Urban Redevelopment Plan: Project Area 1

Participants:
Sumter Archway Professional: Barbara Grogan
Community Members: Barry Blount, Mayor, City of Americus
Carla Cook, Member, Americus City Council
Juanita Wilson, Member, Americus City Council
Charlotte Cotton, CAO, City of Americus
City of Americus Department Staff (8)
Community members (20+)

The City of Americus, in coordination with the Sumter Archway Partnership, is creating an Urban Redevelopment Plan focusing on five project areas within the city limits. Barbara Grogan, Archway Professional, is drafting the plan based upon data and future visioning input from members of the Americus City Council and staff.

For each project area, a community input session is held to gather input from citizens living in the project area. Recently, an input session for Project Area 1 was held at Bethesda Baptist Church. Four hundred flyers were handed out in the project area, local radio and print media were alerted, and local churches were given news releases as well.

Over 40 people attended the Project Area 1 input session. The process for citizen input centered on a facilitated discussion of the “Positives, Problems, Perfect World, and Partners” in and around Project Area 1. Several local organizations who own land surrounding the project area attended, offering long-term support of the efforts. Additionally, the Americus Times Recorder and WISK Radio attended the session and provided news stories in the following days to keep citizens aware of the efforts.

The facilitated discussion generated a good deal of information and provided insight into the desires of the citizens living in the area. This information has been captured, and has been combined with the Urban Redevelopment Plan draft.