

Economic development summit
explores emerging business sectors

2060:

A city's odyssey

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City of Round Rock officials gathered with community and business leaders Wednesday for an economic development summit designed to help the city in its strategic planning process.

"This is a deliberate attempt to state the identity and vision for our long-term future," Mayor Alan McGraw said. "A huge component of that future vision is economic prosperity. In other words, we want our children and our grandchildren to be as prosperous in Round Rock as we are."

Attendees broke into eight groups representing current and emerging business sectors of the local economy - health/bio sciences and life sciences;

clean energy; destination retail and Internet/catalog sales; corporate office; computer and software development/supply-chain management; tourism, entertainment, arts and culture and recreation; and defense/homeland security/public safety technology - to explore what opportunities the city should be pursuing and how it can be attractive to each sector from a regional, national and global perspective.

"You've seen the summit

"In my mind, we can't get so caught up in the drive to be economically prosperous that we lose sight of what it's all about... So a real challenge moving forward as we approach 300,000 residents is to keep the character that has drawn us all here in the first place."

- Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw

described as the 2060 Summit, but none of us is so naïve to think we can actually look into the future and tell what the economic engine is going to be in 2060," McGraw said. "Will Dell still be here? I don't know. I hope they will. But one thing I do know is I have absolutely no idea what technology they will be selling in 2060."

"If we are going to focus on future economic

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