



Meeting ONE

The Pulaski Story: Past to present

PARTICIPANTS

Salvador Barajas
Eric Bucey
Shannon Collins
Steve Critchfield
Timothy Goff
Nichole Hair
Dawnita Hall
Leam Hall
Linda Hall
Janet Jonas
Rhonda LaFon
Mike McMillion
Michelle Poore
Michael Reis
Danny Shaver
Michael Solomon
Shawn Utt
Morgan Welker
Peggy White

ASSIGNMENT

Partner with someone with whom you don't typically work. Explore the museum for 10 minutes, looking at at least three exhibits. Together identify a theme that spans Pulaski's past and present. What recurs? What remains the same?

Rhonda + Dawnita

- The **railroads** tie us to the NRV and are an iconic part of the valley. We're part of a connected region
- **Hardworkers** – our residents created success even in adversity
- Many **churches** here have long histories

Mike M. + Morgan

Pulaski is a town with an **industrial past**. It was a railroad stop for water, and later an **industrial hub**. While the economy changes, Pulaski seems to **find its niche**.

Peggy + Linda

Pulaski is an **old textile town** where people *worked hard, played hard and worship together*.

Mike R. + Shannon

What made Pulaski is people thinking about what's next

- The Dalton Theater
- Virginia Maid
- Pulaski Theater
- Roscoe Cox and the antique strategy downtown

Eric + Leam

There's a **passion** for making things ourselves in the area. Like Dr. Brockmeyer's scale model of the community. There's **independence and ingenuity**.

What's old is what's new. We rediscovered what we once valued...a passion for historic buildings that were once threatened with being torn down in the name of progress, such as the loss of Mapleshade for Southwest Virginia's first strip mall. Similarly our love of baseball goes back to the factory teams. There's heritage here and we are increasingly connected to it.

We have a pattern of **boom and bust**. There are cycles to our economy.

Michael S. + Nichole

- Former **businesses had community buy in**—Virginia Maid: Baseball and Basketball team
- Education attached to identity...consolidation at the middle school level?
- Change of **manufacturing**: still a need for items
 - Consider small manufacturing production
 - Made in America: Made in Pulaski

Danny + Steve

Pulaski is an **industrial town that industry left**. We aren't unique in that way. It's been more of a center of **retired and older people**, but that may be giving way to a new wave of **younger people**.

Shawn + Janet

- There are both **newbies and townies**.
- There are both **haves and have nots**.
- We have lost some great **architecture** and there is other architecture that is at risk of being lost if we don't invest in it

NETWORKS

The organizational networks identified on the next page aren't comprehensive, but they are a start. There are more who can be here. Much of the conversation of the meeting was around how to get additional participants to the next meeting.

- **What are your observations of the rough network map?**
- **Then turn to the next page. How can you help bring new faces into the conversation?**

WHO ELSE?

A few of the action items for bringing people to the next meeting have been taken on, but not all.

- **What can you do to hand invite new voices?**

Who Else we want to involve	Taken on?	Action step to bringing someone to the next meeting
18-30 year olds: from here		Social media push?
18-30 year olds: who have moved here		Social media push?
African Americans		Church outreach? Memorial Baptist Neighborhood outreach?
The vocal disengaged: those who may not be contributing actively now		
Theater		
Low and moderate income residents		Everyone has value and brings something...can we engage people through existing programs?
Educators: K-12		
Educators: community college	√	Dawnita will talk with <i>Amy Hall</i>
Elderly residents living independently		
Ministerial Association	√	Dawnita will talk with <i>Dave Farris</i> Janet will talk with <i>Terrie Steinberg</i>
Those who understand how the formerly incarcerated are settling here.		Charlie: taking it to the streets Episcopal Church
Law Enforcement	√	Shannon will work on this Nichole has contacts as well.