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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tucker Forum To Discuss Incorporation and Other Actions

Tucker, Georgia - - Tucker residents have begun talking about ways to improve and better guide the new growth that is occurring, and ways to dress up the major roads and commercial areas. Surprisingly, residents of Tucker have been receptive to the diverse planning tools presented so far by a committee of the Tucker Civic Association (TCA).

For about six months a committee of Tucker volunteers has been studying various implementation tools related to land use, social services, city hood and business district redevelopment. Everyone recognizes that some of the ideas being discussed , like incorporation, will take a long time to work through the political process while other solutions may be able to be put in place within a year.

In a forum Thursday, November 10 at Tucker High School, the TCA committee members will propose a framework for moving forward to assure and enhance Tucker's future. The 7:00 p.m. meeting in the high school cafetorium will allow business owners, neighborhood associations, churches, and homeowners to express their likes and dislikes about the preliminary findings.

Among the planning tools being advanced are a land trust, a Tucker Community Foundation, an overlay district along major corridors, a special tax district within the business corridors not covered by MTA's LCI initiative, and possible incorporation as a city. "We really thought incorporation would be a hot button," said Charles Watson, president of the Tucker Civic Association, "but, so far, it has received a somewhat favorable reaction—perhaps due to Sandy Springs residents' ability to pass a referendum to become a city." Before city hood, or any of the other ideas can be taken further, greater community input is needed.

Already receiving broad participation and favorable response is the Tucker Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission and DeKalb County. The Main Street Tucker Alliance received the LCI grant to study improvements to Main Street and the surrounding business district.

Tucker Civic Association Meeting

Page 2

The “downtown” district stretches from Lawrenceville Highway north to LaVista Road, and from Brockett east to Hugh Howell Road. The LCI study will wrap up in December with recommendations being presented to the Main Street Alliance and DeKalb County officials.

After the public forum November 10, the committee report to the TCA board of directors, then move toward implementation on the programs or planning tools that seem most feasible and doable.

“We want the community to be involved in keeping our neighborhoods clean, safe and viable,” said Cynthia Moe, an active Tucker resident and member of the committee. “This area is seeing infill construction of homes, and businesses are eyeing the area for expansion. To attract young families and trendy new stores and restaurants, we need to spiff up our major commercial areas and neighborhoods,” said Moe.

Anyone wanting further information prior to the November 10 meeting can go to the Tucker Civic Association web site at www.tuckercivic.org to read the preliminary report prepared by the planning committee.

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