

**Community Visioning Workshop  
Pamela Park, South Monrovia Islands  
October 12, 2023 5:30-7pm**

**LA County Planning staff present:** Katrina Castaneda, Mi Kim, James Drevno, Evan Sensibile, Jolee Hui, Jorge Ramos, Marla Rodriguez, Lauren De La Cruz, Ed Rojas

Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish interpreters available.

**Meeting Notes**

LA County Planning organized the meeting to share information on the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan and to gather feedback from residents of South Monrovia Islands.

The workshop included a mix of presentations and interactive activities. LA County Planning staff presented an overview of urban planning, an introduction to the WSGVAP, and information about South Monrovia Islands, as well as general preliminary strategies and goals for the plan.

Three activities seeking resident feedback were worked into the presentation: The first activity was based around sharing favorite memories and places. The second activity tasked participants with reimagining community change. The third activity involved identifying specific community assets, opportunities, and concerns.

**ACTIVITY 1 – Community Values**

The first activity “Favorite Place Memory” specifically asked attendees to recall a favorite place or activity from childhood, or any point in their lives, to share as a basis to learn what the community values. A small group discussion occurred with an opportunity to share with the larger room.

Most of the shared ‘favorite memories’ were of childhood memories playing. Outdoors, this meant skateboarding (with the streets and parks functioning as a playground); camping and swimming in the San Gabriel Mountains; or horseback riding at Sunset Stables. Indoors, this meant attending concerts or playing with other kids at the community center (YMCA) in Monrovia.

**ACTIVITY 2 – Magic Wand and Envisioning Your Commercial District**

The second activity “Magic Wand” asked participants to describe one thing they would change about their community. The second part asked them to envision their local commercial area in 20 years and share what they see. A small group discussion occurred with an opportunity to share with the larger room.

Feedback:

- More community networking, social infrastructure, and friendly neighbors. There are places for children to play (i.e., Pamela Park), but adults need a place to

build community. This could come from park programming or local places for concerts.

- A safe, comfortable streetscape. Currently, they limit their walking because of safety. Their ideas for improvement included adding safe walking paths and more street lighting. Participants noted an uncomfortable walking environment in need of a tree canopy and more greenspace.
- More activated places for kids to play safely throughout the community. Currently, people fear their children going outside. Nearly every participant noted safety as a major issue in South Monrovia Islands. A need for crime prevention and social programs.
- Vibrant small businesses—specifically, not corporate—such as restaurants. Most residents leave the community for entertainment, retail, and recreation.
- Prevention of towering development and high density
- Enforcement of noise ordinances
- More communication from the County
- Justice; that “all men are created equal” is not just a concept
- Preservation of single-family homes
- Stronger community identity

### **ACTIVITY 3 – Stoplight.**

The third activity “Stoplight” asked attendees to identify assets (green), opportunities (yellow), and needs or concerns (red) in the community. After sharing in small groups, participants shared with the larger group.

#### **a. Assets:**

- Pamela Park – most participants agreed this is a major asset to the community. Always activated with kids and well-located in the middle of the neighborhood. One of the participants who grew up in South Monrovia Islands said the formation of the park is an interesting piece of history. They admired the Department of Parks and Recreation’s kid-friendly and family-oriented programming but would like more adult-oriented programming.
- Duarte Park – this was seconded.
- Maxwell Elementary – this was seconded.
- New softball fields near 605 (Kare Youth), sports complex (Irwindale)
- SFR neighborhoods
- Live Oak Library

#### **b. Opportunities for Improvement**

- Flat vacant land could make for great sports fields/recreational areas
- Space for adult-oriented programming such as walking circles
- More green space in the community
- Community gathering spaces
- Live Oak Ave – establish clinics, cafes—independent places.
- Less density

- More community involvement
- More parking
- Safe transit/more accessible transit
- Housing in scale of the neighborhood. Cheaper housing and affordable housing
- More law enforcement and community policing – this was echoed by all attendees.
- Improve the lights; they are too dim. Brighten the streets on Maydee and Flagstone.
- Need the ability to preserve significant buildings and architecture
- Renovate and upgrade areas of the playground.
- Maxwell Elementary– open the field for exercise daily.
- Longden Park is limited to only the surrounding area.
- All the schools need upgrades.

**c. Issues/Concerns:**

- Too much housing (large, towering [5 stories on Live Oak & Center Street], out of scale), not enough parking – this sentiment was echoed by most.
- Short term rentals (near Longden/Mayflower) ruin community character; the laws for Airbnb.
- Non-representative decision-making
- Bad transit access – there is a major need for quicker, safer, more direct transit.
- Safety - this sentiment was echoed by most.
  - Residential
  - Parks
  - Transit
  - Bikes
- Cannabis concerns, including illegal dispensaries along Live Oak Ave
- County needs to hear the Town Council's voice
- Felberg Street in unincorporated Duarte – between Maydee and Joella
- El Sur Street in unincorporated Duarte – just west of Mountain Avenue
- Demolition of church for 5-story mixed-use building
- Goodall Street in unincorporated Duarte – between Euclid and Pamela Park
- Investment is typically put into cities and not the unincorporated areas.