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County seeks community input on comprehensive plan issues

Sarasota County Planning Services has scheduled two additional meetings to discuss community issues that the county's comprehensive plan should address during the next seven years.

The meetings are scheduled for:

- 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 10, Sandra Sims Terry Community Center, 509 Collins Road, Laurel
- 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 17, Cooperative Extension Building, Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota

Every seven years, Sarasota County reviews its Comprehensive Plan to identify and respond to changing trends and conditions in the community, as well as changing state and regional growth management policies. The process results in a document known as the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) that identifies future comprehensive plan amendments that will keep the plan aligned with community values and visions. The review process includes public input on major community issues that will define the future quality of life in Sarasota County.

Each meeting will begin with the same overview presentation followed by a facilitated work session. The purpose of these meetings is to seek input from the public in identifying major community issues that will steer the future direction of the comprehensive plan.

People who are unable to attend either meeting may supply comments or suggestions by sending an e-mail to ear@scgov.net. A short, online survey that seeks people's perspectives on issues facing the community is also available at <http://www.scgov.net/PlanningandDevelopment/CompPlan/EAR.asp>.

The process will result in the identification of major community issues that will be reviewed in public hearings by the Sarasota Planning Commission and the Sarasota County Commission later this year. Sarasota County's EAR report is due to the Florida Department of Community Affairs by July 2011. Comprehensive plan amendments based upon that report will be completed in 2013. The major community issues identified in the EAR will be part of the discussions about future comprehensive plan amendments.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Planning Services.

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