

Envisioning tomorrow's

DOWN TOWN

About 45 people participated in an April 20 hands-on visioning workshop that is helping to shape the update to Suwanee's Downtown Master Plan. A draft of that updated plan will be presented at an open house from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, July 9, at City Hall.

At the April workshop, planning consultants shared market analysis information and reviewed discussion topics while participants shared ideas and feedback related to parks

that began in 2008 and that the Suwanee area should anticipate strong growth.

Based on current conditions, Suwanee's downtown area could, Noell said, support up to 60 new detached home sales annually, 200 new apartment units, 90 independent and assisted living beds, and 10,000 square feet each of office and retail space.



and transportation as well as what kinds of uses and buildings might work best in the Town Center and Old Town areas.

David Laube with Noell Consulting Group reported that analysis of Suwanee's market indicates that residential building and sales have substantially recovered from the economic downturn

While keeping market realities in mind, TSW's Woody Giles, a planning consultant working on the downtown master plan update, encouraged participants to "dream big."

Through public input opportunities, Giles noted, citizens have expressed interest in additional walkability, parking, and small gathering places; more diverse housing; bringing more people to downtown; creating a "Main Street" feel; and revitalizing Old Town.

Additional public feedback will be accepted when the draft of the Downtown Master Plan update is presented at the July 9 open house.