient and recognizable landmarks in the heart of each district. The meeting schedule, districts and locations of the meetings are identified below.

Meeting 1	Monday, May 15 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm District 5, Riverdale Elementary School Cafeteria 11301 Lokanotosa Trail, Orlando
Meeting 2	Thursday, May 18 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm District 2, Apopka City Hall 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida
Meeting 3	Monday, May 22 , 2006, 6:30 - 8:30 pm District 6, Memorial Middle School Cafeteria 2220 West 29th Street, Orlando
Meeting 4	Wednesday, May 24 , 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm District 4, McCoy Elementary School Cafeteria 5225 South Semoran Boulevard, Orlando
Meeting 5	Wednesday, May 31 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm District 3, Colonial High School Cafeteria 6100 Oleander Drive, Orlando
Meeting 6	Thursday, June 1 , 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm District 1, West Orange 9 th Grade Center (Tildenville Elementary) Cafeteria 12301 Warrior Road, Winter Garden

Public Comments - Community Meetings

The following table identifies the public comments that were received from participants at the six (6) neighborhood meetings held throughout the County. The comments for all six meetings were combined and organized according to the major issues.

Issue: Economic Development	<p>Eminent Domain/Kelo concerns (Dist. 2) Bring better jobs to area (Dist. 2) Develop more commercial jobs on the west side (Dist. 6) Increase funding to UCF Incubator program (Dist. 3)</p>
Issue: Workforce Housing	<p>Travel distance to work centers needs to decrease (Dist. 5) Are grants available for affordable housing (Dist. 2) Multi-family development (Dist. 2) Down payment assistance (Dist. 2) H.O.M.E., Helping with home ownership, 300 – 325 citizens a year obtain homes (Dist. 2) Infill development (Dist. 2) Brownfield Development (Dist. 2) Green Building (Dist. 2) How to make housing more affordable (Dist. 2) Density increases (Dist. 2) Mixed use/zoning (Dist. 2) Educate community on affordable housing (Dist. 2) 360 citizens attended the Housing Summit (Dist. 2) Proposed a Task Force II (Dist. 2) Smart Growth (Dist. 2) Educate community on grants available for housing (Dist. 6) Programs for financing for citizens (Dist. 6) Down payment assistance (Dist. 6) Median housing more affordable housing - “What is affordable?” (Dist. 4) Subsidized housing/Government to build homes (rents on a sliding scale) (Dist. 4) Require developers to build subsidized (Dist. 4) Incentives to major corporations/Employers to attract or move to certain area (Dist. 4) Identify density centers (Dist. 4) Affordable Housing (not just single family) (Dist. 4) Condos Town homes Apartments Advertise home assistance program (Dist. 3) Require affordable housing be included with new development (Dist. 3) Limit trailer parks (Dist. 3)</p>
Issue: Env. Protection	<p>Emissions Control (Auto Inspections) (Dist. 5) Loss of tree canopy concern, need more protection (Dist. 5) Brush fire prevention, increase fire watch (Dist. 5) Conservation Easements, consider using transfer of development rights or paying less than fee for acquisition (Dist. 5)</p>

	<p>Wekiva River/Aquifer Protection - Concerns about density and utilities in the area, impact from development (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Green Place program (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Aquifer Vulnerability Map (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Reuse Systems – Higher standards for septic tanks (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Central Services limit for rural areas and criteria (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Protect drinking water supply (Dist. 6)</p> <p>Infill areas need to retrofit infrastructure to prevent sprawl (Dist. 4)</p> <p>State and Federal threaten endangered species and habitats (Dist. 4)</p> <p>Plan around critical areas buffering habitats (Dist. 4)</p> <p>More upland preservation (Dist. 4)</p> <p>Increase funding to buy land (Dist. 4)</p> <p>Partnership between county and city to save land (Dist. 4)</p> <p>NPDES needs more funding to implement (Dist. 4)</p> <p>Do not allow exceptions; no amendments (Dist. 4)</p> <p>East of the Big Econ River, big impact from development; causing flooding problems and sink holes due to groundwater withdrawal (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Stop allowing water/sewer hookup in Econ area (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Stop making exceptions to developers like Sunflower Trail subdivision (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Stricter enforcement and penalties for violators (Dist. 3)</p> <p>East Orange, too many exceptions to the comp plan have been made (Cypress Creek) (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Stricter enforcement of concurrency such as roads, water, schools (Dist. 3)</p> <p>County to increase surveillance of development in rural areas (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Create a citizen environmental watchdog program (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Continue water-monitoring program (water atlas) (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Minimize raising site elevations/flooding adjacent (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Need tougher penalties for violators (increase fines) (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Pay as you go program needs to consider the future value of construction costs (Dist. 3)</p> <p>EPD staff too be certified as code enforcement officers (Dist. 3)</p> <p>Public service tax bond (Dist. 1)</p> <p>Conservation trust fund/funds through penalties, fines (Dist. 1)</p> <p>Green P.L.A.C.E. committee (Dist. 1)</p> <p>No tax \$ is earmarked for acquisition (Dist. 1)</p>
Issue: Parks & Recreation	<p>More \$ for parks will be available through new impact fees (Dist. 5)</p> <p>Use school recreational fields for neighborhood parks (Dist. 5)</p> <p>Pedestrian Bridge over US 441 is good (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Kingswood –Rosemont (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Pedestrian safety to parks (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Educate community on park access (Dist. 2)</p> <p>Perception is that city residents cannot use County parks and vice versa/need branding for use of parks (Dist. 2)</p> <p>More trails (paved)/Connect & Maintain/With benches (Dist. 2)</p>

	<p>Kings Landing is for sale, would be a good idea for the County to purchase for park (Dist. 2) Focus on upkeep more code enforcement (Dist. 6) Add more parks, trails, and green space in District 6 Recreation facilities for adult sports/leagues (Dist. 4) Lake Underhill, Rio Pinar, Chickasaw Trail & Econ (Dist. 4) No parks available– no ways to “bike to or walk to” Traffic calming devices not working No bike paths Pedestrian crossings needed Goldenrod to 50 (Dist. 4) Neighborhood connections to the trails Request trail right-of-way from developers Incentives to Developers (Dist. 4) Renovate older buildings for afford (Dist. 4) www.cmghome.com Home to pay off in 8-10 years interest only loan Condo Resource Alliance (Dist. 4) Innovation way (Dist. 4) Density target area Plan for all transportations, housing, working Need parks for more than just little league in East Orange Co. (Dist. 3) Park parking has impact on neighborhoods (Dist. 3) The opportunity for community events is limited because of little league (Dist. 3) Address the Bithlo racetrack noise problem (Dist. 3) Skate park is needed, need more kid orientated parks including playground equipment (Dist. 3) Need more picnic tables, and more fishing ponds (Dist. 3)</p>
<p>Issue: Public Safety</p>	<p>Need traffic calming GOP’s (Dist. 5) Not enough crossing guards/qualifications limit who can do it (Dist. 5) Walkable Communities (Dist. 2) Traffic calming (Dist. 2) Street connectivity (Dist. 2) Street parking buffers (Dist. 2) Traffic/lighting (Dist. 6) Pedestrian overpasses (Dist. 6) Traffic improvements (Dist. 6) Poor circulation around Florida Hospital East (Dist. 4) Hwy 50 & Goldenrod & Econ District 4,3,5 (Dist. 4) High crime Language barriers Community connection Create a sense of place to reduce crime Implement neighborhood watch More recreation for juveniles during the summer and centers to participate (will deter crime) (Dist. 4) Congestion at school in/out times - Busing program/Student access to schools/Better bus system for traffic (Dist. 4)</p>

	<p>Consider vouchers for LYNX (Dist. 4) “The Club” should allow all children not just kids in after school programs (Dist. 4) Lake Underhill inadequate sidewalks/need separation between sidewalk and road for pedestrians (Dist. 4) Transportation for seniors (more effective)/Shop/Doctor’s appointments (Dist. 4) Gated Communities have higher crime (Dist. 4) Need of more Law Enforcement/Crime and Traffic (Dist. 4) The need for more hospitals/clinics too overcrowded/East Orlando (Dist. 4) Lake Nona/Goldenrod (east) (Dist. 4) Seminole/Brevard borders (Dist. 4) Chickasaw/Liberty Middle - bridges/sidewalks needed (Dist. 4) Write tickets not warnings for traffic violators (Dist. 3) Too many accidents on Lake Picket Rd. (Dist. 3) Need more deputies on the road (Dist. 3) Improve boating safety, there are too many boats, need water patrol to increase enforcement. A lake carrying capacity study is needed (Dist. 3) Roadway emergency procedure, a public awareness program needed (Dist. 3)</p>
Issue: Regionalism	<p>Control aquifer withdrawal regionally (Dist. 5) Lake Apopka/Improve recreation (Dist. 2) Lakefront property owners do not want to drain/lower lake levels to clean which is a problem for county (Dist. 2) Alternative stormwater systems (Dist. 2) Low impact growth (IFIS) (Dist. 2) Regional drainage concern (Dist. 2) Concern of “myregion.org” becoming an authority with too much power (Dist. 4) Control on developers (Dist. 4) Sustained land acquisition Program (Dist. 4) Coordination between counties/ Formal interfacing (Dist. 4) Sharing facilities (Dist. 4) Get workforce – between counties (Dist. 4) Concurrency – is it effective? (Dist. 4) Impact adjacent jurisdictions (Dist. 4) Parks Advisory board – should be Elected (Dist. 4) Road Construction board – should Elected (Dist. 4) Citizen Input for Eminent domain (Dist. 4) More reuse of water/concern of capacity/County is one of the best users of reclaim in the nation (Dist. 4) School overcrowding (Dist. 1) -School board to work more with city & county -Avoiding conflicts with agreements -Require Coordination</p>
Issue: Smart Growth	<p>Workforce housing needed in smart growth developments (Dist. 5) Need neighborhood planning with green space (recreation), schools, recreation, wildlife (green space), new housing Manage the future land use for developers (Dist. 2)</p>

	<p>Revitalize Pine Hills area (Dist. 2) Mixed use/mixed income (Dist. 2) Reuse buildings (Dist. 2) Transportation/buses (Dist. 2) Employment (Dist. 2) Apply to dead areas (Dist. 2) More mixed-use buildings with retail/commercial on 1st-2nd floor and apts/Condos on floors 3-20 story (multi-family units) (Dist. 6) Follow Plan/do not deviate/Do not allow exceptions (Dist. 4) Keep urban service boundary where it is/don't amend them (Dist. 4) Prevent developers using annexation as a tool for smart growth (Dist. 4) Redevelop vacant buildings, gas stations, and drug stores (Dist. 3) Lake Picket Rd/CR419/SR 50 area, too many subdivision without retail and infrastructure, need smart growth (Dist. 3) East Orlando Chamber did a visioning study (Dist. 3) SR 50, from CR 419 out to CR 520, there is too much commercial zoning. Need to stop rezoning non-commercial to commercial (Dist. 3) Need a master plan for East Orange Co. (Dist. 3) Increase notification distance in rural areas to 1 mile (Dist. 3) Provide annual education sessions for County Commissioners (Dist. 3) Request notice to property owners prior to annexation, include adjacent property (Dist. 3) Notify local chamber of public workshops (Dist. 3) Promote Economic Incentives (Dist. 1) Consider impact fees to be different within service boundary (Dist. 1)</p>
<p>Issue: Transit/Mass Transit/ Infrastructure</p>	<p>Identify nodes along rail corridor and increase density/intensity around nodes (Dist. 5) Get riders to rail/increase Lynx coverage (Dist. 5) Policies for transit orientated development (Dist. 5) Multi-modal districts (Dist. 5) Transportation districts (Dist. 5) Expand roads near new development (Dist. 2) Gas tax increase (\$.01 to \$.015) will be for roads (Dist. 2) Accelerate Apopka Bypass (Dist. 2) Need more Public Participation (Dist. 6) Provide additional/dedicated-funding source to LYNX (Dist. 4) Expand LYNX route for the low-income areas (Dist. 4) Reduce long lead times for workers in Pine Hills area (Dist. 4) Vehicles should pay money for use of roads (Dist. 4) Make use of vehicles more exp/Mass transit less \$ (Dist. 4) Areas of county need bus routes (Dist. 4) Goldenrod/Chickasaw/50 Overhead Shelters needed for bus stops (Dist. 4) Increase coverage by Lynx in east Orange County (Dist. 3) Provide more covered bus stops (Dist. 3) Need traffic calming on Lake Picket Rd. (Dist. 3) Need more access points to UCF to get traffic off SR 50 and Alafaya Trail (Dist. 3) Need more access to research parkway (Dist. 3) Extend SR 408 north to UCF (Dist. 3)</p>

	<p>Main toll plaza near Conway needs to improve e-pass lanes to new standards (Dist. 3) SR 50 connect to Challenger Pkwy through Woodberry (Dist. 3) Don't allow development before roads are constructed (Dist. 3) Commuter Rail along CSX Lines/Shared Line/Freight shipping in evening (Dist. 1) LYNX feeder lines to commuter rails (Dist. 1) - New routes - Additional buses - Funding Finish/complete I-4 timelier (Dist. 1)</p>
<p>Issue: Visioning</p>	<p>More visioning workshop programs requested (Dist. 5) Physical Improvements/streetscaping/Joint ventures with city and county (Dist. 6) "Pleasing to the eye" (Dist. 6) Fix up run down areas (Dist. 6) Federal Grants for community beautification (Dist. 6) Limit ground square footage for building and then build upwards (Dist. 4) Expand more open/green space (Dist. 4) Citizens feel unheard by the County Commissioners (Dist. 3) Include protection of high quality environmental lands (Dist. 3) Don't allow corporate building plans, change design for the site and area (Dist. 3) Task force implemented for "Big Box" Designs for commercial buildings (Dist. 1) Coordinate and encourage "myregion.org" with Orange County efforts (Dist. 1) Promote I-Drive as Orange County Downtown (Dist. 1)</p>

Additional public input was made available through the use of comment forms provided at the meetings and online.

5.4 EAR WEBSITE

A website for the County's EAR was created early in the process, with links to documents and information as well as to websites such as the DCA EAR web site.

www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/growth/planning/programs/comprehensive/EAR.htm

The website identifies the required state process for the evaluation of the Comprehensive Policy Plan and posts the progress the County is making toward the submittal date of July 2006. Links are provided for citizens to obtain the flow charts for the process or directly access the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs legislative procedures regarding Comprehensive Plans.

The adopted goals, objectives and policies for each of the nineteen (19) elements of Orange County's Comprehensive Policy Plan have been available online to citizens throughout the evaluation process. The draft of the transmittal document is also posted on this website.

The meetings held throughout the County and the public hearing workshops, transmittal hearing and adoption hearings are all advertised on the EAR website page.

5.5 PUBLIC ADOPTION HEARINGS

The County held the required public adoption hearings, as follows.

On Thursday, June 22, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the Planning and Zoning Board, serving as the Local Planning Agency, held an Adoption/Transmittal Hearing in the Orange County Commission Chambers at 201 South Rosalind Avenue, Orlando. After a staff presentation the report, the Board held a discussion of the issues and allowed for Public comment. The meeting was continued to June 28 to allow for additional Public comment. At the June 28 meeting, after discussion and Public testimony, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the EAR and to transmit it to the Board of County Commissioners.

On Tuesday July 11, 2006, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners held an Adoption Hearing in the Commission Chambers at 201 South Rosalind Avenue, Orlando. After a staff presentation the report, the Board held a discussion of the issues and allowed for Public comment. After discussion and Public testimony, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Evaluation and Appraisal Report and to transmit it to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.



Community Meetings

For the Orange County Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Are you interested in the long term planning and growth in Orange County? Please join us at a meeting to help evaluate the Orange County Comprehensive Policy Plan (Plan) using a process called the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). This is your opportunity to voice your concerns and ideas about the Plan and how it guides the County into the future. All citizens of Orange County are invited to attend these special workshops. Community Meetings will be held on eight dates at six locations to make it easier for all to participate.

Meeting Schedule

Monday, May 15 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Riverdale Elementary School Cafeteria 11301 Lokanotosa Trail, Orlando	Wednesday, May 24 , 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm McCoy Elementary School Cafeteria 5225 So. Semoran Boulevard, Orlando
Thursday, May 18 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Apopka City Hall 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida	Wednesday, May 31 , 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Colonial High School Cafeteria 6100 Oleander Drive, Orlando
Monday, May 22 , 2006, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Memorial Middle School Cafeteria 2220 West 29th Street, Orlando	Thursday, June 1 , 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 pm W. Orange 9 th Grade Cntr. (Tildenville Elem.) Cafeteria 12301 Warrior Road, Winter Garden
Thursday, June 22 2006, 9:00 – Noon Local Planning Agency Public Hearing Orange County Commission Chambers 201 S. Rosalind St., Orlando	Tuesday, July 11 2006, Time TBA Board of County Commissioners Adoption Public Hearing Orange County Commission Chambers 201 S. Rosalind St., Orlando

If you have any questions about these community meetings or the EAR, please call Ian McDonald of the Orange County Planning Division 407-836-5624 or e-mail inquiries to ian.mcdonald@ocfl.net. For more information on the EAR process, please visit the Planning Division website at:

www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/growth/planning/comprehensive/EAR

PARA MAS INFORMACION, REFERENTE A ESTA VISTA PUBLICA, FAVOR
COMMUNICARSE CON LA DIVISION DE
PLANIFICACION URBANA AL NUMERO, 407-836 5600

