

Community Input
Pine Grove

November 2, 2009
10-15 attendees
Derek/Evelyn

SENIOR CITIZENS

- The new Senior Citizen Center will be a good thing for the senior citizens. Pine grove is largely self sufficient. The senior citizens look after one another and take care of themselves.

TRANSPORTATION

- Public Transportation is great and needs to be increased in the future as our population is projected to grow. The Macon Transit is the best thing Macon County has done in a while.
- Buck Creek is becoming more used by 18 wheelers since the Gorge has been shut off to them. Buck Creek Road is falling apart. There are 4 places along this road that are caving in if you are going up the mountain.
- The citizens are adamant about this road receiving attention. Buck Creek Road is not only a growing inconvenience, it is becoming a safety hazard.
- Is there anything in the future that would call for a new road to highlands (i.e. goldmine) to relieve stresses off of Buck Creek or Walnut Creek? These roads become packed in the summer accommodating both workers and tourists particularly in the evenings and mornings. Citizens are concerned about building new roads, and would be more favorable to improving the existing roads. One citizen in particular thought we should do both (improve existing and build a new road such as a truck route to Highlands). 18 wheelers, dump trucks, logging trucks etc. are all contributing to the convenience and safety on Walnut and Buck Creek Roads.
- The first turn as you start up Buck Creek needs a guard rail.

CHILD CARE

- Child Care needs to be addressed.

ENVIRONMENT

- The citizens of Pine Grove felt that the Cullasaja School, which is soon to be abandoned should be turned in to a Farmers Market promoting locally grown food. Doing this would promote utilizing our existing farmland in Macon County and exploring local options for food production.
- Pine Grove wants to maintain the rural character of the community.

- The county has purchased property on Peaks Creek. Citizens living around this area do not want anything public to be located on this property, as this creates the potential for increased traffic, to the detriment of the community's rural character.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- We need places where people can work and make money. In the late 30's and 40's you had to leave to find work, this seems to still be the case. Evelyn informed the community that the EDC is currently trying to recruit businesses. The fiber optic network will help attract business. Citizens felt we should offer business tax free incentives to locate here. The industrial park, and around the airport were favorable areas to plan for this growth. Citizens felt we should preserve Macon Counties Rural heritage and encourage growth where are infrastructure can currently sustain it.
- Lessening permit fees would help development.
- Citizens felt that we should capitalize on our tourist population. People come here to get away from the big businesses, we need to save what makes us unique and find a balance between economic development and preservation.
- Let the Band play in the Rose Bowl!! Put Macon on the map!

PUBLIC SERVICES

- Citizens want cell phone service!! The majority of Macon County's cell phone service is from Verizon should co-locate on the Fishawk tower which would provide cell phone service to the citizens of this community.