

April 2, 2011  
To the Editor:

The letter “Think outside the box and the footprint” penned by Carol Lehmann of Marshall, printed in the April 2, 2011 edition of the Ad-Visor & Chronicle, was a pleasant surprise when I received it in early November 2010. While our Hospital and Neighborhood Committee meetings have had an average attendance of about a dozen members from the community, this was the first interest shown by a Marshall resident outside of that group.

Carol has shared her letter via the Ad-Visor & Chronicle and so I would like to share my letter in response to the same audience. Perhaps the only updates I would point out is that the committee has shrunk to 9 members (both members left by their choice: new job and couldn’t make the meetings) and the hospital growth in the next 20 years has a gap of 190,000 sq ft not 85,000 sq ft (updated recently). Otherwise, five months after this response, my letter is still very relevant.

It is important to clarify a statement made by Carol in last weeks letter “that the hospital’s 20-year plan has now been revealed and is probably more far reaching than anticipated”. The hospital has revealed no such plan as there is no expansion plan at this time beyond the current construction. That is exactly the point. The only thing known by the hospital is they expect to need 190,000 sq ft of additional space over the next 20 years. How that space will be utilized is not known and will not be known until a plan is developed for the exact needs that are 5, 10 or 20 years down the road. What has been revealed is that to satisfy that 190,000 sq ft growth over the next 20 years the hospital can accomplish that within the boundaries suggested by the Hospital Campus District.

Our committee is currently looking at this approach, the Hospital Campus District Overlay, which will give the hospital flexibility to develop their solutions, at a time they are needed over the next 20 years, and still give the Community the stability of known boundaries for that potential expansion no matter when it occurs over the next 20 years. This approach also takes into account the parking needs out 20 years.

I continue to encourage the public to come to our remaining monthly meetings. The City of Marshall website, [www.cityofmarshall.com](http://www.cityofmarshall.com) on the page “What is the Hospital/Neighborhood Committee”, has all of the information presented at our meetings as well as minutes, agendas and future meeting dates and times. It’s a great place to catch up on the committees work. Finally, the Marshall Community does have a strategic plan: Marshall Area in Focus: 2007.

Perhaps it is time to think outside the box and keep an open mind to solutions that will be satisfactory to the Community AND to the Hospital. Excerpts from my November 7, 2010 letter to Carol Lehmann follow. Both complete letters are now on the above City of Marshall website.

Sincerely,

Kenneth w. Jendryka, Chairman  
Hospital and Neighborhood Committee