



## Decatur City Commission Retreat 2014

Smithgall Woods  
February 7-8, 2014

The retreat focused on major discussion points for policy as well as goal setting for 2014.

Looking first at the larger picture. The group listed the things that may prove points of pride in 5 to 10 years:

- Transportation changes
- Unified Development Ordinances—Menu of development plans with construction plans
- Diversity of housing
- Racial diversity
- Impact of the baby boom bubble moving through
- Annexation

### Issues for 2014 with Goals

- Annexation
  - Have something ready for next year
  - Actions:
    - a) Sole-source for RFP and get to Commission asap
    - b) Meet with representatives of the School board to coordinate plans
    - c) Appoint a 7-11 member steering committee
    - d) Create a strategy for working with the Delegation
    - e) Create a strategy for engaging the public
    - f) Have a Master Plan by fall
- School Relationship
  - a) Engage the schools with the annexation process
  - b) Safe-routes program and crossing guards proposal
  - c) Opening of Westchester
  - d) Demolition of resource center—topic with representatives from the school board.

- Unified Development Ordinances by the end of September
  - a) Create a reasonable timeline
  - b) Have a tree ordinance by June
  - c) Keep guidelines simple, but look at many options including annexation
  - d) Create some incentives
- Diverse Housing—More creative uses of property

Option 1: Build a model cottage home example as a test to see how the market will bear it (similar to the condo experiment). The staff will explore this option and bring something back with policy options and choices for zoning sizes.

Option 2: Use the historic preservation law to preserve the character of neighborhoods.

There was more consensus around option 1.