

Goals and Objectives Workshop Notes

Summary

Overview

During the second workshop in Joshua Tree, community members used Post-It Notes to develop and prioritize goals and objectives that they felt best represented the future direction of Joshua Tree. These goals and objectives were informed by the values and aspirations developed during the previous workshop. The bullet points listed below have been grouped according to “goal” and “objective” and will serve as a base to define future goal and objective statements.

Workshop 2 Goals and Objectives Notes

Goal: Keep the rural character and environmental focus of the community

- No gated communities
- No industrial scale solar projects in Joshua Tree
- Focus on lifting locals out of poverty using environmental training
- Have paid internship for eco-work for low income youth
- Create an environment of respect for local eco-systems
- Create lighting ordinance to preserve dark skies
- Retain artisanal and cultural flair
- Promote establishment of the National Conservation and Historical Reserve (NCHR)
- Be recognized as a “transition town” i.e. international movement and part of transition U.S.
- Be known as THE gateway to the Joshua Tree National Park
- Keep a harmonious vibe of peace, spaciousness and community activities to bring diverse people together

Goal: Preserve the natural beauty of the desert eco-system in Joshua Tree

- Protection of wildlife corridors
- Preserve open spaces and protect natural flora and fauna
- Designate a tortoise rescue preserve
- Create a native plant preservation plan that is a very strict native plants ordinance with fines for disturbing them
- Connect existing open spaces with protected federal lands
- Preserve the existing natural landscape
- No mass grading or scraping for land pad development
- Long term economic health is dictated by the quality of the natural landscape
- Enforce starry night ordinance and fine people with illegal lighting
- Require all County/residential facilities to have lighting in compliance with ID-A guidelines
- Anyone who is going to move Joshua trees for development should pay a fee that will be reimbursed if the transplant is successful after 2 years

Goal: Increased community recreational facilities and opportunities

- Add a dog park in Joshua Tree Village

- Develop community cultural center
- Create more activity based attractions venues such as music
- Create a trail system connecting downtown with the surrounding open spaces and communities
- Create bicycle and pedestrian friendly trails
- Nurture culture and create DIY events and spaces
- Create an open space event center
- Embrace public art through creation of murals

Goal: Responsible residential development consistent with rural character

- Create and open space rural living zone – revisit development code
- Create vacation rental ordinance and enforce it
- Designate that only primary residents (residents living full-time in Joshua Tree) can operate vacation rentals
- Have TOT benefit Joshua Tree infrastructure or other needs
- County buildout is not realistic and should be cut to one-third of current projection (around 30,000) in order to limit growth
- Smart, sustainable low-density development
- Limit multi-family buildings to triplexes or duplexes
- Do not change rural residential living zoning
- Support responsible tourist hosting through Airbnb and second homes
- Allow growth to support community financially
- No home lots/parcels under 1 acre

Goal: Appropriate and targeted commercial development consistent with rural character

- Promote small sized local businesses
- Make it easier (simplify permitting process) for small businesses to come in and build
- Cater to tourism related businesses and expand visitor opportunities
- No formula retail
- Streamline business start-up planning and permitting for local small businesses
- Create a vibrant downtown in Joshua Tree village with more restaurants, a bakery, cafes, galleries, crafts shops, etc.
- Slow commercial growth
- Large parcels should not be divided into smaller than 5 acres
- Allow higher density and mixed use development in the downtown area only
- Create a specific plan for the downtown area to guide responsible development
- Accommodate a variety of lodging types including vacation rentals, small motels, and efforts for a midsize hotel
- Create a downtown business improvement district (BID)
- Attract investors that match the values of the community
- Developments should only clear space needed for the building and drive aisles/parking, not entire lot
- Container art shopping center
- Allow medical marijuana dispensaries in Joshua Tree
- Western themed building code for downtown commercial

Goal: Create land use control within the community

- Greater local control of land use and zoning
- Create land use agency for and in Joshua Tree
- No off-road vehicle use within Joshua Tree Community boundary
- Financial County partnering (grants)
- Building and safety open more than one day a week with more than one inspector for projects from Morongo Valley to the Arizona border
- Vacation Rental ordinance and enforcement
- Save the airport and repurpose the structure as a community center
- No large industrial scale projects
- County planning should be neutral on all projects
- Less industrial solar
- All projects should refer to the Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities report
- Land must be documented prior to alteration/development and after to ensure that plants are unharmed
- Tailor city parking requirements to meet rural desert needs
- Do not change hunting ordinances to accommodate AirBnb's near BLM land

Goal: Improve community services

- Support a Veterans Administration clinic
- Create more community service opportunities for youth
- Zero waste demonstration program
- Open north Joshua Tree fire station
- Joshua Tree must have own MAC to deal with local issues

Goal: Improve educational quality and availability

- Permaculture education
- Improve the library

Goal: Increase police presence to make the community feel safer

- Increase full-time sheriff
- Increase safety at downtown businesses
- Law enforcement should tag illegal dumping

Goal: Address road infrastructure issues to make them more usable and safer

- Take measures to reduce speeds on roads
- Improve pedestrian access in the Joshua Tree village
- Pave the unpaved roads in Joshua Tree Village
- Prevent health issues by reducing dust on roads
- Maintain dirt roads in the community
- Re-route Highway 62 between Park and Hillview so it goes north of existing highway and creating a walkable downtown neighborhood
- Create viable public transit for people in need
- Build a lighted crosswalk at Sunset and Highway 62
- Restrict vehicular traffic from Park to Hillview to promote walkable neighborhood downtown
- Add bike paths, sidewalks, planted medians, and lighting

- Narrow roadways and decrease speed limits in the downtown area
- Ease parking and road development standards
- Embrace complete streets concepts
- Implement traffic circles instead of traffic lights
- Build a connector bridge over the highway at key arterial roads
- Better off-road signage for restricted areas
- Increase connectivity in downtown Joshua tree across the highway for pedestrians

Goal: Create a water infrastructure system to best use available resources

- Encourage and promote water conservation
- Growth tied to realistic land water resources
- County needs to issue a commercial production well permit until state drought mandated conservation of 2028

Goal: Increase community infrastructure related to the National Park

- Needs more community parking to handle 2 million visitors and Joshua Tree Visitors Center patrons
- Develop adequate lodging for millions of visitors that travel to Joshua Tree National Park
- Allow for Airbnb if they are monitored

Goal: Increase medical facilities in the community

- Build state of the art health care facilities

Goal: Increase educational opportunities in the community

- Create a University of San Bernardino satellite courses or campus at Copper Mountain Community College
- Job training opportunities for teens

Goal: Incorporate as a town

Goal: Uphold the goals and policies of the existing Joshua Tree Community Plan

- Create avenues to maintain the values that the community has made clear

