

Outstanding Media Coverage

This award recognizes outstanding media coverage of planning issues in written or broadcast media by a newspaper, television station, magazine, or radio station.



Tuscaloosa News

Coverage of the

"Tuscaloosa Forward, A Strategic Community Plan to Renew and Rebuild"

Nominated by Mr. John McConnell



Outstanding Media Coverage

The Tuscaloosa News provided outstanding media coverage to the citizens of Tuscaloosa County in the days after the storm. Their continued effort to provide information to the community in an open and subjective format was excellent. In addition to editorials and other relevant stories, the News printed the entire planning draft for the recovery for the public to view.



Outstanding Media Coverage

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TUSCALOOSA, NORTHPORT, WEST ALABAMA

WWW.TUSCALOOSANEWS.COM

Consultants outline vision for rebuilding city

By Jason Morton Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | A Kansas City, Mo., consulting firm on Tuesday offered a vision for reconstructing a better city after the destruction of the April 27 tornado that hit Tuscaloosa.

The firm, BNIM, introduced itself to residents during the weekly City Council meeting at City Hall.

\$250,000 contract last week by the said. council, said it has no intentions of shaping the city on its own.

BNIM, told the City Council that the and townhall.tuscaloosaforward. process for constructing a plan to recom, to immediately begin the conbuild Tuscaloosa will require a "full, versation. robust community dialog."

BNIM will host a town hall on Robert J. Berkebile, a principal for websites, tuscaloosaforward.com

"Allowing the whole community to junction with the city task force that cials said. be a part of the dialog will contribute was formed to help craft a master plan

But BNIM, which was awarded a greatly to your success." Berkebile for rebuilding the devastated areas of dents will be able to follow along with

The websites also bear the new June 30 and has established two name of group: Tuscaloosa Forward from the Rebuild Tuscaloosa Task Force in part because the website bearing the "Rebuild Tuscaloosa" The websites will operate in conname already had been claimed, offi-

At tuscaloosaforward.com, resi-

the progress of the task force and the BNIM consultants as they work toward a July 15 deadline to craft a pre-Task Force. Its name was changed liminary master plan for develop-

> But at townhall.tuscaloosaforward. com, residents can offer ideas about what they would like to see as part of the new Tuscaloosa. The website also

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Outstanding Media Coverage

Spirit of unity marks tornado recovery

Pastors, church members hold prayer service





By Matt Cole Special to The Tuscaloosa News

storm, invited other area churches to participate in the

Pastors and congregation members from caloosa's ability to recover from the tornado, night for a prayer service at Forest Lake United Methodist Church, said the communit Baptist Church, in a neighborhood where the must keep that spirit alive in the days ahead. April 27 tornado ripped apart homes, busi-nesses and lives six months ago.

tion of race, political party or anything else there as people responded to help tornado vic-tims. He said that after witnessing that example of cooperation, he became confident about Tus-

Pastor Roy Ferguson of Saint John Missionary Baptist

Payne of Forest Lake Baptist

Church, below left, and Chris

Church speaks during the church service. Also speak-ing were the Revs. Donald

The Rev. Chris Denson, pastor of Forest Lake United Methodist Church, said the community

"Tonight is about looking forward," Denson said. "We don't want this unity to fade away. We

Pooling ideas to rebuild



oout 300 Tuscaloosa area residents listen Thursday night as Stephen Hardy of the BMIM consulting firm gives a presentation during community town hall meeting held by the Tuscaloosa Forward Task Fore at the Bryant Conference Center. After the presentation, e audience formed small groups to brainstorm ideas for a master plan to rebuild the city in the aftermath of the April 27 tomadoes

Residents speak out about plans to revitalize city after tornado

TUSCALOOSA A lmost 300 people turned out Thursday night to share their ideas about the future of storm-torn Tuscaloosa.
The gathering included students, seniors and men and women of various races and backgrounds. Their ideas focused

Comments and suggestions on the master plan being on the master plan being crafted by the Tuscaloosa Forward Task Force for the affected areas of Tuscaloo-sa are still being taken onne at http://townhall. scaloosaforward.com Additional information on the status of the master plan and the task force itself can be found at http:// uscaloosaforward.com.

that it's our citizens who are going to lead us to a better tomor-row," said Mayor Walt Maddox row, said Mayor Walt Maddox at the beginning of the orga-nized brainstorming session. "It's going to be your plans, your hopes and your dreams that honor the 43 who died and five who are still missing." Led by planners with BNIM consulting firm, the community

on maintaining an environmen tal consciousness while rebuild

Tuscaloosa residents examine and discuss a large map featuring pre town hall meeting was part of Tuscaloosa residents examine and discuss a large map featuring pre the efforts of the Tuscaloosa Forward Task Force, a collection of liminary ideas for rebuilding Tuscaloosa during a Thursday night com out 50 residents. Task force members range from business munity town hall meeting held by the Tuscaloosa Forward Task Force
See Rebuild | 9A at the Bryant Conference Center.



uscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox discusses Tuscaloosa's fu-

Rebuild city safer, better, residents say

Hundreds attend information forum on the Tuscaloosa Forward Strategic Plan

By Jason Morton

TUSCALOOSA | Hundreds of residents filtered through the gymnairday to get a look at and offer suggestions on a proposed master plan that will influence the revitaliza-tion efforts of storm-torn Tusca-

Visitors to the come-and-go public ormation forum hosted by City Hall began arriving well before the noon start time, and they ranged from those who had lost their homes in the Citizens Advisory C hose who made to indirectly affected prize from a fact that a spirit 27 formade to indirectly affected prize from a fact that a spirit and the city where they live.

Advisory Committee and the committee from a fact that a spirit and the committee from a fact that a spirit and the committee from a fact that a fact tha

Across the freshly waxed gym floor were a series of long tables that ofwere a series of long tables that of-fered looks at the proposed Tusca-or changes, to the Pla loosa Forward Strategic Plan that was crafted during five weeks of brainstorming and idea-gathering from city officials, business owners, city residents and the Tuscaloosa Forward Task Force. It centers on seven key elements, ranging from a city-formally adopted at a ward Task Force. It centers on seven key elements, ranging from a city-key elements, ranging from a city-key elements, ranging from a city-key elements, ranging from a city-regularly scheduled city Council meeting.

ON THE WEB

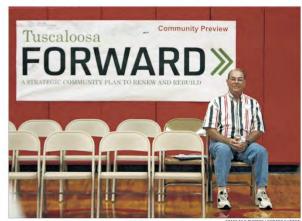
master plan for rebuilding areas of the city damaged on Apr 27 at tuscaloosa forward.com. Submit comments on the pla at townhall tuscaloos

Citizens Advisory Com Commission's recom-mendation is due to th City Council.



Outstanding Media Coverage

City Council to vote next week on plan to rebuild after storm



Ray Saunders attends a Tuscaloosa Forward town hall forum at Central High School on July 23. After months of development and input from the community, the formal Tuscaloosa Forward master plan was presented on Tuesday to the City Council and members of the public, who appeared divided over the plan.

Business leaders remain opposed

By Jason Morton Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | City Council mem-TUSCALOOSA [City Council mem-bers on Tuseday heard the formal presentation of the Tuscaloosa For-ward master plan, a comprehensive rebuilding approach for the tornado-ravaged areas of the city. No action was taken during the Month of the council Presi-dent Harrison Taylor said members will vote on adopting the plan next week during its formal Tusckan night

week during its formal Tuesday night meeting.
However, the residents who packed

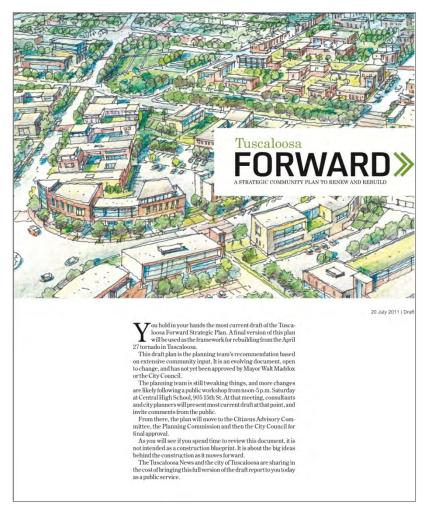
the council chambers appeared to be evenly divided when Taylor asked for a show of hands of those who favored



Lucy Arnold Sikes and her children, Evers, 3, and Harper, 6, check out the city master plan on July 23. The City Council and the public were SEE PLAN | 3B given a formal presentation of the plan on Tuesday.



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WWW.TUSCALOOSANEWS.COM

Tuscaloosa Forward plan passes unanimously

Master plan passes after three weeks of vocal opposition from business owners

> By Iason Morton Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | After more than

caloosa, the City Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted the Tuscaloosa Forward master plan.

The vote came after three weeks of three months of gathering ideas to in- intense, vocal opposition from 15th fluence the vision for rebuilding Tus- Street business owners to the guide-

two city-formed committees.

The opposition, however, was tempered some by supporters who called on city leaders to adopt a vision for a new Tuscaloosa and not allow the same, pre-tornado appearance and lack of amenities to return.

Studio consultant firm of Austin,

lines put forth in the nearly 90-page Texas, to help craft building codes, plan, which was crafted during mul- zoning rules and other policies that tiple public meetings with input from will turn the elements of the Tuscaloosa Forward plan into reality.

Mayor Walt Maddox said he hopes the City Council would have a set of policies, codes and ordinances to consider by Thanksgiving.

And to work alongside Code Studio in the formation of the new rules, Mad-Now, the city will turn to the Code dox said he intends to call on the SEE FORWARD | 7A

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Code Studio consultant firm of Austin, Texas, will craft Tuscaloosa Forward's building codes, zoning rules and other policies. The goal is to have that work presented to the City Council by Thanksgiving.

■ On the Web: View the Tuscaloosa Forward master plan at http:// tuscaloosaforward.com under the "Recovery Planning" tab.



Outstanding Media Coverage

The Tuscaloosa Net

WWW.TUSCALOOSANEWS.COM

Zoning changes within tornado zone unveiled

Draft focusing on multi-use areas met with skepticism by some business owners

> By Jason Morton Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | Residents and property owners were given their first look Monday night at a proposed set of building codes and development guidelines for the planned multi-use

And to many, the details were eye- ment process.

veiled during a forum at the University neighborhood zones, but Monday's

of Alabama's Bryant Conference Center by consultants with Code Studio and BNIM, who indicated the goal of the design standards is to create safe and walkable zones that allow for a mixture of uses ranging from residential to retail. Code Studio and BNIM are the respective building code and corridors within the tornado recovery master plan consulting firms hired by City Hall to assist in the redevelop-

A similar forum is planned for Oct. The proposed regulations were un- 27 to discuss proposed changes to

ONLINE

To view the proposed building codes and zoning rule changes, visit www.tuscaloosanews.com.

initial draft pertained strictly to the multi-use areas stemming from the Tuscaloosa Forward master plan adopted unanimously last month by the City Council.

The proposed changes focus on three key areas of the city: the 10th Avenue and Interstate 359 corridor. the confluence of 15th Street and Mc-Farland Boulevard and Alberta, which also included areas around Five Points and the intersection of Skyland and University boulevards.

SEE ZONING | 7A



Bart Tingle, left, leff Thompson and Eddie Thompson talk with BNIM consultant Aaron Ross during a Tuscaloosa Forward forum to discuss possible code and zonina regulations for business and multiuse corridors at the Bryant Conference Center Monday. STAFF PHOTO I MICHELLE LEPIANKA