

Visioning Community Kick-Off Meeting

Marina del Rey

April 25, 2013

Meeting Summary

Overview

On Thursday, April 25, 2013, a Community Meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in Marina del Rey to review the upcoming visioning process with the community. The primary purpose of this meeting was to inform the community about what the visioning process is and what the upcoming events and outreach tools are that will be used. The community was also given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the visioning process. The Community Meeting was held at the Marina del Rey Hotel. Over 130 community participants attended the meeting.

Gina Natoli, Supervising Regional Planner with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, welcomed the participants, reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced the Visioning Team. Ms. Natoli proceeded to walk through a PowerPoint presentation that provided background on Marina del Rey and the process for developing the vision including purpose, goals, and schedule. Ms. Natoli informed the group that developing the Marina del Rey Vision is the last of a three-step process called the roadmap agreed to by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission. She stressed that this is an important process for the Department of Regional Planning. As such, the Department will be working with several partners including the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works. Additionally, the Department of Regional Planning has enlisted the support of an independent consulting firm to facilitate the outreach process for the visioning effort and has enlisted the help of economic, mobility, and architecture/urban design consultants to assist with the vision development.

Ms. Natoli introduced Esmeralda García of MIG, to review the Marina del Rey Visioning outreach process. Ms. García reviewed the tools and methods that will be used to solicit feedback and communicate with the Marina del Rey community. Following the review of the outreach process, Ms. García invited members of the public to ask questions regarding the process. She explained to the group that questions and comments would be captured on the wall chart posted in the front of the room. The balance of the meeting time was devoted to public questions and comments. The following is a summary of the primary issues, ideas, and suggestions that emerged during the course of the meeting.

Emerging Themes

Communication and Follow-up

- The noticing process is inadequate.
- All of Los Angeles County should be notified and invited to participate in this visioning process.
- One visioning workshop for Marina del Rey is not adequate.
- Web and media tools will not be useful to communities in the County that do not have computer access.
- Why will this current visioning process be different from previous Marina del Rey meetings?
- We are not heard. Our comments are not considered and tonight's feedback will be ignored.
- This process never results in what the Marina del Rey community wants. The County does NOT care.
- The community is frustrated with the entire process and the Department of Regional Planning.
- New development is built without community input.
- Information needs to be credible and accurate.
- Los Angeles County Supervisors need to be at these meetings and respond to our concerns.
- Responses and facts should be distributed to the public.
- The County is unresponsive – we should pursue incorporation.

Traffic and Mobility

- Existing and new development in Marina del Rey is creating additional traffic impacts on local streets.
 - Loss of parking spaces limits access to public use areas.
- Is the County collaborating with the City of Los Angeles to manage traffic?
- What is the current traffic count to Marina del Rey population ratio? Traffic counts need to be revised.
- Too much development occurring in Marina del Rey. Parking lots used to access public use areas have permanently disappeared or been developed.
- The traffic circle proposed for Marina del Rey will not improve traffic conditions.
- The Marina lacks continuous pedestrian access along the water's edge.

Land Use, Urban Design, and New Development Projects

- Is land use on the table in this visioning process? Land use should be on the table.
 - Which parcels are going to be considered for change in land use?
- With all the development that has occurred, what is left to include in the Marina del Rey Vision?
- Can the County provide more information regarding the developments that are going to be built in Marina del Rey in the next two months?
- What is the current Marina del Rey (2013) residential density and what is the density in ten years (2023)?

- The community does not want to see more residential density in Marina del Rey.
- The County needs to incorporate harbor planning expertise from outside groups.

Economics and Revenue Sources

- Revenues generated from Marina del Rey need to be maximized but balanced with recreational needs.
- There needs to be local-serving tenants in Marina del Rey to serve local residents.
- Identify the resources available to implement the vision that is developed
- More of the revenue generated in the Marina needs to be spent on the Marina.

Marina Recreation

- Ensure recreational opportunities for youth.
- The Marina needs to provide recreational opportunities to all Los Angeles County residents. These opportunities are currently being affected by new development and hotel projects.
- Maintain and enhance recreation in Marina del Rey and ensure access to the water.
- Do not allow existing recreation spaces and facilities to deteriorate.
- Balance the needs of small boats and others.

Safety

- More residential and commercial development will increase the local population and attract a greater number of visitors resulting in greater impacts.
 - How will the County ensure public safety in the event of a natural disaster?
 - This can pose a risk to public safety related to crime.

Marina del Rey Vision

- Enhance boating uses and activities.
- Increase parkland and open space.
- Increase opportunities for bicycle use.
- Marina del Rey needs to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- Create an environment where people get around without cars.
 - Bring back shuttle and water bus.
- Create a world class special event to draw in visitors.
 - Initiate a large film festival.

Extended Outreach

- Promote Visioning events in the Argonaut Newspaper.
- Reach out to people who use Mother's Beach.
- The County of Los Angeles 2012 Bicycle Master Plan conducted 10 public meetings. Include a similar process for the Marina del Rey Visioning.
- Include mass mailing.
- Include Marina del Rey Visioning information in the Supervisors' newsletters
- A private corporation should take over this process.

- We should reach out to the 4,000 kids who visit Marina del Rey annually.
- Reach out to the Neighborhood Councils
- Ensure a cross-section of the community and stakeholders are involved in the process.
- Make sure all products from all public meetings and workshops are available to the public.
- Reach out to all boat owners in LA County, not just those that moor their boat in the Marina.

Ms. García thanked community members for attending the meeting and encouraged them to stay involved in the visioning process. She invited the group to participate in the next community event, a visioning workshop and walking tour planned for June 1, 2013. Other community visioning events include listening sessions, focus groups, and a community meeting to present the draft final vision. To solicit input and reach out to the Los Angeles County community, staff is using electronic media tools including Twitter and MindMixer, an online engagement platform that helps organizations gather ideas from their communities.

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has embarked on this effort to solicit public input to craft a vision for Marina del Rey. The ideas generated by the community over the course of this process will be used to develop a shared community vision for the future. This will guide policy and implementation strategies for Marina del Rey planning efforts, including the Local Coastal Program.

To stay informed please visit the Department of Regional Planning's webpage at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/marina> or receive updates on Twitter at @LACDRP. The MindMixer website is under development and we will post updates on the County website as soon as it is live.