

DRP Staff present: Adrine Arakelian, Alejandrina Baldwin, Caroline Chen, James Drevno, Jesus Herrera, Mi Kim, Norman Ornelas Jr., Elsa Rodriguez, Ed Rojas

Date: December 7, 2019

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Meeting Notes:

The Department of Regional Planning organized the meeting to get feedback on values, community issues, and opportunities for the unincorporated areas of the East San Gabriel Valley area.

Postcard notices were sent to approximately 54,000 residents in the unincorporated communities of the East San Gabriel Valley. Invites were sent to the Fifth Supervisorial District. A Mad Mimi email notification was sent out to the ESGVAP mailing list weekly and the workshops were advertised on Twitter and Facebook.

The meeting began with an icebreaker, giving attendees an opportunity to introduce themselves to the other attendees at their table.

Meeting Format		
1	Introduction to Planning	<i>What is urban and community planning? What are some tools of the trade?</i>
2	Project Information	<i>What is the East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan?</i>
3	Activity 1: Place-it!	<i>What do we value in places and experiences?</i>
4	Activity 2: Community Brainstorm	<i>How can we apply what we value to where we live?</i>

DRP provided a 30 minute presentation on urban and community planning, as well as information on the East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan. This presentation was followed by two activities aimed at expressing values from memories and favorite places, and then applying these values to places people live.

Activity 1: The first activity (“Place-it!”) involved the development and identification of personal values. Attendees were tasked with using a variety of materials to express and discuss their favorite places and/or childhood memories. A group discussion occurred after the task, and the group’s values were established for use in the next activity. The group expressed their fondness for open spaces, parks, and access to natural areas. The group reminisced on childhoods in the area that were safe and walkable, with an emphasis on outdoor play and freedom.

Activity 2: The second activity (“Community Brainstorm”) tasked attendees to list issues and opportunities related to three categories:

- Housing and Neighborhoods.

- Retail and other Commercial Uses.
- Transportation.

Once these issues and opportunities were listed, tables of attendees were tasked with sharing, discussing, and prioritizing the lists. The tables then shared their priorities to the larger group.

Feedback from Attendees

Activity 1, Values from Memories

- Open Space.
- Natural Areas.
- Safe, walkable neighborhoods.
- Hiking.
- Clean Air.
- Access to the beach and other areas.
- Playing in San Dimas Wash.
- Smells of orange groves and strawberry fields.
- Walking to nearby canyons (Azusa Canyon).
- Fishing near the Santa Fe Dam.
- Feeling of safety in neighborhoods, even at night.
- Places for dogs to play.
- Getting together with families and neighbors.
- View of the mountains.

Activity 2, Priority Issues and Opportunities

- Housing and Neighborhoods
 - Homelessness
 - Use county facilities to provide services (including mental health).
 - Have resource fairs to help the homeless.
 - Improve services for the homeless, take a taskforce approach.
 - Have compassion for the homeless.
 - Integrate the homeless into society.
 - Connect the homeless to their families.
 - Deal with RVs parked in neighborhoods.
 - More safety in public spaces.
 - Improve zoning code enforcement. Use cities such as the City of Commerce as an example.
 - Ensure safe access to homes, and safety in public spaces.
 - Listen to wider group of people, not just interest groups.
 - More affordable housing.
 - Convert motels to supportive housing.
 - Increase density, make it fit with community character.
 - Improve safety and public health.
 - More community input and empowerment.
 - Septic tank areas should get sewer lines.



- Build better infrastructure for housing and growth.
- More Community centers.
- Retail and other Commercial Uses
 - Street vending is a common occurrence, causes an impact on “brick and mortar” stores.
 - Develop more job opportunities.
 - Need smaller markets that are accessible by walking.
 - More coworking spaces and coffee shops.
 - Improve retail buildings are worn.
 - Incentivize facelifts to commercial areas to make them nicer.
 - Tenant need to clean up and improve their building aesthetics.
 - Quality retail, no cookie cutter development, involve the community.
 - centralize retail so that it is walkable.
- Transportation
 - Taking the bus is a challenge.
 - Bike lanes are underutilized.
 - School buses are helpful for students to get to school safely, and can decrease traffic congestion.
 - Increase safety in key transportation areas, like bus stops.
 - Fix potholes and improve street maintenance.
 - Conflict between bike lanes and road congestion.
 - More infrastructure for bikes and scooters.
 - Safe walking trails.
 - Repair sidewalks, and add new ones.
 - Access to community areas.
 - Safer streets near schools. Locate schools in the community, not on busy streets.
 - decrease transportation congestion.
 - Regulate parking in residential areas.
 - Appropriate shading and lighting on Gladstone.
 - More transit access.
 - Cars are constantly parked illegally.

Attendees: Approximately 50 people attended, with representation from a variety of communities in the East San Gabriel Valley.