

Meeting 2 Workshop Summary

Values and Aspirations Review

During the second workshop in Joshua Tree, community members were shown values and aspirations segments that they helped develop during the previous workshop. Participants were asked to comment on whether or not each statement was a value or aspiration of the community, not whether or not that particular statement addressed something present or missing in the community currently. The comments listed below have been grouped according to the individual segment that they addressed.

The final community values and aspirations will be statements that express what existing characteristics meeting participants would like to maintain, as well as what they would like to see in their community in the future. These revised segments will be formed into descriptive statements that help to shape the final goals and objectives in the community plan.

Workshop 2 Values Notes

- The natural beauty of the area. (Well Done: 7, Needs Work: 27)
 - Plus wildlife.
 - Too general – more specifics.
 - Open space – wildlife.
 - Including the architecture.
 - Needs more clarity on sustaining natural beauty by valuing natural ecosystems.
 - Too vague. “Beauty” is a matter of perspective as well as “natural”. (Think of foods sold with a “natural” label that are believed to be organic but aren’t. This relates to the false pretenses a word can bring.
 - “.....including the architecture.”
 - Need to talk specifics: wildlife – ecosystems.
 - Dark skies.
 - View sheds & vistas.
 - To vague.
 - Control random OHV use. Noise dust.
 - Wildlife corridors.
 - Better education for owners of vacation rentals - plants & wildlife.
- Visitors from around the world who travel to the Joshua Tree National Park. (Well Done: 7, Needs Work: 19)
 - Protect natural resources.
 - We value tourism \$\$\$.
 - Bring diversity tourist dollars and renown to the town.
 - Talk about the increase in numbers i.e. up 8% in Q1 over last year.
 - Raise park fees to support or add tax to admission.
- The community’s reputation as an educational, artistic, and cultural center. (Well Done: 18, Needs Work: 17)

- Add healthy living.
- Need an educational center that lifts up community with education opportunities.
- Need art & cultural center w/artist studios & live/work space.
- Abundant social amenities and a focus on sustainability and diversity. (Well Done: 7, Needs Work: 20)
 - Open space.
 - Low population density.
 - Dark skies/low light pollution.
 - A responsive code enforcement/law enforcement.
 - There needs to be continuous community dialogue to balance vacation rentals and homeowners needs.
 - Need more street improvements, safe/pedestrian friendly.
 - Lower speed limits along Highway 62.
 - Planted medians – native plant streetscapes.
 - Major landscape scale planning for residential & open space.
 - Trail system for residents.
- The diverse group of local businesses, artists, and personalities who make life in Joshua Tree vibrant. (Well Done: 11, Needs Work: 23)
 - Personalities.
 - Code enforcement on vacation rentals.
 - No dollar general!
 - No Alta Mira development!

Workshop 2 Aspirations Notes

- Set an example for sustainability for the county as a whole. (Well Done: 22, Needs Work: 21)
 - Make Joshua Tree model sustainability community including self-sufficient energy generation.
 - Need to talk about protecting for future generations.
 - Burretec Waste needs to offer recycle bins separately – they do not service some areas or dumpsters w/recycling.
- For future growth in Joshua Tree to maintain the unique fabric of the community. (Well Done: 11, Needs Work: 24)
 - Keep growth low and slow.
 - More emphasis on LGBTQT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered, Queer & Two-Spirited) community aspect.
 - Add by applying the community plan.
 - Develop design standards for new building aesthetics.
 - The existing community Joshua Tree community plan is referenced by County decision makers.
- To serve as a gateway to the natural wonder that is Joshua Tree National Park. (Well Done: 11, Needs Work: 19)
 - Visitor center – Joshua Tree many dirt roads in the Village, why?
 - 2 Million visitors – there is no pedestrian walk, to access across Highway 62.
 - Parking area provided in the Village.
 - And 3 new California desert monuments.
 - Add value to visitors and residents in our role as gateway to Joshua Tree Nation Park.
 - We are not aspiring.

- More interesting small business & eateries/food carts to service visitors – no place for them to spend \$\$.
 - Vacation rentals need to educate the Client who do not respect native plants and wildlife.
 - No vacation rentals no to protected BLM Land.
- Local businesses that provide the resident and the visitor with a unique desert experience. (Well Done: 13, Needs Work: 22)
 - San Bernardino County needs to work on friendlier permitting for small businesses.
 - A unique and sustainable desert experience.
 - Need more sole proprietor businesses.
 - Regulate short rentals e.g. only primary residents can operate one.
- Good access, excellent services, and opportunities that are consistent with the nature of Joshua Tree. (Well Done: 9, Needs Work: 29)
 - Mention Joshua Tree community plan wildlife linkages!
 - Open closed Fire Station in north Joshua Tree.
 - Having a “world class” education system Pre K to 12 and college.
- Additional Notes:
 - Glen Small Architect – Canopy over Joshua Tree Downtown & 2-Pedestrian Bridges.

Goals and Objectives Brainstorming

During the second workshop in the Joshua Tree community, 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.

The final community goals will be succinct statements that express the community’s desire to achieve their aspirations. A brief narrative for each goal will be provided in the future that describes the goal in more detail. This narrative will include both the County’s and the community’s role in implementing the goal.

Under each goal statement, objectives brainstormed by the community and refined by the team will be written with a measurable outcome and a target timeframe for implementation. These objectives will be oriented toward local implementation actions rather than topics, goals, and policies addressed through the Countywide Plan.

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 build out 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

Goal Prioritization

After participants brainstormed goals and objectives, all of the identified goals were posted on the wall. Participants were given a set number of sticky dots that represented where they would spend their resources. They could place the dots on any of the goals they felt should be the highest priority. The results of prioritization are as follows:

Goal	Prioritization
Provide and enhance connectivity for north and south	1
Protect rural character and culture	15
Promote environmental sensitivity and preserve open space	20
Improve public safety throughout Joshua Tree	8
Support local small businesses	13
Improve land use control to support a small rural lifestyle community	25
Maintain the natural local environment	15
Community build out should be limited under 25,000 people	4
Create a vibrant, safe, dense downtown and maintain the rural character of the surroundings	8
Specific Plan for the downtown area to create a safe and pedestrian friendly environment	6
All projects should refer to the Morongo Basin conservation priorities report	11
Preserve our natural landscapes and eco systems	5
Promote establishment of natural conservation and historical reserve	9

Land Use and Infrastructure Summary

In addition to the community plan, workshop participants were asked to provide feedback on land use and infrastructure issues that would be utilized in the creation of the new Countywide Plan. Participants viewed existing land uses and provided feedback on future land uses through placing comments on sticky notes or drawing on land use map exhibits. In addition, participants also offered written and verbal comments to the meetings facilitators and County staff. The following is a summary of the comments received during the workshop exercise:

Land Use

- 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
- County build out is not realistic and should be one-third of current projection (around 30,000)
- Smart, sustainable low-density development
- Limit multi-family to triplex
- 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 2.5 acres in rural living zone, some residents say no lots under 1.0 acre

- 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 zone with no drive thru fast food
- 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
- Allow medical marijuana dispensaries in Joshua Tree
- Western themed building code for downtown commercial
- No off-road vehicle use within Joshua Tree Community boundary
- Develop adequate lodging for millions of visitors that travel to Joshua Tree National Park
- Allow for AirBnb if they are monitored
- No gated or tract communities anywhere
- Plan for extensive open space and rural living
- Possible industrial solar in outskirts of rural living, some residents want no industrial solar anywhere
- Restriction on fences in rural area for wildlife movement
- Enforce dark skies ordinances
- Use rooftops as solar panel locations
- Additional parking areas for BLM Campers along Enchanted Road
- No land scraping, preserve native plants
- No vehicular traffic section 6
- More restaurants in the downtown area
- Too many short term rentals
- No big box stores or bright lights
- Encourage small lot businesses with rooftop solar
- Create a downtown district
- More village parking needed
- Create/protect wildlife corridors
- No mass grading or scraping for land pad development
- Add a dog park in Joshua Tree Village
- Create a downtown business improvement district (BID)
- Developments should only clear space needed for the building and drive aisles/parking, not entire lot
- Tailor city parking requirements to meet rural desert needs
- Ease parking and road development standards
- Embrace complete streets concepts

Infrastructure

- Take measures to reduce speeds on roads
- Joshua Tree village is currently unsafe for traffic and pedestrian walkers
- 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 makes walking downtown neighborhood
- Create viable public transit for people in need
- Build a lighted crosswalk at Sunset and Highway 62
- No 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
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- Encourage and promote water conservation
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COUNTYWIDE PLAN
Joshua Tree Community Plan