Vision Workshop Exercise
Issues to Focus On

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What issues/concerns do you have about growth and development that detract from the character of your community today or in the future?

1. There is a general “uninformed/misinformed/too-late informed” approach on the part of many of the County Commissioners which results in their making decisions based on poorly advised, thought out, and many times erroneous thought processes, sometimes based on their representation of the general public but many times, rather on what “they” feel or think! We need urgently to incorporate an improved intellectual, and professional experience level and process to all decisions through the use of consultant’s and experts in the various fields. It is wrong to assume that “staff” has the background, experience or expertise needed in many of these cases, and we embrace this initiative - although the grass roots approach, hopefully, will be followed by expertise from the top down, taking into consideration the results of the surveys.

2. One of the driving factors in economic development of the area should be the natural resources, which are in place and available for sustained development through EcoTourism and their associated economic spin offs. This results in sustainable benefits for the community at large, in addition to capturing visitor’s dollars to our area without depleting our assets and creating concrete ghettos, through housing developments, which seems to be the only idea anyone had.

3. Charlotte Harbor needs to be urgently revisited in terms of development. Zoning should be expanded to permit the creation of an Arts and Cultural Neighborhood, where the small existing houses could be transformed into Artist’s Ateliers, Antique Shops, Tea Rooms, Bed and Breakfasts etc. Historic houses should be moved into the area to be placed on empty lots and made into museums or gathering places (community theaters, etc) and Bed and Breakfasts. Sidewalks should be added and then we have a natural extension of Bayshore Park, where visitors and residents alike could meander down the oak lined streets to visit the Historic Village which would be created.

4. In addition, the large tract of woods (where the homeless camp) which is diagonal to the Historic Center in Charlotte Harbor should be purchased and made into a Pioneer Village with hands on activities for children. We would then have, in a five square block area, a viable tourist and resident destination which would respond to various interests as it would encompass Art, Culture, History and Children’s Activities.

5. A yearly antiques fair should be held at Bayshore Park which would also be an add on to the Village, and consideration should be made to installing some children’s material in the Bayshore Park in addition to a splashing/wading pool.