

Week One Workshop Summary

Overview

The first Yermo Community Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on December 1st, 2016 from 6 – 8:30pm at the Yermo Community Services District. 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

- Calico County Park – part of Yermo? Yes
- Access to desert outdoor activities (OHV, off road, trails)
- History – Marine Base, Rainbow Basin Historic Area
- Land Values – Affordable
- Weather goes around (fishbowl), protects Yermo
- Deep family connections, community = family
- New CSD Board bringing community together
- Strong school system
- Firm foundation for development
- No streetlights – clear skies
- Quiet, peaceful, calm
- Long-term residents/old timers
- Potential
- Good food (burger den, every rest.)
- Location
- Accessible
- Central location
- Access to outdoor desert activities
- Rural
- Highway access
- Land value
- Old timers

Weaknesses

- Remoteness to other communities, unable to access Barstow
- Lack of transportation, buses come (2x/day), unreliable
- Staffing for emergency services
- Unreliability of internet/telephone services due to high winds (makes it worse)
- Dilapidated buildings/abandoned buildings
- Homeless
- Low-income
- Lack of available County services
- Spread out community
- Awareness of local government
- Lack of activities for kids, youth, teenagers, outdoor/recreation
- Community garden
- Loss of Girl Scouts, baseball team
- Too much reliance on traveling to Barstow
- Loss of leadership
- Lack of active Sheriff presence & patrolling
- Blight

Opportunities

- More streetlights
- Good, buildable land
- Local museum, community center, travel
- To have a gym
- Tourism travelers

- Rebuilding future community
- Community family fun center (workshops, community garden available spaces for services, etc.)
- Blight abatement team, quarterly clean-up with donated hauling equipment, volunteers
- Work with County on selected processes (help w/abandoned properties)
- Snowflake & Taylor Arizona/quaint areas
- Repurpose gas stations & structures
- Volunteer citizens on patrol
- Visibility of safety, security, neighborhood watch
- Rodeo
- Carnival, parades, community events
- Organizations (American Legion) to re-engage image churches

Threats

- Drugs
- Vandalism
- Visitors, passersby, transient population
- Arson
- Known as dumping ground (animals, trash)
- Closure of dump, need to drive Barstow
- Reliance on services at Barstow
- Lack of emergency management plan
- Antiquated equipment
- Fire staff coverage
- Proximity from highway
- Proximity to Marine Base
- Transportation of hazardous material from rail & highway
- Safety with the use of skate park

Values and Aspirations

Values

- Safety
- Community depth of, family-oriented
- Diversity
- Multi-generational households. Family friends for years. People know one another
- Faith-based, strong

Aspirations

- Clean
- Safe
- People on way to Vegas want to stop here

- E.G. Radiator Springs (cars movie)
- Community pool
- More activities for people to do
- Make community a place where our kids want to live (inviting thriving neighborhood)
- Business (e.g. vocational, casino)
- Available jobs
- Training (car care, trades)
- Public transportation, local Uber
- A big tourist attraction for Yermo and Calico

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Establish community garden ties in history (Calico, Mojave River, Agricultural)

- Use in farmer market, local stores
- Potential use of school for garden (Fred Sanders Sports Park)

Goal: Increase youth activities

- Community pool
- Gym, health

Goal: FFA (Future Farmers of America) Program

- Save bees, beekeeping, community apiaries

Goal: Strengthen Economy & Local Job Opportunities

- Casino

Goal: Establish rodeo grounds & dude ranches

- Recruit volunteers & new leaders

Goal: Establish/enhance emergency service & plan

- Better fire/equipment & staffing police

Goal: Beautification of community

- Local blight abatement

Goal: Become a tourist stop/destination

- Take advantage of Calico

Goal: Better community involvement & pride

Goal: Build upon development (Yermo exit Calico)

Goal: Better public transportation & prominent rest area