



City of Anna Maria
Community Vision Plan
September 2002

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Plan may be reviewed at www.tbrpc.org/amvision

Introduction

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

During three sessions over two weeks, 78 citizens and city officials from Anna Maria actively participated in three public visioning sessions. The purpose of the meetings was to provide opportunity for citizens to share their ideas of where the City of Anna Maria should be going and what the City’s vision should be. At its conclusion, the participants had identified a vision statement, five objectives and numerous implementation strategies.

Vision Statement

Anna Maria is a quiet, friendly beach community which reflects its old Florida style through a balanced mix of single-family homes of varying sizes, with tree-lined streets, landscaping, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly, and a defined commercial center of small shops and specialty stores serving the community.



Note: The following items highlighted with a ★ were ranked highest by the participants during the September 24, 2002 workshop.

Community Value Statements

***We will preserve and embellish our old Florida style character**

We respect individual property rights

We protect our environment

We promote open dialogue between our government and residents

We cherish our heritage and will preserve its vestiges

We like our commercial district's size and scale - "town serving"

We are family oriented

We support our recreation and cultural resources

We build new structures to blend with the old

We promote drought tolerant landscaping

We have streets that are safe for cars, bikes, and pedestrians



Objectives and Strategies

The culmination of the three public visioning sessions was the identification and development of the following five objectives and associated implementation strategies. Their purpose is to serve guidepost for the City's future implementation of its vision statement.

Community Character

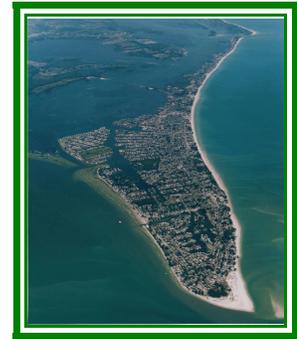
***Recognize that sensitivity to architectural style and scale are important elements of the preservation of the community's character and old Florida charm.**

Strategies

- *Encourage the use of certain architectural design features and elements as a means of enhancing and preserving the community's overall old Florida charm. In doing so, recognize that it is not the community's place to establish specific design standards or require that new construction incorporate specific architectural elements.
- In order to maintain the community's old Florida charm, new construction should give consideration to incorporating the following elements into the final design:
 - Encourage the use of elements of the Old Florida style;
 - For multi-story construction, examine ways to minimize the impact of structure height on adjacent properties (i.e, wedding cake, stair steps, FAR);
 - Encourage the use of metal roof materials; secondary materials are tile and dimensional shingles;
 - Recognize that architectural design must take into account hurricanes; and
 - Recognize that landscaping is an integral part of project design.
- Promote single-family housing.
- Architectural design should take into account:
 - Friendliness with street and adjacent properties;
 - Softness of design elements;
 - Use of warm materials;
 - Porches and roof overhangs;
 - Garages and vehicle parking areas should be blended into structure's overall appearance; and
 - Recognition that roofing material is part of overall architectural design.



- For new construction and redevelopment of commercial properties along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive:
 - Encourage the use of decorative streetlighting;
 - Permit mixed-use development;
 - Allow two-story design;
 - Encourage decorative window treatments (i.e., shutters, dormers);
 - Ensure spacing between commercial structures; and
 - Avoid repetitive front elevations by staggering entryways/building fronts.

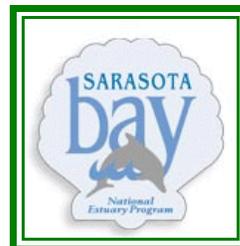


Stormwater Management

Recognize that as a consequence of its location on a barrier island, the City will need to be vigilant in its efforts to maintain the operation of an efficient and functional stormwater drainage system.

Strategies

- ***Implement the recommendations of SWFWMD's December 1995 Stormwater Runoff Investigation through efforts such as:**
 - Establishing and funding a budget line item for a maintenance and cleaning program for floodways and alleys as a means of improving drainage;
 - Investigating the feasibility of installing swale liners as a means of improving drainage;
 - Seeking assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of and corrective measures for water pollution within the City's canal system; and
 - Establishing a public information program to increase public awareness on the need for maintaining drainage system (natural and manmade).
- Investigate the establishment of City stormwater management regulations where SWFWMD thresholds do not apply.
- Ensure stringent enforcement of existing stormwater regulations.
- Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces.



Mobility and Parking

Recognize that the mobility concerns of the community are inter-related with the transportation needs of Anna Maria Island and can be addressed only through cooperative efforts by all affected parties.

Strategies

- ***The City should investigate a solution to the parking problems within the City. The evaluation should explore:**
 - What can be done to address the lack of parking at beach access points?;
 - The feasibility of securing additional sites for public parking;
 - The feasibility of combining the use of resident parking permits with no parking signs as a means of minimizing parking problems within residential areas; and
 - Review of the previous recommendations of the Parking Committee.
- Coordinate with MCAT to mitigate community concerns on issues related to the operation of the MCAT trolley system. Such coordination should include discussion of the following:
 - Limiting trolley stops in Anna Maria to Gulf Drive and Magnolia, Gulf Drive and Pine Avenue and Pine Avenue and Shore Drive;
 - Installing trolley stops that blend into the community which include the following design elements:
 - Benches
 - Landscaping
 - Shading
 - Sidewalks;
 - Installing trolley bays along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive;
 - Using smaller, quieter, more energy efficient trolleys; and
 - Varying headways (frequency) according to ridership demand on weekends and seasonally.
- Preserve the City's pedestrian friendly nature by maintaining 25 mph speed limit throughout the community.
- Request a meeting between City Commission and MCAT to seek resolution to the fundamental question: What is the function of the trolley to the resident's of Anna Maria?"

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a sidewalk/pathways system along Pine Avenue (commercial corridor) and Magnolia (Community Center), but not within residential areas.

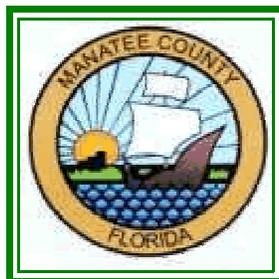


Governance and Civic Relations

Recognize that good civic relations and the overall betterment of the community must be built upon continued dialog among and between the city's residents, residents and their municipal government, and the governments of adjacent municipalities and Manatee County.

Strategies

- ★Encourage greater public involvement in City government, efforts should be made to:
 - Improve communication between the City and its residents by the continued use of the City's web site;
 - Reinstate monthly or quarterly City newsletter; and
 - Encourage greater citizen participation at City and County Commission meetings.
- Ensure that City and citizen concerns are voiced and as a means of improving coordination, the City should establish a lobbying program with Manatee County.
- Work with Manatee County to increase internet access at the Public Library.
- Maintain a dialogue with Manatee County to ensure the exchange of up-to-date information on matters affecting the community.
- Request that an elected representative from the Manatee County Commission attend and participate in the monthly meeting of the Island Elected Officials Group.
- Review and revise City development regulations.



Environment

Recognize that the City must continue to be vigilant in enhancing and protecting those environmental qualities which are integral to the community's character.

Strategies

- *Establish a maintenance program to keep public beach accesses clear for public use. This should include an information program to inform adjacent property owners of the need to keep public beach accesses clear of overhanging vegetation.
- Remove non-native vegetation and replace with native vegetation. During replacement, ensure that native vegetation provides the same public benefit as that previously provided by the non-native vegetation (i.e., shading along beach).
- Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of and corrective measures for water pollution within the City's canal system.
- Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify the types of measures which should be incorporated into a stormwater quality control program.
- Work with MCAT to address noise pollution from trolley.
- Review and revise existing noise ordinance.
- Investigate establishment of light pollution ordinance.
- Maintain and, where feasible, expand public open space.
- Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management to investigate the extent of and solutions to air and water pollution from marinas.
- Work with Manatee County to identify solutions to the lack of public restrooms along the Bay and Gulf.



PROCEEDINGS
SESSION I, SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

The 38 individuals who attended Session I were involved in three exercises. The first exercise was a community image survey which consisted of the scoring of 35 images from strongly like to strongly dislike. The results of the survey are to be reported during Session II.

The second exercise was dedicated to issue identification developed through the answering of the following questions: What do you think are the City of Anna Maria's Strengths/Opportunities and Weaknesses/Threats? The result of this exercise was the identification of 62 individual issues, 33 strengths/opportunities and 29 weaknesses/threats. At the conclusion of Session I, the participants were asked to vote for the one strength/opportunity and weaknesses/threat which they felt was important. They were also allowed to vote for the one issue which was of the greatest importance to them and address during the visioning program.

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED

(Number in parenthesis indicates number of votes received)

- Last remaining reflection of old Florida beach community (15)
- Low density (8)
- Beaches (5)
- Bay/Gulf vistas (2)
- Increase in property values reduces tax rate for homesteaded properties (2)
- Small lots help to regulate the size of structures (2)
- Small town character (2)
- Community support for children and family programs (2)
- Small single family one-story homes (1)
- Affordable lodging
- Friendliness of City residents (1)
- 25 mph keeps traffic slow and safe (1)
- Community-based and community-size commercial establishments (1)
- Low crime rate (1)
- Maintain balance between middle and upper socioeconomic strata
- Architectural design/style compatible with community
- Access to larger communities
- Natural beach/Water quality
- Island Players
- Community Center
- Geographic limitation (finite land area)

- **Historical Society/Orchestra**
- **Bay Front Park/walkway and beach access**
- **Trolley**
- **Development of passenger ferry**
- **Development of City parking plan**
- **Pursuit of grants for replacing non-native trees with native trees**
- **Two good, accessible fishing piers**
- **Balance of renters to owners; increases opportunities for diversity**
- **Build upon existing pedestrian ways**
- **Anna Maria Elementary School and charter middle school**
- **Slow paced life style**
- **Draw bridge promotes slower traffic**

WEAKNESSES/THREATS IDENTIFIED

(Number in parenthesis indicates number of votes received)

- **Rapid increase in property values makes it hard for families to stay in City; people can't afford to live here (11)**
- **City government dominated by a small group which does not represent the community as a whole (7)**
- **Weak City Codes/lack of sufficient funding for code enforcement (7)**
- **Drainage (5)**
- **Impacts on existing residential structures from the height and size of new residential construction as a result of meeting FIRM requirements (4)**
- **Impacts of actions by Manatee County (2)**
- **Anna Maria over marketed by Chamber of Commerce and Manatee County/impacts of tourism (2)**
- **Older/smaller existing homes becoming obsolete and being torn down (1)**
- **Need for more sidewalks (1)**
- **Impact of residential development on the mainland (ex. evacuation, traffic, fire services) (1)**
- **Environmental consequences of County growth (1)**
- **Lack of parking plan (1)**
- **Style and design of new residential construction out of scale with community (1)**
- **Low water pressure (1)**
- **Lack of parking at Bay Front Park**
- **Affect of tree removal without replacement on air quality**
- **Destruction of natural resources (habitat)**
- **City operates out of fear - not logic and facts in decision-making processes**
- **Beach erosion, especially on the Bay side between Bean Point and the Rod and Reel Pier**
- **Tourists**
- **EMS level of service could be better (County is unwilling to give City the license to provide higher LOS)**

- **Need for more landscaping**
- **No recognizable city/town center**
- **Limited amount of affordable housing for Island workers**
- **Over regulation**
- **High property taxes**
- **Increase of impervious surfaces by new construction (lot coverage)**
- **Impacts of rentals and seasonal population (renters, agents, and owners)**
- **Trolley; benefits tourist not residents**

ISSUES OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE

(Number in parenthesis indicates number of votes received)

- **Last remaining reflection of old Florida beach community (15)**
- **Rapid increase in property values makes it hard for families to stay in City; people can't afford to live here (11)**
- **Low density (8)**
- **City government dominated by a small group which does not represent the community as a whole (7)**
- **Weak City Codes/lack of sufficient funding for code enforcement (7)**
- **Drainage (5)**
- **Beaches (5)**
- **Impacts on existing residential structures from the height and size of new residential construction as a result of meeting FIRM requirements (4)**
- **Bay/Gulf vistas (2)**
- **Increase in property values reduces tax rate for homesteaded properties (2)**
- **Small lots help to regulate the size of structures (2)**
- **Small town character (2)**
- **Community support for children and family programs (2)**
- **Impacts of actions by Manatee County (2)**
- **Anna Maria over marketed by Chamber of Commerce and Manatee County/impacts of tourism (2)**
- **Small single family one-story homes (1)**
- **Affordable lodging**
- **Friendliness of City residents (1)**
- **25 mph keeps traffic slow and safe (1)**
- **Community-based and community-size commercial establishments (1)**
- **Low crime rate (1)**
- **Small single family one-story homes (1)**
- **Affordable lodging**
- **Friendliness of City residents (1)**
- **25 mph keeps traffic slow and safe (1)**
- **Community-based and community-size commercial establishments (1)**
- **Low crime rate (1)**

When the issues were examined, it was found that they fell into the six (6) theme areas. A grouping called the Issue Bin, was created for those issues which are important to the City, but do not fall into a recognizable theme area.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/SCALE

- Impacts on existing residential structures from the height and size of new residential construction as a result of meeting FIRM requirements (4)
- Small lots help to regulate the size of structures (2)
- Style and design of new residential construction out of scale with community (1)
- Architectural design/style compatible with community
- Increase of impervious surfaces by new construction (lot coverage)

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- Last remaining reflection of old Florida beach community (15)
- Rapid increase in property values makes it hard for families to stay in City; people can't afford to live here (11)
- Low density (8)
- Weak City Codes/lack of sufficient funding for code enforcement (7)
- Increase in property values reduces tax rate for homesteaded properties (2)
- Small town character (2)
- Community support for children and family programs (2)
- Small single-family one-story homes (1)
- Friendliness of City residents (1)
- Community-based and community-size commercial establishments (1)
- Older/smaller existing homes becoming obsolete and being torn down (1)
- Maintain balance between middle and upper socioeconomic strata
- Island Players
- Historical Society/Orchestra
- Two good, accessible fishing piers
- Balance of renters to owners; increases opportunities for diversity
- Slow paced life style
- Tourism
- No recognizable city/town center
- Limited amount of affordable housing for Island workers
- Impacts of rentals and seasonal population (renters, agents, and owners)

ENVIRONMENT

- Beaches (5)
- Bay/Gulf vistas (2)
- Natural beach/water quality
- Bay Front Park/walkway and beach access

- Pursuit of grants for replacing non-native trees with native trees
- Affect of tree removal without replacement on air quality
- Destruction of natural resources (habitat)
- Beach erosion, especially on the Bay side between Bean Point and the Rod and Reel Pier
- Need for more landscaping

GOVERNANCE

- City government dominated by a small group which does not represent the community as a whole (7)
- Impacts of actions by Manatee County (2)
- Anna Maria over marketed by Chamber of Commerce and Manatee County/impacts of tourism (2)
- Environmental consequences of County growth (1)
- City operates out of fear - not logic and facts in decision-making processes
- Over regulation
- High property taxes

MOBILITY

- 25 mph keeps traffic slow and safe (1)
- Need for more sidewalks (1)
- Lack of parking plan (1)
- Access to larger communities
- Trolley
- Development of passenger ferry
- Development of City parking plan
- Build upon existing pedestrian ways
- Draw bridge promotes slower traffic
- Lack of parking at Bay Front Park
- Trolley; benefits tourist not residents

PUBLIC FACILITIES/SERVICES

- Drainage (5)
- Low water pressure (1)
- Community Center
- EMS level of service could be better (County is unwilling to give City the license to provide higher LOS)

MISCELLANEOUS STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES

- **Low crime rate (1)**
- **Geographic limitation (finite land area)**
- **Anna Maria Elementary School and charter middle school**
- **Affordable lodging**

MISCELLANEOUS THREATS/WEAKNESSES

- **Impact of residential development on the mainland (ex., evacuation, traffic, fire services) (1)**

ISSUE BIN

- **Garbage pick-up; system hard to figure out**

The third exercise consisted of the participants being asked to write down what they wanted Anna Maria to be in 20 years. The responses will be used to develop a vision statement for the community.

The session concluded with the participants voting for the issues most important to them (see list above).



PROCEEDINGS
SESSION II, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

The 51 individuals who attended Session II participated in the continuing efforts to build upon the results of Session I. This was accomplished by undertaking the following tasks:

- Using the six general themes identified during Session I as a guide, answer the question “What strategies would you choose to address the identified issues facing the City of Anna Maria?”;
- Review the results of the community image survey and identify the likes and dislikes of the highest and lowest scoring images;
- Identify the community’s neighborhoods based on participant input; and
- Obtain participant reaction to draft vision statements generated from input provided during Session I.

STRATEGY IDENTIFICATION

THEME: Architectural Style/Scale

- **Issues**
 - Impacts on existing residential structures from the height and size of new residential construction as a result of meeting FIRM requirements
 - Small lots help to regulate the size of structures
 - Style and design of new residential construction out of scale with community
 - Architectural design/style compatible with community
 - Increase of impervious surfaces by new construction (lot coverage)

- **Strategies**

Consideration should be given to ensuring that the following elements are incorporated into residential and commercial construction:

- “Wedding cake” design to minimize the impact of structure height on adjacent properties
- Encourage the use of metal roof materials; secondary materials are tile and dimensional shingles
- Recognize that roofing material is part of overall architectural design
- Porches and roof overhangs

- Recognize that architectural design must take into account hurricanes
- Recognize that landscaping is an integral part of project design
- Architectural design should take into account:
 - Friendliness with street and adjacent properties
 - Softness of design elements
 - Use of warm materials
 - Garage should be blended into structure's overall appearance
- Encourage the use of elements of the Old Florida (Key West) style
- Encourage the use of decorative streetlighting, particularly in commercial areas (Pine Avenue)
- For commercial development along Pine Avenue:
 - Permit mixed-use development
 - Allow two-story design
 - Encourage decorative window treatments (i.e., shutters, dormers)
 - Ensure spacing between commercial structures
 - Avoid repetitive front elevations by staggering entryways/building fronts.

THEME Community Character

- **Issues**
 - Last remaining reflection of old Florida beach community
 - Rapid increase in property values makes it hard for families to stay in City; people can't afford to live here
 - Low density
 - Weak City Codes/lack of sufficient funding for code enforcement
 - Increase in property values reduces tax rate for homesteaded properties
 - Small town character
 - Community support for children and family programs
 - Small single-family one-story homes
 - Friendliness of City residents
 - Community-based and community-size commercial establishments
 - Older/smaller existing homes becoming obsolete and being torn down
 - Maintain balance between middle and upper socioeconomic strata
 - Island Players
 - Historical Society/Orchestra
 - Two good, accessible fishing piers
 - Balance of renters to owners; increases opportunities for diversity
 - Slow paced life style
 - Tourism
 - No recognizable city/town center
 - Limited amount of affordable housing for Island workers
 - Impacts of rentals and seasonal population (renters, agents, and owners)

- **Strategies**
Mainly addressed as part of Architectural Style/Scale discussion as well as threaded throughout other themes.

THEME: Environment

- **Issues**
 - Beaches
 - Bay/Gulf vistas
 - Natural beach/water quality
 - Bay Front Park/walkway and beach access
 - Pursuit of grants for replacing non-native trees with native trees
 - Affect of tree removal without replacement on air quality
 - Destruction of natural resources (habitat)
 - Beach erosion, especially on the Bay side between Bean Point and the Rod and Reel Pier
 - Need for more landscaping
- **Strategies**
 - Remove non-native vegetation and replace with native vegetation. During replacement, ensure that native vegetation provides the same public benefit as that previously provided by the non-native vegetation (i.e., shading along beach).
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of water pollution within canal system.
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program to establish stormwater quality control program
 - Keep public beach accesses clear for public use
 - Investigate solution to the lack of public restrooms
 - Work with MCAT to address noise pollution from trolley
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management to investigate air and water pollution from marinas

THEME: Governance

- **Issues**
 - City government dominated by a small group which does not represent the community as a whole
 - Impacts of actions by Manatee County
 - Anna Maria over marketed by Chamber of Commerce and Manatee County/impacts of tourism

- Environmental consequences of County growth
- City operates out of fear - not logic and facts in decision-making processes
- Over regulation
- High property taxes
- **Strategies**
 - Encourage greater public involvement at City Commission meetings
 - Improve communication between the City and its residents by the continued use of the City's web site.
 - Ensure that City and citizen concerns are voiced and as a means of improving coordination, the City should establish a lobbying program with Manatee County
 - Encourage greater citizen participation at County Commission meetings
 - The City should maintain a dialogue with Manatee County to ensure the exchange of up-to-date information on matters affecting the community
 - Request that an elected representative from the Manatee County Commission attend and participate in the monthly meeting of the Island Elected Officials Group
 - Work with Manatee County to increase internet access at the Public Library

THEME: Mobility

- **Issues**
 - 25 mph keeps traffic slow and safe
 - Need for more sidewalks
 - Lack of parking plan
 - Access to larger communities
 - Trolley
 - Development of passenger ferry
 - Development of City parking plan
 - Build upon existing pedestrian ways
 - Draw bridge promotes slower traffic
 - Lack of parking at Bay Front Park
 - Trolley; benefits tourist not residents
 -
- **Strategies**
 - Coordinate with MCAT on the following:
 - Install trolley stops that blend into the community which include the following design elements:
 - Benches
 - Landscaping
 - Shading
 - Sidewalks

- Use of smaller, quieter, more energy efficient trolleys
 - Installation of trolley bays along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive
 - Vary headways according to ridership demand; as an alternative, change headways from every 20 minutes to once an hour
- Request meeting between City Commission and MCAT to seek resolution to the fundamental question: What is the function of the trolley to the resident's of Anna Maria?"
 - Discuss with MCAT the feasibility of limiting trolley stops to Gulf Drive and Magnolia, Gulf Drive and Pine Avenue and Pine Avenue and Shore Drive
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management to identify the sources of noise pollution within the community
 - Maintain 25 mph speed limit throughout the community
 - Investigate the feasibility of establishing a sidewalk/pathways system along Pine Avenue (commercial corridor) and Magnolia (Community Center), but not within residential areas
 - Recognizing the complicated nature of the problem, is there a solution to the parking problems within the City?
 - What can be done to address the lack of parking at beach access points?
 - Explore the feasibility of securing additional sites for public parking
 - Explore the feasibility of combining the use of resident parking permits with no parking signs as a means of minimizing parking problems within residential areas

THEME: Public Facilities/Services

- **Issues**
 - Drainage
 - Low water pressure
 - Community Center
 - EMS level of service could be better (County is unwilling to give City the license to provide higher LOS)

- **Strategies**

- Establish a budget line item for the maintenance and cleaning program for floodways and alleys as a means of improving drainage
- As a means of improving drainage, investigate the feasibility of installing swale liners
- Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and the Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of water pollution within canal system.
- Increase public awareness on the need for maintaining drainage system (natural and manmade)
- Implement the recommendations of SWFWMD's December 1995 Stormwater Runoff Investigation.

NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION

The third activity undertaken by the participants was the identification of neighborhoods within the community. Based on the subsequent discussion, it was determined that due to the overall character of the community, there were no separate identifiable neighborhoods. The only area which distinguishes itself as a separate neighborhood is the commercial areas found along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive; the remainder of the community is residential.

COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY

During Session I, the participants were shown 35 images and asked to rank them from strongly like to strongly dislike. During Session II, the participants were shown the 21 images which had the highest and lowest average score and asked to identify the reasons they liked or disliked them. The images reviewed and their individual likes and dislikes can be found on the following pages.



RESPONSES: COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY				
Image	Public comments from the September 10, 2002 Community Image Survey		Public reaction to the September 17, 2002 presentation on the results of the Community Image Survey	
	Likes	Dislikes	Likes	Dislikes
1	Children playing	Poor landscape	Informal; public opportunity; place for out-of-towners; shade; green space; not Longboat Key	Trashy (not inviting); Australian Pines; litter
2	Good community; open public space	Too congested sidewalk	Shade; gazebo; landscaping; picnic table; meeting place; no visual utilities; old clock; light pole design	No drainage; sterile - sameness; too planned; dining in the parking lot
3	This is why we're here!		Tranquility; natural; few people; real; uncrowded	Erosion
4	Wonderful old Anna Maria; great old Florida; as good as Anna Maria gets; character	Appearance; not clean	Laid back; historic; family oriented; good food; Old Florida; friendly; relaxing; recreation; not crowded	Needs native landscaping
5	Ground level to scale	Yuk - suburbia	No problems; clean; good old Anna Maria; no traffic	Outdated; suburbia; Norfolk Pines
6	Good canal scene; island water canal		Natural landscaping; scale of buildings fit	Water quality poor; seawall

RESPONSES: COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY				
Image	Public comments from the September 10, 2002 Community Image Survey		Public reaction to the September 17, 2002 presentation on the results of the Community Image Survey	
	Likes	Dislikes	Likes	Dislikes
7	Old Florida	Poor landscaping; barren	No sidewalk; ground level homes; natural drainage (sand); Old Florida; Cabbage Palms	Utility lines; no sidewalk; no bike path
8	Yes!; good old Florida character; old style		Atmosphere; architecture; sand; outdoor space; gathering spot; fits; lack of pavement	Utility lines; too close to street
9	Yes!; good old Florida character; family values; keeps old character		Community church; historic value; quaint; no paving; architecture; size; trees; friendly; accessibility; blends - fits community	No shade in parking lot
10	Yes!; this is Anna Maria; family values; good as it gets		Perfect; historic	
11	Yes!; good commercial; clean good lines; better than I thought it would be	Needs improvement	Architecture; functional design; pervious pavement; improvement over previous building	Too big; architecture; out of place; east coast design

RESPONSES: COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY				
Image	Public comments from the September 10, 2002 Community Image Survey		Public reaction to the September 17, 2002 presentation on the results of the Community Image Survey	
	Likes	Dislikes	Likes	Dislikes
12		Can be seen anywhere; 3 story all alike; too big; too close	Attractive for size of lots; people are moving in - confidence in Anna Maria	Not enough open space; too crowded; too tall; maximizes use of site; lack of landscaping
13	Island character	Too commercial; too close together; can be seen anywhere; too big too; close	Porches; street lights; Old Florida architecture	Setback too close to street; poor construction
14		Out of place; terrible design; old & new; dwarfs original structures	Adjacent old cottage; architecture; mixture-variety of housing styles	Boat parked in public view; ugly
15	Serves purpose, but ugly	Mosquito haven	Low maintenance; provides drainage	Doesn't work - can't carry water; no maintenance; dangerous; unattractive
16	Better than most; feels good; better than average development	Condo look	Architecture; landscaping; well built	Multi-family; color; too big; too much gingerbread
17		This is not Longboat Key; poor landscaping	Diversity; no sidewalk; Old Florida style	Houses too big; oppressive roof line; telephone poles

RESPONSES: COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY				
Image	Public comments from the September 10, 2002 Community Image Survey		Public reaction to the September 17, 2002 presentation on the results of the Community Image Survey	
	Likes	Dislikes	Likes	Dislikes
18		Awful; high rise; fence; the worst Anna Maria has to offer	Keep in Holmes Beach; tennis courts	Everything; too tall; architecture - design features; too much paving; high density
19		Not cute; too big for our little island; McMansion; this is not Longboat Key	Lack of pavement; natural landscaping; design; site plan; varying front setbacks	Density
20	Good marine	Too commercial; poor appearance; ugly, no green; trash/cheap	Serves purpose; revenue source; on dead end street; mixture of uses; property clean and orderly	Improve on architecture; lack of parking; completely paved surface
21	Events; fair streetscape; keeps old look but carnival	Keep in Bradenton Beach; trashy look; too congested; commercial	Festive; not in Anna Maria; central shopping district; low-rise; mixed-use	Too much pavement; cheap glitz; on-street parking; lack of adequate parking; architecture

**Top 11 Scoring Community Images
(Images #1 - #11)**



Image #1



Image #2



Image #3



Image #4



Image #5



Image #6



Image #7



Image #8



Image #9



Image #10



Image #11

**Bottom 10 Scoring Community Images
(Images #12 - #21)**



Image #12



Image #13



Image #14



Image #15



Image #16



Image #17



Image #18



Image #19



Image #20



Image #21

VISION STATEMENT

At the conclusion of Session II, the participants were asked to review and rank five draft vision statements. They were also provided an opportunity to write and rank a vision statement of their own. The following draft vision statements were composed based on the statements and comments provided by the participants during Session I.

- Anna Maria, a quiet, single-family residential community which retains the character and values of an old Florida beach town
- Anna Maria is a quiet, friendly beach community which reflects its old Florida style through a balanced mix of homes of varying sizes, with tree-lined streets, native landscaping, a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network, and a defined commercial center of small shops and specialty stores serving the community.
- Anna Maria, a community which balances its single-family residential/neighborhood commercial present with its old Florida beach community character.
- Anna Maria is a small inviting, and friendly beach community that values its “Old Florida heritage”, yet maintains its unique character, while preserving its natural resources, ensuring a mix of single-family housing, and maintaining a balance between residential and commercial development.
- Anna Maria is a “small town” community that protects its environment, is pedestrian and bicycle friendly, has a diversity of single-family housing and preserves its old Florida heritage.

The results of the exercise and the selection of a final vision statement will occur during Session III.

PROCEEDINGS
SESSION III, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

The 48 individuals who attended Session III were involved in two exercises. The first exercise involved the review of the three components of the draft final report: vision statement; community values; and objectives and strategies. The second exercise was a ranking by the participants of the community value, objective, and objective strategy of greatest importance to them. The latter exercise would be used to organize the Final Report to be a reflection of those community values, objectives, and objective strategies of greatest importance to the workshop participants. Session III concluded with a brief review of the draft Concepts for Architectural and Community Character Review Guidelines.

VISION STATEMENT

As a result of the voting during Session II, the participants selected draft vision statement #2 as the vision for the City of Anna Maria. After lengthy discussion, the participants agreed on the following revisions.

Anna Maria is a quiet, friendly beach community which reflects its old Florida style through a balanced mix of single-family homes of varying sizes, with tree-lined streets, native landscaping, a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network, and a defined commercial center of small shops and specialty stores serving the community.

COMMUNITY VALUES

During the discussion on Community Values, one draft value was revised and one added as follows:

- We promote ~~lush native~~ drought tolerant landscaping.
- We respect individual property rights.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

During the review and discussion on the draft objectives and strategies, the following additions, revisions, and deletions were made.

- Community Character
 - Encourage the use of elements of the Old Florida (~~Key West~~) style;
 - Promote single-family housing.
- Mobility and Parking
 - Varying headways (frequencies) according to ridership demand on weekends and seasonally.
 - The City should investigate a solution to the parking problems within the City. The evaluation should explore:
 - Review of previous Parking Committee recommendations.
- Environment
 - Maintain and where feasible, expand public open space.
 - Review existing noise ordinance.
 - Investigate the establishment of a light pollution ordinance.
- Governance and Civic Relations
 - Review and revise City Development Regulations.
 - A proposal was made to add a strategy to not add or modify existing City regulations. The majority of the participants indicated that this proposed strategy not be included in the Final Report.
- Stormwater Management
 - Stringent enforcement of existing stormwater regulations.
 - Reduce amount of impervious surfaces
 - Investigate establishment of City stormwater management regulations where SWFWMD thresholds do not apply.

PARTICIPANT RANKING

The following are the results of the participant ranking of the draft community values and objectives and strategies. The number in parenthesis indicates the number of votes received. The final ordering of the individual objectives and strategies will be reflected in the final report.

- **Community Values**
 - We will preserve and embellish our old Florida style character **(18)**
 - We cherish our heritage and will preserve its vestiges **(1)**
 - We build new structures to blend with the old **(0)**
 - We like our commercial district’s size and scale - “town serving” **(1)**
 - We are family oriented **(1)**
 - We support our recreation and cultural resources **(1)**
 - We protect our environment **(2)**
 - We promote drought tolerant landscaping **(0)**
 - We promote open dialogue between our government and residents **(2)**

- We have streets that are safe for cars, bikes, and pedestrians **(0)**
- We respect individual property rights. **(7)**
- **Community Character:** Recognize that sensitivity to architectural style and scale are important elements of the preservation of the community's character and old Florida charm. **(20)**
- Strategies
 - Encourage the use of certain architectural design features and elements as a means of enhancing and preserving the community's overall old Florida charm. In doing so, recognize that it is not the community's place to establish specific design standards or require that new construction incorporate specific architectural elements. **(9)**
 - In order to maintain the community's old Florida charm, new construction should give consideration to incorporating the following elements into the final design: **(8)**
 - Encourage the use of elements of the Old Florida style;
 - For multi-story construction, examine ways to minimize the impact of structure height on adjacent properties (i.e., wedding cake, stair steps, FAR);
 - Encourage the use of metal roof materials; secondary materials are tile and dimensional shingles;
 - Recognize that architectural design must take into account hurricanes; and
 - Recognize that landscaping is an integral part of project design.
 - Architectural design should take into account: **(4)**
 - Friendliness with street and adjacent properties;
 - Softness of design elements;
 - Use of warm materials;
 - Porches and roof overhangs;
 - Garages and vehicle parking areas should be blended into structure's overall appearance; and
 - Recognition that roofing material is part of overall architectural design.
 - For new construction and redevelopment of commercial properties along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive: **(1)**
 - Encourage the use of decorative streetlighting;
 - Permit mixed-use development;

- Allow two-story design;
 - Encourage decorative window treatments (i.e., shutters, dormers);
 - Ensure spacing between commercial structures; and
 - Avoid repetitive front elevations by staggering entryways/building fronts.
- Promote single-family housing. **(7)**
- **Mobility and Parking:** Recognize that the mobility concerns of the community are inter-related with the transportation needs of Anna Maria Island and can be addressed only through cooperative efforts by all affected parties. **(3)**
 - Strategies
 - Request a meeting between City Commission and MCAT to seek resolution to the fundamental question: “What is the function of the trolley to the resident’s of Anna Maria?” **(1)**
 - Coordinate with MCAT to mitigate community concerns on issues related to the operation of the MCAT trolley system. Such coordination should include discussion of the following: **(8)**
 - Limiting trolley stops in Anna Maria to Gulf Drive and Magnolia, Gulf Drive and Pine Avenue and Pine Avenue and Shore Drive **(5)**;
 - Installing trolley stops that blend into the community which include the following design elements:
 - Benches
 - Landscaping
 - Shading
 - Sidewalks;
 - Installing trolley bays along Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive;
 - Using smaller, quieter, more energy efficient trolleys **(3)**; and
 - Varying headways according to ridership demand on weekends and seasonally.
 - Preserve the City’s pedestrian friendly nature by maintaining 25 mph speed limit throughout the community. **(4)**
 - Investigate the feasibility of establishing a sidewalk/pathways system along Pine Avenue (commercial corridor) and Magnolia (Community Center), but not within residential areas. **(1)**
 - The City should investigate a solution to the parking problems within the City. The evaluation should explore: **(17)**
 - What can be done to address the lack of parking at beach access points?;

- The feasibility of securing additional sites for public parking;
 - The feasibility of combining the use of resident parking permits with no parking signs as a means of minimizing parking problems within residential areas; and
 - Review of the previous Parking Committee recommendations.
- **Environment:** Recognize that the City must continue to be vigilant in enhancing and protecting those environmental qualities which are integral to the community's character. **(0)**
 - Strategies
 - Remove non-native vegetation and replace with native vegetation. During replacement, ensure that native vegetation provides the same public benefit as that previously provided by the non-native vegetation (i.e., shading along beach). **(8)**
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of and corrective measures for water pollution within the City's canal system. **(5)**
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify the types of measures which should be incorporated into a stormwater quality control program. **(3)**
 - Establish a maintenance program to keep public beach accesses clear for public use. This should include an information program to inform adjacent property owners of the need to keep public beach accesses clear of overhanging vegetation. **(10)**
 - Work with Manatee County to identify solutions to the lack of public restrooms along the Bay and Gulf. **(0)**
 - Work with MCAT to address noise pollution from trolley. **(3)**
 - Seek assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management to investigate the extent of and solutions to air and water pollution from marinas. **(0)**
 - Maintain and, where feasible, expand public open space **(1)**
 - Review and revise existing noise ordinance. **(2)**
 - Investigate establishment of light pollution ordinance. **(2)**

- **Governance and Civic Relations:** Recognize that good civic relations and the overall betterment of the community must be built upon continued dialog among and between the city's residents, residents and their municipal government, and the governments of adjacent municipalities and Manatee County. **(1)**
 - Strategies
 - Encourage greater public involvement in City government, efforts should be made to: **(14)**
 - Improve communication between the City and its residents by the continued use of the City's web site;
 - Reinstate monthly or quarterly City newsletter; and
 - Encourage greater citizen participation at City and County Commission meetings.
 - Ensure that City and citizen concerns are voiced and as a means of improving coordination, the City should establish a lobbying program with Manatee County. **(3)**
 - Maintain a dialogue with Manatee County to ensure the exchange of up-to-date information on matters affecting the community. **(1)**
 - Request that an elected representative from the Manatee County Commission attend and participate in the monthly meeting of the Island Elected Officials Group. **(0)**
 - Work with Manatee County to increase internet access at the Public Library. **(2)**
 - Review and revise City development regulations. **(0)**
- **Stormwater Management:** Recognize that as a consequence of its location on a barrier island, the City will need to be vigilant in its efforts to maintain the operation of an efficient and functional stormwater drainage system. **(5)**
 - Strategies
 - Implement the recommendations of SWFWMD's December 1995 Stormwater Runoff Investigation through efforts such as:
 - Establishing and funding a budget line item for a maintenance and cleaning program for floodways and alleys as a means of improving drainage **(15)**;
 - Investigating the feasibility of installing swale liners as a means of improving drainage;

- Seeking assistance from the Manatee County Department of Environmental Management and Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay Estuary Programs to identify source of and corrective measures for water pollution within the City's canal system; and
 - Establishing a public information program to increase public awareness on the need for maintaining drainage systems (natural and manmade) **(2)**.
-
- Stringent enforcement of existing stormwater regulations. **(1)**
 - Reduce amount of impervious surfaces. **(0)**
 - Investigate the establishment of City stormwater management regulations where SWFWMD thresholds do not apply. **(4)**



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

1. How did you hear about today's meeting?
 - Received notice (door hanger) - 21
 - Newspaper article - 12
 - Friend/Relative - 9
 - Other - 12

2. Where do you live?
 - Anna Maria - 45
 - Anna Maria Island - 2
 - Manatee County - 3
 - Other - 3

3. Are you a homeowner in Anna Maria?
 - Yes - 47
 - No - 6

4. How long have you lived in the Anna Maria area?
 - 0-2 years - 4
 - 2-5 years - 7
 - 5-10 years - 11
 - 10 or more years - 28
 - Not applicable - 2

5. Where do you work?
 - Anna Maria - 14
 - Anna Maria Island - 2
 - Sarasota County - 3
 - Hillsborough County - 0
 - Manatee County - 7
 - Pinellas County - 0
 - Retired - 24
 - Other - 1

6. Are you a business owner in Anna Maria?
 - Yes - 8
 - No - 37

7. What is your age?

- Younger than 25 - 0
- 25-44 - 2
- 45-65 - 31
- Over 65 - 20

8. The following issues may be of concern regarding the future of Anna Maria.. In the future, would you like to see: more, less, or the same amount of attention being given to the issues?

Subject	Less (1)	Same (2)	More (3)	Avg Score
Environmental protection	3	12	36	2.65
Recreation opportunities	8	25	16	2.16
Architecture/urban design	7	22	19	2.25
Traffic congestion	15	15	17	2.04
Sense of community	1	16	37	2.77
History and heritage	0	23	29	2.56
Public transportation	12	37	3	1.83
Community character	1	26	24	2.45
Business and commerce	12	34	4	1.84
Water & sewer services	3	23	26	2.44
Hurricane evacuation	5	26	20	2.29
Arts & entertainment	5	28	17	2.24
Crime & safety	4	38	8	2.08
Beach erosion	12	33	6	1.88
Zoning/land use	2	21	29	2.52
Landscaping/trees	0	14	36	2.00
Walkability	2	36	12	2.20
Marinas	9	37	3	1.88
Neighborhoods	1	35	13	2.25
Parking	7	20	23	2.32
Code Enforcement	3	23	27	2.45

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

- Anna Maria Island (www.amisland.com)
- Anna Maria Island Guide (www.anna-maria-florida.com)
- Anna Maria Network (www.annamarianetwork.com)
- Art Explosion 250,000+ Images, Platinum Edition
- Exploring Florida - Gallery: Florida Cracker Homestead
(<http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/florida/photos/arts>)
- Location Library (www.filmnorthflorida.com)
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Zephyrhills Community Vision Plan