

Meeting 1 Workshop Summary

Overview

The first Crest Forest Communities Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on March 2, 2016, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Crest Forest Senior Citizens' Club. The meeting consisted of an informational PowerPoint presentation by San Bernardino County Land Use Services (LUS) and Michael Baker International, an interactive Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis, and an interactive Values and Aspirations discussion.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Lake and recreation facilities (equestrian facilities, hiking)
- Resort community – nice local motels
- Affordable and attractive resort area
- Tourism potential due to close proximity to local cities
- Vacant homes have potential for seasonal workers housing
- Good businesses districts in Crestline, Uptown Lake Gregory, Valley of Enchantment (small businesses)
- Beautiful place to live and visit
- San Moritz Lodge
- Variety of businesses (Goodwins)
- Resilient and adaptable community
- Forest preserve area between Valley of Enchantment, Cedar Pines Park, Silverwood and Crestline
- Community publications
- Library
- Crestline sanitation district (board room)
- Valley of Enchantment – Mutual water company
- Community organizations and non-profits
- Small town community support - generous and caring people/neighbors
- Resourceful community
- Individualism of the residents (strong opinion)
- Commitment to local causes
- Larger residential lots, remoteness
- Seasons (rain, snow, summer)
- Scenic views
- Roads are plowed by Community Service Association
- Crestline sanitation district returned to local control
- Churches
- Historic locations (temple, mayloft, etc.)
- Camp Mozumdar (spiritual area)
- Commercial needs met (grocery, restaurants, stores)
- New growth and development
- Retired County staff residing in area – understands process
- Library – activities and community
- Senior center – meals, transportation
- Low traffic and congestion on roads
- Commuter friendly (mileage from San Bernardino)
- Recreation
 - Lake Gregory
 - Trail system
- Natural characteristics – Mountains, Completely surrounded by San Bernardino National Forest, and ~46% of land within planning area is forest.
- Community Events
- Community design in line with mountain location
- County Parks

Weaknesses

- Lack of control of lake and facilities
- Resort community that can't develop further because of County ordinances/permitting
- Costs too much to try to implement new ideas with current County fees – number of agencies to get through and extensive time needed
- Limited restaurants
- Need more higher paying jobs
- Not enough hotels, limited accommodations
- Blight (burned down building not fenced off or attended to for months, store facades need to be enhanced)
- Limited medical facilities
- Residents are adverse to change or modernizing
- Lack of common business core with identity (appearance, parking, variety)
- Fire hazards (dead trees not being cleared)
- Problems created by too many agencies
- Not getting dredging done in a timely manner
- High cost of County service
- Lots of trash, poor aesthetics
- Code enforcement ruining the natural environment
- Signage that doesn't look good and isn't maintained
- Poor condition of some roads
- Adverse weather
- High water and sewer costs because of low population and aging infrastructure
- Drug/substance abuse and transients
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Reduction in school enrollment
- Limited number of full-time residents limits ability to obtain funding/share costs
- Poor demographics – fewer youth and families
- Petty crime (arrest/release program)
- Limited parks (less opportunity for youth recreation/sports)
- Too many people sent up here by the County without support services
- County is out of touch with how residents live in mountain setting
- Unsuitable codes halting development in the area
- Fragmented services (e.g., water districts)
- Too many tax dollars taken
- Not enough sheriffs
- Theater is unusable due to inapplicable County codes that don't fit the area
- Lack of County funds
- Lack of local control – Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) doesn't hear issues anymore
- Ball park closed to make room for RV park by lake
- Beautiful school building not being used
- Vacant school sights
- Clean up lava rock, trash in the area in general
- Lack of respect for local residents by visitors
- Lack of sidewalks (safety issue)
- Lack of parking in residential areas
- Parking costs in many places
- High ozone levels
- No jobs for youth
- Lack of businesses in town
- Lack of Chamber support for businesses
- Lack of cohesive look/feel to “downtown”
- Cleanliness, dirty streets, town
- Community dollars not utilized to address community needs
- Pedestrian/cyclist/automobile safety (no shoulder on roads)
- Lack of activities/events/kid classes put on by Rim of the World Parks and Recreation District, none currently in Crestline
- Lack of County enforcement – follow through
- County offices and services are not in the area – in San Bernardino

- Walkscores from 1 to 33, indicating little to no walkability
- No bicycle facilities
- Lack of access to healthy food
- Hospitalization rates for diabetes and emergency room admittance rates for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and hypertension exceeds state median

Opportunities

- Proximity to major urban areas
- Tourism activities (water sports at lakes, National Forest) – County advertisement of local attractions to drive tourism
- Find a way to have local control of the lake
- Move County down the hill (less County involvement)
- Work with Small Business Administration and Chamber of Commerce to get new businesses in downtown
- Free movie night at Lake Gregory
- Open a movie theater or re-open the movie house and update
- Farmer’s Market
- YMCA – closed school location
- Increase night life – amphitheater for community (need financing)
- Create a way to share events and activities
- Add a free trolley service
- Create a theater group (arts)
- Senior and child mentorship
- Consider incorporating RIM communities and break away from the County
- County AQMD, Fish & Game, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Protect endangered plants and animals
- Get rid of unrealistic and restrictive regulations (that restrict ability to develop and grow)
- RV/Camping accommodations
- Restore the Cliffhanger – could have been a museum
- More tourist accommodations
- Public restrooms and maintenance near shopping and recreation areas
- Outside investment to improve community’s infrastructure
- Baseball field in Valley of Enchantment
- Add more adult education opportunities
- Grants and investments from foundations
- Development of jobs in tech industry and home employment
- Education incentives for youth and minorities
- More parks for kids to play
- Corporate mentorships to guide small businesses and educators towards goals
- Co-operation/integration between the mountain communities
- County support for local businesses (business district specific plan with low interest or renewal funding)
- Protect the community from big corporate businesses
- A berry festival to attract tourists
- Form Lake Gregory recreation company
- More developed areas for off-road activities (jeeping, dirt bikes, and hiking)
- Keep Dart Canyon as an agricultural zone, keep lot sizes at more than 3 acres
- Add trash cans and cigarette butt cans to deter litter
- Put thermometers down the hill to inform people of better climates in Lake Gregory
- VFW is an asset
- Support for community events
- Increase availability of public parking
- Alternative transportation grants
- Lack of community infrastructure (insufficient parking, public restrooms, safe crosswalks, lighting)
- Create a documentary/movie of history of the area
- Educational tours and web links for forest communities

- Overlay of zoning for tourism and rebuilding and improvements of existing buildings (restore old buildings before adding new ones)
- Increased revenue capture of tourist activities
- Take advantage of major access routes (SR – 18 and SR – 38)
- Trails system being designed by San Bernardino County Trails and Greenways Committee, Regional Parks Advisory Commission, and Regional Parks Division.

Threats

- County out of touch with how the community functions
- Better East of County services, planning, building, and safety
- County regulations/code enforcement of rules that do not apply to mountain area
- Complication (the process and resources needed to get something done)
- Planning and building and safety regulations that are inconsistent with the unusual characteristics of mountain areas
- Inability to hold community events
- Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) board has no power – loss of local review/control
- Relationship with the surrounding communities (Lake Arrowhead)
- Need to turn control of parks and recreational district to community, not mountain wide
- Competition from higher profile unincorporated areas
- Continuity – lack of institutional memory affects long range plan execution
- Sharing a school district with Lake Arrowhead (friction between kids)
- Homeless populations, drug use, crime
- Inability to utilize commercial property that no longer conforms to current zones
- Lack of industrial area
- Too many parking regulations
- County zoning that does not recognize mountain uniqueness
- Poor phone and television service
- Rising cost of home insurance making cost of living too high or being dropped by insurance companies because of a high-risk area
- Lack of home mail delivery
- Low property values – less property taxes to pay for services
- Inflation – decrease buying power of residents
- Distance to hospitals and services
- Patrol and cleaning of the dried sewer bed in back of Sleepy Hollow
- Access to public transit (Metrolink)
- Lack of community government and services (inability to communicate problems)
- Area singled out for fire tax (loss of Crest Forest Fire Company)
- Difficulty in generating outside investment given the “small” business mentality
- Never ending dam project
- Flight pattern
- General populous is not informed in time to oppose bad changes
- Repurposing of buildings (Mary Tone school into a community center, not drug rehab center)
- Lack of police enforcement and presence
- Townies and tweakers – petty crimes committed by addicts (thefts)
- County workers sending welfare recipients to live in order to extend benefits
- Parolees, halfway houses sent by government and courts
- Sheriffs inability to house or transport criminals – cited and let go
- Some rude/disrespectful visitors/tourists
- Short term rentals – stress infrastructure and services

- Compliance with general laws (e.g., handicap accessibility in older buildings)
- Diminished school population
- Drought/fire/storms – natural disasters – inability to react accordingly
- Increased ozone levels impacting the forest

- Deterioration of parks due to loss of CSA 18 full and part time employees
- Bike safety areas
- Inclement weather
- Wildfire
- Earthquakes
- Economic impacts to tourism industry

Values and Aspirations

Values

- Uniqueness and small town feel/atmosphere
- Quiet, peaceful, and natural surroundings – open areas
- Family affordable destination – offers camping, fishing, exposure to nature
- Self-sufficiency (financially sound)
- Community involvement – sense of community
- Volunteers and good community groups/activities (compassionate)
- Still has trees, lake, open spaces between Valley of Enchantment, Crestline, Cedar Pines Park, Lake Silverwood, and Twin Peaks
- Inspired by a collective community vision
- Team work of neighbors

Aspirations

- Maintain mountain quality of life
- Lake Gregory as an advertised family destination
- More and cheaper access and activities at Lake Gregory
- Community open area for events in the downtown area
- Become an art community
- Community with an organized theme
- Viable local community with home-grown businesses
- A collective consistency and appeal as a district helping create a higher level of customer draw
- A safe town to walk through and enjoy
- Become a City or have less interference by the County
- More activities for families (ice skating, mini golf, horseback riding, ball park, etc.)
- Fewer criminals sent by courts
- Educational opportunities
- Community pride, care, employment
- Be known as a great resort destination
- Plan to deal with natural disasters/crisis
- Access to safe and locally grown foods
- Accessibility for low income local families to have access to Lake Gregory
- Full-time families return to Crestline



COUNTYWIDE PLAN
Crest Forest Communities Plan