



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Downtown Design Charrette a Success

April 15, 2011

Tomball officials are pleased with the results of a two-day "Design Charrette" for the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). "We received some great feedback from residents and stakeholders," said Peggy Fiandaca, president of Partners for Strategic Action, Inc., the consulting firm hired by the City to lead the effort.

Members of the DSP team used the charrette to receive feedback on specific design features and development standards for the DSP, a document that will translate long-range planning into regulatory policy for downtown. "We heard strong support for pedestrian-friendly design, including use of awnings and canopies to shade Main Street sidewalks, and use of sidewalks and pedestrian connections," said Fiandaca. Charrette participants underscored the importance of expanding and connecting public spaces throughout downtown and promoting a diverse mix of uses that appeal to a wider range of interests.

Officials were especially pleased with the Saturday turnout at the Depot Plaza. "It was great to be part of the 2nd Saturday festivities," remarked Assistant City Planner Rodney Schmidt. "The beautiful day offered us a chance to speak with dozens of residents, specifically young families, about their vision for our downtown."

Charrette events included a public workshop and a booth at Tomball's 2nd Saturday event on April 9, as well as a drop-in design studio, a focus group meeting with downtown merchants, and a joint meeting with City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Downtown Tomball Advisory Committee on April 11. Results of the charrette will be summarized in a subsequent report.

Over the upcoming months, the DSP team will work to develop key DSP features to preview at upcoming summer events, including at a public workshop scheduled for July 19. The project schedule anticipates Council's adoption of the DSP by year's end. For more information on the Downtown Specific Plan, visit the City's website (www.ci.tomball.tx.us) or contact Rodney Schmidt at 281.290.1410 or rschmidt@ci.tomball.tx.us.

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