



Leaders to turn Imagine Anderson into action

By Heidi Cenac
Thursday, April 19, 2007

As she looked through [Imagine Anderson](#)'s 20-year vision Thursday night, Kris Yon of [Upstate Forever](#) saw a good start, but also some ways that her organization could push to make some of the plan's broad goals into realities.

For example, one of the goals listed in the plan is preservation of the area's rural heritage and nature areas. Ms. Yon said she'd like to see a tree ordinance enacted, start a growth summit and use development fees create a park fund.

"We have to become the change," Ms. Yon said.

Her reaction was exactly the kind of response community leaders were hoping the plan would create.

Close to 100 people attended the Imagine Anderson community celebration Thursday night at the Anderson County Farmer's Market Pavilion. Cindy Hopkins, [Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce](#) executive vice president, said she mailed a total of about 500 invitations to a list of people including anyone who'd signed in at a one of the vision process' many forums.

Those who came received a copy of the plan and were introduced to members of the Imagine Anderson Implementation Board, a group of 19 people tapped to lead the community in meeting the plan's goals.

"We traveled a long trail with Imagine Anderson, and we still have a long way to go," said Jim Broyles, implementation board chairman. "It feels like we're just getting started."

The plan includes 102 objectives in five goal areas: growth management, education, economic development, health and human services, and leisure and recreation.

The Rev. George West, who says he'll be working on education, said the biggest challenge facing the community is breaking the plan's broad objectives into a smaller list.

"If we can identify persons with the intense passion and attention in these areas, the work becomes manageable and doable," Mr. West said.

Each success builds enthusiasm to see more done, and sometimes reaching the goals that are part of the plan will mean lending support to projects already in the works, such as bond referendum set to take place Tuesday for [Anderson School District 5](#), he said.

In fact, the community is already working on several objectives put forth in the plan, such as building a vibrant and active downtown, and eliminating blue laws.

Mr. Broyles told the crowd Thursday that he's glad to see some progress already happening but warned that

“change is in the air.”

To volunteer or get involved in the Imagine Anderson vision plan, go online to www.ImagineAnderson.com.

Top Jobs

[Front Office Assistant](#)

Confidential Employer

>> **[See More Jobs](#)** <<



© 2006 The Anderson Independent Mail