

Week One Workshop Summary

Overview

The first Morongo Valley Community Workshop for the San Bernardino Community Plans Continuum took place on September 14, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Covington Park 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

- Rural Feeling
- Wildlife
- Park
- BMC Preserve
- Dark night
- Night skies
- No light pollution
- Low light
- Very few street lights
- One signal
- Community involvement
- Mountain Views
- Dirt roads
- Protected Lands, BLM wilderness
- Clean air
- Morongo Canyon
- Eclectic Housing Mix
- Skate park
- Minimal noise
- Flora and fauna
- Family values
- A lot of nice people moving in
- Friendly, helpful people
- Morongo Elementary School
- No big box stores
- Rural, no chain stores
- Current businesses
- Store fronts
- Festivals, rent out to others
- No windmills
- Sand to snow
- Softball park
- Kids play area in park
- Maintain park and baseball field
- Dump is very well run
- Covington Park
- Art colony
- Views
- Dark night skies
- Clearer air
- Rural setting
- Moderate weather
- Sand to snow
- Environment
- Low impact from bright lights preserving night skies
- Proximity to larger communities with services (i.e. Palm Springs)
- No high rises
- Large lots
- Welcoming to horse owners and other farm animals
- Horse property
- Rural community
- Peace and quiet
- Friendly community
- Space
- Nature preserve
- CSD Manager
- Animal husbandry
- Agriculture
- We're spread out
- Large lots
- Wild lands
- Strong volunteer groups
- Beautiful park
- Transfer station
- Local business invested in community
- Art community

- Strong water table
- Beautiful scenery
- Gateway to hi-desert
- TV repeater
- Good local food
- Preserve
- Great star gazing at night
- Great Fire Department
- Fire Department

Weaknesses

- Delineators
- Divided Highway
- Slow Police Response
- Need help with police time response
- Law enforcement presence for patrol/prevention
- Community budget
- Budget deficits
- Low tax base
- Need more community activities
- Hunting – we haven't recovered from fire, the animals are sitting ducks
- Trash (illegal dumping)
- Code compliance, trash, non-running vehicles, illegal dumping
- Off-road riding
- Co-existing with wildlife especially around park and preserve
- Off road riders threat
- Water
- Lack of services: doctor, dental, chiropractic, etc.
- Limited water from Big Bear runoff, not in Mojave Water Agency
- Local Community Control (CSD Fire)
- Local Fire and Paramedic service
- Extreme lack of funding availability for community services (i.e. fire, paramedic, park)
- Poor internet connectivity
- Cell phone service
- Infrastructure
- Terrible neighborhood roads
- Many isolated and/or poor residents
- Lack of communication with all residents
- Highway 62 dangerous speeds and no lights
- Highway safety
- Shabby mobile home parks
- Roads
- Dangerous Highway 61!!!!
- Community apathy

- High mineral content
- Water quality
- Lack of kids activities
- Lack of resources
- Fees to do events
- Infrastructure
- Highway divides town
- Lack of family entertainment
- Financially challenged community
- Lack of Police service
- Reserved community

Opportunities

- Provide horse trails
- Equestrian (capitalize)
- Need restaurants
- Capitalize on sand to snow
- Renewable Energy
- Encourage reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Provide recreational activities for children
- Kids programs softball and soccer
- Festivals
- Small family owned business
- 3,000 sq. ft. lots for commercial on highway
- To raise a family
- Nature living
- Expanding enjoyment of B.M. Preserve
- Education for youth – nature – birdwatching
- Growing gardens
- Sand to snow
- Vacation rentals
- Park to be used for increased revenue
- Controlled growth
- Organic farming
- Increase local business involvement in the Community
- Gateway to high desert
- More locally owned business
- Growing local small business

Threats

- Off-road vehicles
- Road ways in and out of Community
- Earthquakes
- Lack of law enforcement presence and patrol
- Response time of Sheriff
- Windmills
- Windmills coming in
- Air pollution crawling in



- Big box development
- Large business
- Development threatening rural lifestyle
- Vacation rentals = threat
- Divided town with delineators
- Localized Radon in water
- Water
- Limited water
- Uranium in County water districts
- Pino & San Andreas faults
- Crime
- Confiscation of land ROW easements
- Light pollution
- High intensity lights from business and homes
- One way in, one way out
- Off road vehicle not zoned for it
- Development near Big Morongo Canyon
Preserve Unregulated vacation rentals
- Dense housing developments
- Unregulated vacation rentals
- Mojave Water Agency intrusion into east Mojave Valley. Will not get water
- Highway 62!!
- Yucca Valley growth
- Big business moving in
- Subdivisions
- Light pollution
- Lack of local control
- High speed limit



Values and Aspirations

Values

- Rural, clean and low crime rate
- Clean air
- Wildlife and desert vegetation
- Small rural communities
- Safety
- Small town community
- Low density
- Park preserve
- Hiking preserve park
- Great City park
- Night Skies
- Softball
- Views low lights
- Slow pace
- Quiet
- Slow pace life
- Quiet
- People support family values
- Low local traffic
- Art inspirations soundings
- Community volunteers
- Variety of house styles, yard and lot sizes
- Peaceful
- Night skies
- Open spaces and views
- Wildlife
- Cooler summer nights
- Covington Park
- Large acreages
- Fire fighters auxiliary
- Raise money
- Community minded
- Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
- CSD Board Volunteers
- Diverse community
- Fire and paramedic service
- Quiet
- Local fire service
- Can see stars
- Cooler temperatures than lower desert
- Large lots
- Open spaces
- Strong volunteers
- Fresh air
- Spacious lots
- Friendly community

- Chivalry is not dead
- Low profile housing and buildings
- Great scenery
- Views
- Horse and live stock
- Wildlife diversity
- Affordable properties

Aspirations

- More law enforcement presence for prevention
- Strong emergency service
- Better leadership
- More mom pop local business
- Remain rural
- Benefit financially via sand to snow
- Less drug culture
- Dedication to park maintenance and support
- More children's programs
- CSD's 5 acres becoming a park as promised
- Trash removal better
- Cleanup and use equestrian area in park (has water)
- High value in large land and open space
- Maintain current density
- Big Morongo Preserve
- "Jewel of the Desert" needs to be protected
- Protection of land: National Monument and Keep large lots
- Market to Palm Springs for park weddings
- More community awareness and involvement
- More community involvement
- More educated kids
- Community works well together on important issues
- Retain local fire/paramedics
- Sustainable fire department (successful now but not sustainable)
- Local OHV areas
- Plan for community theme
- Traffic control
- Connecting our community more
- Neighborhood associations
- Maintain local control of the fire department
- Create local control of incoming businesses
- Improved hiking trails
- Faster police response



- Building on gateway to high desert
- Larger tax revenue for Fire department
- Improve tourism

- Improve roads
- More publicity to promote Morongo Valley



Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Generate More Revenue.

- Objective: Collaborative process between community members.
- Objective: Generate funds by utilizing the 5 acres as a memorial park/benches/signs/etc.
- Objective: Create a wall/or walkway with engraved bricks/etc.

Goal 2: Creating Interactive Programs with Youth to create volunteerism and pride/ownership for their community and park.

Goal 3: Keep it Clean and Natural.

- Objective: Clean-up days.
- Objective: Clean team.
- Objective: Code enforcement around private homes – collection of junk.
- Objective: Illegal dumping resolution.
- Objective: Clean-up highway – look of community.

Goal 4: Maintain Fire/Paramedic.

- Objective: Tax education before vote.
- Objective: Training center at college.

Goal 5: Maintain Rural Feel.

- Objective: Retain parcel size/zoning.
- Objective: Dark skies ordinance.
- Objective: Small local business.

Goal 6: Attract Small Business.

- Objective: Market values of community.
- Objective: Fiber optics/WiFi.
- Objective: Community theme.

Goal 7: Communication in Community.

- Objective: Community newsletter.

Goal 8: Maintain Rural Lifestyle.

- Objective: Responsible growth.
- Objective: Maintain lot sizes.
- Objective: Keep dirt roads but improve condition.
- Objective: Support animal husbandry and ranch/equestrian lifestyle.

Goal 9: Capture traffic along Highway 62 in order to increase business and safety.

- Objective: Traffic control i.e. reduced speed limit.
- Objective: Create opportunities for business along Highway 62.
- Objective: Promote tourism in Morongo Valley e.g. website, brochures.

Goal 10: Sustain Local Government (CSD), Fire Department (Fire and Paramedics), and Parks.

