



AGENDA

**Cumming Hometown Pride
Information/Brainstorming Session
February 6, 2018 at 6:00 pm
Cumming City Hall**

Attendance: Lorin Ditzler, Linda Harkin, John McPartland, Lisa Olson, Rachelle Swisher, Linda Wah, Dean Yordi

Overview of Hometown Pride

Community Coach Lorin Ditzler provided an overview of the purpose of Hometown Pride, a state-wide program that brings residents together to improve their hometowns.

Brainstorming: What should Cumming Hometown Pride do?

The group discussed 2 questions: What do we like about Cumming? And What do we want to change or improve? Answers included the following (*please note – this list is for brainstorming purposes only. The committee will decide which ideas to take action on at a future meeting*):

Things we like about Cumming:

- Has a small-town feel, but still “8 minutes from everything”
- Bike path
- New flower pots in park and on street are a nice addition
- Cumming tap and the Distillery both attract people to town
- Legion and Parks group both doing positive things

Things we could do to improve Cumming:

- Add an attraction/amenity at the trail head, and paint lines in the parking lot
- Fix up the alley behind the Legion/Tap
- Provide more ways to meet your neighbors: music in the park? yoga in the park?
- Take advantage of “bike nights” at Cumming tap, perhaps by hosting a complementary community event at the same time, or using the opportunity to promote Cumming
- Purchase better Christmas Lights for decorating the town
- Provide more ways to share community news (not just the post office)

- Connect the bike trail to the new part of town (and to Norwalk?)
- What can bring people in the newer developments into “old town?”
- Do more Christmas events: Pets with Santa? Tree lighting in the park?

Ditzler explained that the ideas listed above will provide a starting point for discussion for the Cumming Hometown Pride committee. The group will use these and other ideas to choose a handful of projects to pursue.

Ditzler noted that the group will likely have some overlap with the mission of existing community organizations, such as the Parks commission, and the hope is to collaborate and complement their efforts, without duplicating.

It was suggested that the Cumming group could potentially partner with the Norwalk Hometown Pride committee on certain projects that would concern both communities.

Explanation of Volunteer Opportunities

Ditzler explained that they are looking for 2 types of volunteers: 1) Committee members who can commit to attend monthly planning meetings; 2) Volunteers who will help out on projects as needed throughout the year. The group is also looking to make connections with other community groups who would like to collaborate/partner with Cumming Hometown Pride.

Attendees were encouraged to help recruit volunteers to join the group.