

The following are the notes from the August 24th Celebration of Place and Possibilities.

The notes here are submitted verbatim.

- ◆ Waterfront/sidewalk café
- ◆ Save the house/keep the house
- ◆ A lynchpin (anchor) for Economic Development
- ◆ I envision cruise ships along the coast stopping and sending tour groups in to the dock for town tours, use of restaurants and gift shops. Maybe some of the visitors will return.
- ◆ Build an income producing boutique hotel with a conference center for small to medium size groups.
- ◆ Boater facilities (Laundromat, convenience store) not bathroom and showers
- ◆ Community/meeting/rental facility
- ◆ Honor Gilman family
- ◆ No pet zone...tired of poop and dog marking territory.
- ◆ Think Siena Italy
- ◆ Salvage whatever is possible from existing house and incorporate it into the new facility. A great spot for the restaurant portion. Save the stone walks and trees. Use solar air conditioner and make new facilities as “green” as possible it will save money in operating cost once opened.
- ◆ Meeting facility with emphasis on ecology and view
- ◆ Incomparable water access deep water access and St. Marys already has reputation as welcoming boaters
- ◆ Where is your emergency entrance/exit fire trucks etc
- ◆ No hotel you take away from local inns
- ◆ Nature education walk

- ◆ Mooring field marina boater center
- ◆ Sell or lease the 16 boat slips
- ◆ Need a nice pool with hotel downtown families require this
- ◆ Also coordinate with internet marketing is essential today to gain visitors
- ◆ Place in back for seafood “gatherings”
- ◆ Hotel – restaurant
- ◆ Basketball court ½ covered in back. Have hotel, etc look like the dock house
- ◆ Charter fishing fleet based on the docks. Restaurant/shops with outside park like St. Simons Island.
- ◆ Definitely save the trees
- ◆ Must be multifaceted several options of facilities/eating establishments will bring in greater number of diverse people
- ◆ All structures should use solar energy and be totally self sustainable.
- ◆ Quiet place to read and meditate over-looking the water/marshes
- ◆ Add sixth point: Ecology
- ◆ Cumberland island seashore link to environmental/ecology groups
- ◆ Wood storks, fly-way for bird migration equals to visit destination, Audubon recognition
- ◆ Environment as important as other five principles
- ◆ Through the years this has been known as the dock house
- ◆ Hotel/lodging of some kind
- ◆ Road access easy
- ◆ Walking/bike path for people
- ◆ Boat docking

- ◆ Same use of area for children/teens
- ◆ If house is saved make welcome center
- ◆ Butterfly gardens
- ◆ Marine Eco-classroom for school kids
- ◆ Trailhead for walk, bike, drive history/heritage tourism
- ◆ Component be used for black history/genealogical center relating to the African American Diaspora during 1815
- ◆ Develop project using green building guidelines set by LEED, and also green space guidelines. Incorporate a “Green building” information kiosk in building to educate community.
- ◆ Can the house be gutted enough to make a large meeting/party room with a kitchen and bathrooms for large groups?
- ◆ Jobs that pay well across all income levels
- ◆ Hotel profit sharing for city and county
- ◆ All resource potential consideration, including trees, marshes, walls to be constructed
- ◆ Docks existing and potential, affordable boat ramp
- ◆ St. Marys inlet world class deep water access to Atlantic
- ◆ St. Marys River deep water to the city waterfront
- ◆ New property has deep water at the site. Don't overlook tremendous potential for small and medium boat tourism. Low cost to accommodate.
- ◆ St. Marys jump off for Cumberland Island. Also a draw for water based tourism
- ◆ AE & VE flood zones (impact on current concepts)
- ◆ Community support for project (across all income stratas)

- ◆ Historic St. Marys partners with Kingsland welcome center infrastructure is there
- ◆ Preserve environment will drive the five principles. Destroy the environment and you destroy five principles.
- ◆ Flowers
- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Recreational opportunity
- ◆ Access for all
- ◆ Connectivity to the town
- ◆ Peace, tranquility water front beauty
- ◆ Space for exercising facility
- ◆ Bike paths/walking paths
- ◆ Places to sit and enjoy the place
- ◆ Economic development: shops
- ◆ Building on public boat dock
- ◆ Make it a destination place for boaters (city marina)
- ◆ For example Sand Destin at Jekyll
- ◆ Convention Center (quaint space 200 people)
- ◆ Continue the festival experience
- ◆ Preserve wildlife
- ◆ Golf cart access to property
- ◆ No high-rise condo
- ◆ Don't ugly it up with a marina
- ◆ Shops building more buildings

- ◆ An entertainment zone
- ◆ Big meeting room (300+)
- ◆ Stay with existing height requirements
- ◆ Building needs to be in Economic Development
- ◆ Add submarine to tour
- ◆ Preserve building and maintain current ordinances
- ◆ Add hotel component
- ◆ Building needs to go
- ◆ Waterfront restaurant
- ◆ Marina boat accessible waterfront restaurant
- ◆ Economic sense to keep building
- ◆ Keep building as a community center
- ◆ Handicap accessibility for viewing area with no just pulled on just the sidewalk
- ◆ Bike trails
- ◆ Trail head (big)/(unique)
- ◆ For example, St. Simons-public space fishing dock
- ◆ Fishing pier
- ◆ No fishing pier
- ◆ Make a movie
- ◆ Community area (available for rent...classes, workshops, meetings, etc.)
- ◆ Conference center
- ◆ Public park natural area
- ◆ Restaurant national chains

- ◆ Ecology based “green” hotel
- ◆ Marine lab tied to state universities
- ◆ Boat store (supply stable goods, fishing/Trader Joes)
- ◆ Special events center (education, art classes, etc)
- ◆ Development of a “historic” economy
- ◆ Fishing village theme (hotel, marina, charters, etc)
- ◆ Gateway to St. Marys (southeast GA) from the water (boaters destination)
- ◆ Submarine (dry dock) tourist attraction
- ◆ Big house with dock for fishing and swimming
- ◆ Perimeter man made public beach
- ◆ Teen center – safe place for youth to come concerts, speakers, events
- ◆ Lots of dock space rental income
- ◆ Get input from local kids (St. Marys schools and CCHS for ideas. They are very creative)
- ◆ Bike paths, walking paths, workout stations
- ◆ Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Connectivity from airport to waterfront...series of cart paths, environment centers, marsh walk, trails
- ◆ UGA SE Georgia campus
- ◆ Alternative energy think tank with incubation space
- ◆ Nuclear energy education and development center
- ◆ Tiki bar on dock over water

**If you have other ideas or suggestions please email
alyce@stmarysdda.com.**