

## Community Meeting Well Attended

Almost thirty community members from diverse interests attended a Community Meeting hosted by the Eden Economic Development Corporation (EEDC) on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Multipurpose Center. EEDC President Cam Kleibrink led small group discussions in five key areas: Infrastructure, Public Safety, Medical, Business/Workforce Development, and Quality of Life. The individual work groups brainstormed Eden's strengths and needs under the key areas and presented them to the entire group later in the meeting. In almost every category the need for housing – whether it be apartments, duplexes, rental units or starter homes – was emphasized. Groups were complimentary of the on-going clean up efforts and expressed their hopes and desires that such efforts continue. Top priorities under each key area included:

- Infrastructure – Continue 1) demolition/clean up around town, 2) beautification efforts downtown, and 3) repair of pot holes – Use of the City's new packing machine was noted in the repair of streets
- Public Safety – Expressed need for 1) more volunteers for EMS and Fire, 2) police visibility at school, and 3) nighttime security – Consolidated city/county law enforcement was noted as a success
- Medical – Need for a community pharmacy – Applauded the medical resources currently available
- Business/Workforce Development – Need 1) housing, 2) general merchandise store and/or more diverse grocery store, and 3) recruit businesses that do not strain existing resources – Encouraged citizens to support local business to shop local when possible
- Quality of Life – Need 1) housing, 2) things for the youth to do, and 3) adopt-a-spot programs around the community – Noted the need for senior care including assisted living homes and respite care for caregivers

The EEDC will use this information to develop their Economic Development Strategic Plan and has provided meeting information to Mike Walthall of TFGA, Inc, consultants for the developing City of Eden Comprehensive Master Plan. A full report of the Community Meeting is detailed below. If you were unable to make the meeting and would like to offer comment on any of the key areas, the EEDC welcomes your ideas and suggestions by email at [econdev@edentexas.com](mailto:econdev@edentexas.com) or by mail at P O Box 915, Eden, Texas 76837. Thank you to all that attended – your input is invaluable to the future of Eden!

## **EEDC Community Meeting April 28, 2011**

### Attendees

Eugene Spann	Dorothy Barnett	Jerry McDonald	Ivie Spiller
Derinda Rodgers	John Massey	A J Dolle	Keith Hall
Allen Amos	Charlie Keane	Dawn Psencik	Wendell Moody
Carolyn Moody	Lauren Slimp	Sarah Leggett	Clay Miller
Glenda Miller	Celina Hemmeter	Maggie Farrington	Barbara Stansberry
Martha Sosa	Tony Sosa	Sarah Duwe	Paula Duwe
Dwain Psencik	Sarasu Blackwell		

Facilitators: Cam Kleibrink (EEDC President) and Kathy Keane (Economic Development Coordinator)

Observer: Mike Walthall (TFGA, Inc. Consultant)

### Infrastructure

Continue demolition and clean up  
Beautification of downtown (museum & flower shop, need more!)  
Patch pot holes  
Take care of flags on main flag poles, replace or take down when damaged  
Hook up water line to homes on new main  
Storefront upgrade & sidewalks in downtown area  
Seal coat streets  
Curbing, address storm water  
Hanging flower baskets around downtown with flags  
Clean up the town – Progress has been made

### *Follow up discussion:*

*Noted pot holes on Barnett Street*

*Think about paving/curbing assessment to further paved streets in the City of Eden*

*Applauded city for using a packing machine to ensure proper packing of pot holes*

*Research certified landfill status*

*Noted visitors at the Garden of Eden – gem of the City of Eden*

*Noted success of façade improvement program*

*Need for beautification at city cemetery including signage and care of flagpole*

### Public Safety

Need more volunteers for EMS and Fire Department  
Need for police visibility at school  
Need for nighttime security  
Concern for vandalism

*Follow up discussion:*

*Noted that there is more security at night than what is known – an sheriff's officer is always on duty*

*Consolidation of city and county is working – jail is full*

*Need patrols at the school – a more visible police department*

*Criminal activity should not be tolerated*

*Use of law enforcement vehicles for personal use is okay – more visibility*

*Need something for kids to do – parents need to be more responsible*

### Medical

Need a pharmacy

Noted the community assets: lab, new clinic, emergency room, ambulance, Medevac, latest equipment in emergency & hospital, dentist and three doctors

*Follow up discussion:*

*Need to shop local to be able to secure a pharmacy – if we don't support, they won't make it!*

*If local products are at or below big city prices, shop local*

*Noted that Frontera Clinic has a limited formulary pharmacy for acute care – antibiotics and pain medication if written by local doctors*

### Business/Workforce Development

Strengths: Location 83/87 central, high traffic counts, business friendly (low taxes, industrial park, low cost of living, incubator, economic development coordinator)

Need for Housing – apartments, duplexes, rental homes, “starter” homes – newly employed can not find a place to live

Research investors and focus on housing first, “if you build it, they will come”

Types of businesses desired (prioritized): general merchandise store, businesses that don't strain existing infrastructure, upscale assisted living, Laser Wash, distribution/fulfillment center, larger grocery store with more services (bakery/deli), truck stop, vet/animal services

Businesses need affordable buildings and/or buildings in good repair

Complete Retirement Certification Program

More housing = More people = More business opportunity

*Follow up discussion:*

*Emphasized the need to shop local to get a larger grocery*

*Group consensus to solicit no business that would exhaust community resources*

*Group contact for the Laser Wash idea*

## Quality of Life

### Need Housing

Need youth activities, more volunteers to help, First Baptist Church is the only youth program

Need sponsors for places around town – keep your part beautiful

Activities such as bingo night or movies in the park

More flexible access to day care – currently an all or nothing option

Have good churches – need to resurrect the ministerial alliance

Need adult day care

Suggest a flower program – grow/plant flowers around town

Need for a waterpark – not a Schlitterbahn but an improved pool area with water features like Brady

### *Follow up discussion:*

*Noted Menard's assisted living*

*Need for respite care*

*Encourage businesses to clean up their storefronts*

*Everyone needs to take responsibility for clean up of neighborhoods/property*

*Community strength is the Spirit of Eden Fund*

*Brady Pool was financed by a TPWD grant*