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Facilitator will meet regularly with strategic planners

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By Donna Hilton

Beginning next week, Ed Bee will meet at least once a month with members of each subcommittee of the Clark County Strategic Planning Committee and the community, according to the committee's co-chairmen Dr. Wesley Kluck and Dr. Alan Wright. Bee is the president of Tamerica, a consulting firm recently chosen to facilitate the creation of Clark County's Strategic Development Plan.



The aim of the plan is to help Clark County develop in five key areas: Housing, leadership, economic development, health care and tourism.

The meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month, Kluck said, and will be open to the public. The next one is set for 6 p.m. Aug. 8 in the lecture hall of the Garrison Center at Henderson State University.

Kluck and Wright are now in the process of verifying the co-chairmen for each of the six sub-committees. Once that is completed, the names of the co-chairmen will be announced, Kluck said.

Each subcommittee will include a community advisor, a person with special expertise in a particular area, along with representatives and students of both Ouachita Baptist and

Several hundred runners from across Arkansas and many surrounding states turned out for Saturday's 'Running in Margaritaville' Dam Night Run. The race started two miles west of DeGray Lake Dam on Skyline Drive at 8 p.m. and ended in the Spillway area. Spectators brought lawnchairs and ice chests and enjoyed live music performed by Scott Christopher. Rex Hamel of De Queen placed first overall, followed by Glen Mays of Little Rock and Alex Bearden of Hot Springs. Maranda Rogers, 9, of Arkadelphia placed first in the 5-9-year-old category, and Jennifer Prince, 14, of Arkadelphia placed second in the 10-14-year-old category.

Henderson State universities, high school students and members of the public, he said.

The names of the persons on each committee will be announced during the Aug. 8 meeting. Once that is done, the work can begin, Kluck said.

Bee has laid out a "battle plan" for action. "Action steps are included," Wright said. The plan evaluates failures and helps determine how to keep those mistakes from being repeated. "It's a logical process. The plan is a step-by-step process" of getting things accomplished.

Once the work begins, the facilitator will help keep the process moving at a steady pace and avoid time-consuming arguments or disagreements. "That's why we hire a facilitator," Wright said. "The facilitator takes the heat" and keeps order.

Bee's battle plan calls a competitive assessment of the county's current assets, such as businesses, industries, educational facilities, and so forth. It also calls for assessing assets lost, such as industries that have closed or downsized and finding out why those companies chose to leave Clark County. That assessment is scheduled to be presented to the public on Oct. 9.

The next area to be evaluated is opportunities for growth and threats or obstacles to meeting the community's goals. The target date for that presentation is Nov. 7. The plan also includes several committee meetings, which will examine key issues as determined by the committee members and other considerations. In the planning process, which will begin after those meetings, Bee includes vision development and workshops, goal-priority workshops, goal adoption, strategy meetings and hearings. The date set for adoption of Clark County's Strategic Development Plan is July 9, 2007.

Kluck and Wright said that not all tasks may be completed on the specific dates in Bee's "battle plan," but that's not as important as completing the process. "We will have our completed plan ready to adopt on July 9," Kluck said.

For more information on Clark County's Strategic Development Plan, visit www.clarkcountyplan.org.

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