

Week One Workshop Summary

Overview

The first Homestead Valley Communities Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on September 12, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Johnson Valley Improvement Association Community Center. The meeting consisted of an informational PowerPoint presentation by San Bernardino County Land Use Services (LUS) and Michael Baker International, and several interactive exercises, including a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, a Values and Aspirations discussion, and the drafting of preliminary Goals and Objectives. The SWOT and Values and Aspirations are presented as written by workshop attendees. Changes were made to remove specific names, titles or inappropriate comments or to simplify a comment.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Neighbors
- We live here
- Engaged
- Strong community
- That we have a community plan
- Rural setting quiet
- Clean air
- Open spaces
- Peace & quiet
- Scenic
- View shed
- Immediate access to recreation opportunities
- Dark skies
- Wildlife
- OHV opportunities
- Freedom
- Saturday breakfast for residents & visitors
- Community center volunteers
- Formal line of communication
- Airport
- Rural area normally quiet
- Wildlife
- Close community
- Scenery
- Open vistas
- Starry nights
- Wildflowers & formal desert garden
- Scenic Highway 247
- Dynamite views
- Night Skies
- No piped water!
- Historic places
- OHV recreation opportunities
- Home brew
- People are independent and for the most part secure in life without government assistance
- Self-reliance
- Strong neighbor loyalty
- Limited dependence on government
- Native American
- Historic sites & places of significance
- Historical Archive of Johnson Valley
- Johnson Valley improvement association
- Old Woman Springs & ranching history
- We are over-regulated with our kitchen
- Building codes are out of touch
- Home of our local school board present
- Landers Elementary School
- Landers Post Office
- Open spaces
- Dark skies
- Sunsets & rises
- Landers has water
- Affordability
- 10% cooler than Palm Springs
- Dark skies – get rid of so called “personal security” white lights
- Sunsets & sunrises
- Wildlife
- Solitude
- Keep bikers safe on community roads
- Proximity to Joshua Tree National Park, sand to snow mountain and Pioneertown Mountains Preserve
- People
- Scenic 247

- Activities: Giant rock, integration, Johnson Valley OHV area
- Rural lifestyle
- Artistic culture
- Culture
- Nature/environment
- Night sky
- Clean air
- Quiet
- Small business locally owned & operated

Weaknesses

- No voice with County
- County not paying attention to our needs
- Outside Politics: County, State, Feds
- Severely disadvantage no aware they have a voice
- Small community
- Small voice
- Roads CSA
- No adequate networks, media, etc.
- Slow police response time
- More emergency such as Fire and Sheriff's Department
- Robberies
- Dumping
- No disposal plan
- No enforcement
- Illegal dumping
- Need Scenic Highway designation for SR 247
- Aging community with limited local resources
- Current government policies make the desert less attractive to the next generation of potential residents
- Lack of rural standards
- Government enforces "city codes"
- Misguided hauled water policy
- Insufficiently staff code enforcement
- Bring back the fire truck to Joshua Valley
- Lower our fire insurance
- Unmanned Fire State #43
- Misguided hauled water policy
- Sheriff's response time
- Fire response time
- Current misguided hauled water policy that do not allow personal property improvement
- Drugs – pot – meth – vandals

- Johnson Valley no pressurized water
- Inadequate response time for sheriff's/fire
- Lack of street signs
- Inadequate coverage from Sheriff's department 45 minutes to 1 ½ hour response time
- Illegal dumping code enforcement (slow)
- Inadequate roads and poor at suggestions
- Illegal dumping
- Inadequate roads
 - No more constant grading
 - Need repair
 - Need improvement
 - \$ don't make sense, okay to pay but to fix not just grade
- Slow & expensive internet
- Water: expensive, not service to all
- Electric power outages
- Poor secondary road maintenance
- No independent revenue sources
- Zoning and permits for new business is challenging
- Lack of good restaurants
- No identity of Homestead Valley outside of area
- Residential vs. commercial zoning
- Remodeling permits from County 2 days per week
- County zoning requirements inappropriate for area

Opportunities

- Tourism
- Hiking
- New National Monument Sand to Snow
- Renewed investment in real estate (fixing properties)
- Weekender recreation
- Point-of-use solar renewable energy
- Partial manning of fire station
- Less restrictions, and fees
- More law enforcement
- Small independent business opportunity
- Lower taxes, fees and licenses for the community associations so they can remain the center & heart of community
- Scenic Highway 247
- Protect the area's open use designation
- Gun store
- Neighborhood watch



- Paved airport
- Solar on rooftops
- Free recyclable
- Develop and build a “Brand” identity
- Need signage showing Homestead Valley – one at south end of 247 one at north of 247
- Something to be a leader in:
- Encourage cultural events & activities
- Capitalize on Giant Rock (UFO’s) and integration
- Outdoor events “concerts in the park” etc.
- Tours of area – museum to show the whole Homestead concept
- Encourage some small business:
 - Good food
 - Hardware
 - Off road related
- Celebrate the environment
- Improve Homestead Park

Threats

- Subdivision
- Too many Airbnb vacation homes
- No phone service in some areas internet
- Light pollution
- Expanding Marine Base (Officers’ quarters)
- DRECP
- Solar farms
- County deciding where solar goes not community
- Industrial scale solar variances over community plan
- Industrial projects
- Rattlesnakes Mojave Green Diamondback
- Flash floods
- Access to medical services
- Off roaders on private land
- Drugs Marijuana & others (meth)
- Off road vehicles

- County putting signs on private property OHV
- Illegal dumping
- Big box stores
- Industrial renewable energy
- Exporting local resources
- Too many government – mandated burdens
- Local government has limited interest in the wants, needs & input from residents
- Burglars
- Too much government regulations
- Resistance to understanding of the importance of open recreation areas.
- Hiking – OHV – geology exploration
- Government does not outreach to HVCC for critical community decisions
- Development we do not have the water
- County – increased cost
- Sneaky solar
- Powerline & windmills
- Inappropriate off-roading
- Open spaces
- No people
- Industrial solar farms
- Large commercial project i.e. solar farms
- Annexation and taxation of Yucca Valley (especially Yucca Mesa and Flamingo Heights)
- Littering and disrespect
- Weekenders disrespect area
- Uncoordinated and hodgepodge commercialization along 247 corridor
- Outsized residential projects
- No C.O.P. or minimal
- Drug labs
- Drugs, squatters
- Squatters



Values and Aspirations

Values

- Rural living
- Open spaces
- Rural living/open space
- Peace & quiet
- I know my neighbors
- No traffic
- Live and let live
- Independence
- Freedom to live the way we want diversity
- We grade our own roads
- Dirt roads
- Off road opportunity
- We have wildlife
- Living close to/in nature
- Stewards of the environment
- Rural neighborliness
- Open spaces
- Beautiful sunrises & sunsets
- Beautiful views
- Night skies
- Clean air
- No smog
- Starry skies
- Soft feeling air
- Open space
- Conserving water always
- Exploring the desert
- Wise use of natural resources without government mandates
- Rugged individualism
- Peace & quiet
- Light traffic
- Not many people
- Simple living while being productive citizens
- Independence
- Peacefulness
- Privacy
- Value our vets!
- Protecting the American dream
- We value our 2nd Amendment rights
- Our freedom
- Rodeo
- Privacy
- Community center
- Resourceful
- Horizon views

- Community gateways
- No CC&R's
- Freedom
- Friendly people
- Space
- Variety of economic abilities
- Artistic culture
- Maintain individuality
- Helpful people
- Alternative lifestyle "any lifestyle"
- Ability to "live off the grid"

Aspirations

- To keep it rural
- Keep it quiet
- Keep dirt roads
- 247 Scenic Highway
- No expansion of 247
- Public transportation at some level for Johnson Valley
- Want population to continue to decline
- More younger people to move in to keep the community going
- DG not industrial re: road map
- Hauled water
- Protection of our water sources
- County code should agree with State law
- Better relationship with BLM
- Better internet service
- To be President of Johnson Valley Jim Hanley
- Rooftop solar for every home
- Open the firehouse in Johnson Valley
- Preserve our rural way of life
- Retain our rural character
- Transportation for seniors to Yucca Valley
- Care system to keep seniors at home
- County consultant community plan before okaying permits for real estate
- Energy efficiency for community center
- To be able to hike the trails at 90 years old
- Water co-op to replace bureaucratic waste of the larger water agencies
- Regulations appropriate to the size & scope of the community & community centers
- Attracting more residents with same values
- More familiar with kids
- Return of the cooling center



- More local presentation
 - More effective road solution
 - State Route 247 at scenic highway
 - Jobs
 - Get rid of or cleanup unsightly cabins, etc.
 - Attract like-minded people to area
 - Scenic 247!!!
 - Community event(s) to cleanup specific areas
 - More community organizations
- Natural outdoor amphitheater concerts, etc.
 - Better relationship with marines
 - More identity of Homestead Valley outside of immediate area
 - Scenic Highway 247 architecture
 - Reduce litter
 - Amphitheater
 - Rest area with picnic tables
 - Restrooms & information kiosk



Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Retain Rural Lifestyle.

- Objective: Adopt rural standards.
- Objective: Retain existing minimum lot size.
- Objective: Protect dark skies.
- Objective: Accountability to community policies.

Goal 2: Better Access to Medical Services.

- Objective: Transportation to medical facilities.
- Objective: Local medical services.

Goal 3: Allow Hauled Water.

Goal 4: Better Communication with County.

- Objective: Access to information (i.e. BLM website).
- Objective: Utilize MAC & HVCC.
- Objective: Information dissemination to local groups.
- Objective: Education on how County functions.
- Objective: Commitment from County to better communicate.

Goal 5: Stop Industrial Scale Centralized Solar Wind Projects within the Community.

- Objective: Designate Highway 247 as a Scenic Highway.
- Objective: County should embrace point of use renewable energy paradigm.
- Objective: Quit CUP's. Abide by the current zoning.

Goal 6: Maintain our Rural Lifestyle.

- Objective: Reverse the unwritten discriminatory hauled water policy.
- Adopt localized rural standards.
- Remove/fight SRA tax.
- SRA tax refer to Howard Harris comments.

Goal 7: Elderly & Adult Transportation Services.

- Objective: MBTA add a transit line to Johnson Valley.

Goal 8: Internet Services.

Goal 9: Better Emergency Response Time.

- Objective: Update roads in GIS/GPS.
- Objective: Street signs.
- Objective: Better road surfaces (dirt)
- Objective: Addressing properties.

Goal 10: Educate Residents (new/old) on Lifestyle.

- Objective: Outdoor lighting.
- Objective: Off road etiquette.
- Objective: Respecting the environment.



Goal 11: Spring Cleanup (regular).

Goal 12: Advocate for Codes and Standards that are more befitting the Desert Community.

Goal 13: Better Communication and Relationship with San Bernardino County.

Goal 14: Organize Regular/Bi-Annual Community Clean-up Days.

Goal 15: Create a brand identity for Homestead Valley.

Goal 16: Maintain rural, desert lifestyle.

Goal 17: Make it affordable to develop in Homestead Valley.

Goal 18: Promote the unique artistic culture of the area.

