



Perhaps for the first time in Newcastle history, citizens representing all areas of the community were invited to come together and develop a shared vision for the future of Newcastle. A determined group of citizens representing the B12: Bridge to 2020 steering committee asked for Newcastle citizens' involvement in the process.

B12 is Newcastle's perspective on a process called community "visioning" which uses a facilitator to bring hundreds of residents from all walks of community life together to participate in a series of strategic planning sessions.

The Oklahoma Community Institute (OCI) was selected to facilitate Newcastle's program. The sessions used a step-by-step process to identify an overall vision for the future, analyze where the community currently is, create objectives to reach the vision and establish action plans to accomplish the objectives.

The Oklahoma Community Institute offered to provide the following:

- Up to three (3) onsite consultation meetings preparing for planning
- Research necessary to gather appropriate data and community feedback for the planning meetings
- Planning materials and the rights to copy
- Training of table facilitators for the planning meetings
- Facilitation of five (5) community planning sessions
- Telephone consultations regarding building structure, planning and implementation
- Training of Leadership Team for Implementation
- Work with Leadership Team to specify further actions and timelines for the community plan (up to four follow up meetings)

Newcastle would provide the following:

- Assistance with structural design issues as designated and agreed upon
- Administrative structure and budget, which includes adequate local project administration and staff support
- Information as needed for planning forma architects and engineers
- Meeting facility with necessary audio visual equipment (LCD projector, screen, speaker system)
- Copying of planning materials and the final report
- An evaluation summary of the planning session and the overall process
- Periodic updates to OCI office of progress during implementation

This was a citizen-driven initiative. The steering committee sought to recruit people from city government, local business and industry, education, church and resident groups to form a synergistic view of the overall direction a community should take to reach a brighter future.

The B12 process began in Newcastle Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 6p.m. in Newcastle at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center, 1650 N. Main Street. These meetings were held in five different sessions throughout a three month time frame.

TUESDAY, April 24

TUESDAY, May 8

TUESDAY, May 22

TUESDAY, June 5

TUESDAY, June 26

Each of five strategic planning sessions was held from 6:00 to 9:00 pm with heavy hors d'oeuvres beginning at 5:30 pm in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center (back of church).

The B12 visioning process consisted of five meetings, three hours each, in which all the ideas and possibilities for the focus of Newcastle's next decade were discussed.

Every man, women and child with a vested interest in Newcastle was invited and encouraged to bring their interests, time and talent to this process. Citizens were committed to writing a document and building a community of leaders that will serve as important tools for our future.

This effort was guided by:

Steering Committee:
Lloyd Gramling-Chair
Paul Odom-Co-Chair

Outreach Committee:
Gordon Harness-Chair
Kim Noe-Co-Chair

Research Committee:
Hope Zamudio-Chair

Budget Committee:
Gaye Lynn Talley-Chair

Committee:
Karl Nail-Mayor
Nick Nazar-City Manager
Kim Brown-Chamber of Commerce
Sam Gilliam-Citizen
Dr. Robert Everett-Newcastle Public Schools