

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 7, 2013**

A Community-Wide planning session was held at Wilbarger Memorial Auditorium on May 7, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

County Judge Greg Tyra welcomed all present. Mayor Jeff Bearden explained the process by which the meeting would be conducted and welcomed everyone present to participate and present their views.

Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson presented a power point slide show of our accomplishments from the eighteen goals outlined in the 2008 TEEKS Plan. Ms. Wilkinson explained that following this meeting there should be approximately 10 top areas that are of most importance. Each citizen will be given three minutes to present their ideas, and why this is good for the community, without debate of complaining. The ideas presented will be listed and each citizen will have the opportunity to rank the ideas by order of importance.

The question asked on the input sheet: "What facilities, amenities, business, and or services are needed in Vernon and our community within the next five years?" and "Why is it good for our community?"

Citizens who presented their ideas were:

Gerald Thiele	Charles Graf	Ollie Garrett
Pat Bryant	Ed Garnett	Bob Cochran
Julie Smith	Michelle Birenski	Gary Streit
Larry Souza	Lisa Herber	Kendra Pierce
Mark Farr-Nash	Bill Lowery	Rusty Haynes
Jim Smith	Jim Pennington	Mitch Grant
Charles McArthur	Tom Woody	Anne Garmon
Priscilla Haynes	Joe Rogers	Vicki Pennington
Mike Moore	Dusty Johnson	Sarah McDuff
Dan Kelleher	Travis Taylor	Jimmy Dennis
Linda Byers	Judy Pattison	

Topic Areas that were presented by citizens:

Parks: Softball/Baseball Complex

Running / Biking Trails

Parks / Rec Program

Skate Park

Dog Park

Improve existing facilities – shade at aquatic center

Youth: Fun / Healthy Activities:

Better utilize social media

Increase job diversity

Better utilize Vernon College / Vernon ISD

More volunteers in school system

Improved housing for youth / families

Downtown/Main Street:

Public funding for downtown

Public funding for Farmers Market

Upgrade downtown power grid

Quality of Life:

Attract and keep families in Vernon

Better medical infrastructure and services

Barrier free Post Office

Cleaner / More attractive town

Expansion of cultural arts experiences

Fully utilize Vernon College

Better support Hispanic Community

Water:

Secure water resources

Find federal funds for surface water retention facilities

Industrial use of gray water

Water exploration

More Water

Tourism:

Professional event planner/recruiter for auditorium and events center

Fully capitalize on Hwy 287 traffic

Build on existing V-Horn marketing campaign

Retail:

- Increased support (retention) of small businesses
- More and improved restaurants
- Shop local campaign
- More franchise restaurants

Economic Development:

- Better technological infrastructure
- Partnerships

Government:

- Stronger legislative presence
- More research before spending

Workforce:

- Better employee base

Following presentation of these topic areas, they were listed on large sheets on the wall, and each citizen was given the opportunity to place dots beside the topic areas that were priorities for them (#1 - Green, #2 - Orange, and #3 - Pink).

There were approximately 130 citizens present. A copy of the power point presentation and results of the Community Planning Session will be filed with these minutes for permanent record.

ADJOURN

The meeting ended by consent at 8:30 pm.



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary

Water

Secure water resources	81
Find federal funds for surface water retention facilities	39
Industrial use of grey water	11
Water exploration	3
More water	0

Tourism

Professional event planner/recruiter for auditorium/event center	7
Fully capitalize on 287 traffic	6
Build on existing v-horn marketing campaign	3

Retail

Increased support (retention) of small businesses	26
More & improved restaurants	24
Shop local campaign	24
More franchise restaurants	2

Economic Development

Better technological infrastructure	3
Partnerships	1

Government

Stronger legislative presence	59
More research before spending	2

Workforce

Better employee base	12
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Vernon Community Planning Session NGT Results

5/7/2013 Approx. 130 in attendance

Topic Areas:

Parks	
Softball/Baseball complex	30
Running/biking trails	15
Parks/Rec Programming	12
Skate Park	7
Dog Park	1
Improve existing facilities - shade at aquatic center	1
Youth	
Fun/healthy activities	30
Better utilize social media	0
Increase job diversity	0
Better utilize VC/VISD	3
More volunteers in school system	4
Improved housing for youth/families	3
Downtown/Main Street	
Public funding for downtown	6
Public funding for farmers market	0
Upgrade downtown power grid	0
Quality of Life	
Attract & keep families in Vernon	8
Better medical infrastructure & services	13
Barrier-free post office	0
Cleaner/more attractive town	6
Expansion of cultural arts experiences	4
Fully utilize Vernon College	1
Better support Hispanic community	4

Top 10	
1. Secure Water Resources	81
2. Stronger legislative presence	59
3. Find federal funds for surface water retention facilities	39
4. Softball/baseball complex	30
5. Fun/healthy activities for youth	30
6. Increased support (retention) of small businesses	26
7. More & improved restaurants (open longer)	24
8. Shop local campaign	24
9. Running/biking trails	15
10. Better medical infrastructure & services	13