



General Plan Community Meeting Summary Ward 3

**Santiago Elementary School
2212 North Baker Street
Thursday, March 31, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPANTS

A General Plan community meeting was held on March 31st 2016 as part of an early outreach effort to help inform the community within Council Ward 3 about the upcoming General Plan update and to identify ways the community perceives the City of Santa Ana today and in the future. A total of 34 participants were in attendance including residents, local state holders, and neighborhood association leaders. Participants were greeted by staff who presented a sign-in sheet and a citywide map where participants were asked to place a colored dot on the map representing their respective residence or place of business. Individuals were also provided a copy of an "important topics" survey to complete in preparation for the workshop discussions.

MEETING FORMAT

Following a brief video introduction to the basic elements of the General Plan and its role in setting the VISION for the future, attendees participated in a small group discussions related to two items of conversation:

- 1) What are three topics are the most important to you in Santa Ana?
- 2) Tell us more about each of these topics.

Individual group discussions included a staff facilitator and scribe who transferred ideas onto a flip chart. All members were asked to participate in the smaller discussions. One participant at each table was later selected to represent the group as part of the next exercise which involved reporting out to the larger audience. Through a series of small presentations, each group leader reported out their findings based on the smaller discussions.

The following pages are a transcript of these group discussions and written comments submitted separately from group discussions.



MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

GROUP 1:

- **Arts & Culture** - The people, Diversity, Culture and people, Festivals and events, Family oriented
- **Business & Economic Development** - Restaurants are independently owned, Downtown Santa Ana, Reinvestment in Downtown, Lack of funding for commercial improvements, Difficult planning process for new businesses, Attracting and keeping businesses, Perception
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Downtown festivals, Shakespeare in the Park, Show mobiles and stages, Effort to provide opportunities and structure to participate, Bowers Museum, Discovery Science Center, Downtown charter schools, concerns at Jack Fisher Park safety and lighting, Open space and parks, City Hall architecture, Promote information of the City online
- **Community Safety** - Crime, Street lights not working properly, Re-occurring pot shops, Gangs
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Pride in each neighborhood, Most beautiful yard and neighborhood, Well-maintained yard, Good neighbors and security, Participation of events, Dumpster days, Homelessness citywide and in neighborhoods, Service delivery in Civic Center area to serve homeless, Overcrowding
- **Health & Sustainability** - Power outages
- **Human Services & Social Justice** - Public Relations for homeless issues and adequate oversight
- **Mobility** - More bike trails, Cut-through traffic, Parking requirement and intrusions in neighborhoods, On-street parking policies, More free parking in Downtown
- **Visual Character & Design** - Mature and large trees, Cultural architecture, Not like Irvine, Sense of history and historic buildings, Not cookie cutter, cleanliness, Only downtown in Orange County, Tree replacement in parkways, Mail boxes removed by postal service, Visual blight on 17th and First Streets

GROUP 2:

- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Parks and open space, Community Facebook, "nextdoor.com", The schools, Social events like Open Garden Day, 4th of July and parade, Illegal medical marijuana, Keep Fourth Street called "Fourth Street" not Calle Cuatro



- **Community Safety** - Crime, Car break-ins, Mail theft, Dumpster divers, Graffiti, Santiago Creek gangs and drugs and homeless, Gangs, Gunfire and shootings, Police Department overloaded, Police too busy and not enough
- **Health & Sustainability** - Water
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - People and neighbors, People care about their homes and maintenance, We know all of our neighbors, "Mansionization" of homes, Homeless at Civic Center, "Tent City" on the riverbed
- **Mobility**- Walkability and sidewalks, Parking near 17th Street a big issue, Not enough bicycle lanes, Public transit, Safety for children to walk to school, Traffic
- **Visual Character & Design** - Old fashion neighborhood feel, Mature and beautiful trees, Architecture of old historic homes, Maintenance of trees, Replacement of dead trees, Graffiti throughout the City

GROUP 3:

- **Arts & Culture** - Multi-cultural environment, Culture in Downtown, Diversity, Expansion on Art, Food revival, Historic capital of Orange County, Need diverse City Council
- **Business & Economic Development** - Access to mall and downtown, Red tape to get a business started and takes time and experience
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Parks without mischief, Neighborhood events, Cultural center, Cool restaurants, Orange County School of Arts, Santa Ana College, Bowers Museum, 4th Street, Santa Ana Zoo, Westfield Mall, Day of the Dead, Taste of SA, Downtown food trolley night, Downtown Santa Farmer's Market, Council meetings, "I used to love the library", No joint use of parks and schools, Need grocery store in this side of town, one that isn't Hispanic or general, City employees don't live here, City needs to communicate better and listen better, Nature Center at Santiago Park, Good alternative schools, Better public schools with better reputations, Need senior center north of 17th Street neighborhood as well, Need senior recreation, Elect City Council members by Ward to ensure ownership and representation
- **Community Safety** - Keep riverbed maintained or policed, Police staffing
- **Health & Sustainability** - Santa Ana award winning water, Over population
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Variety of homes, Strong and active neighborhood associations, Neighbors, Welcome new neighbor programs, Well maintained homes, Homeless go through trash, Beautiful and organized neighborhoods, Active and involved, Detection of home values, City Council members should be more involved with neighborhood associations
- **Mobility** - Santa Ana train station, Walkability, Comfortable, Access to freeways, Lack of traffic enforcement, Lack of parking, Train station accessibility and convenient although pricey, Street improvements on Bristol Street, Need senior transportation



- **Visual Character & Design** - Church at Yost or Downtown, Beautiful churches, Old court house, Central location , Old buildings, Historical buildings in Downtown, Tree lined streets, Graffiti

GROUP 4:

- **Arts & Culture** - Ethnically diverse, Culturally rich, Art walk and events
- **Business & Economic Development** - We are not Irvine, Re-birth of Downtown, More economic development on Grand Avenue north of 17th Street
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Activities from different neighborhoods like snow party and Easter event and movie family and bingo, Newsletter, Christmas decorations, Discovery Science Center, Bowers Museum and programs, Neighborhood Initiative with Scott and Margarita , City communication with community, Fisher Park homeless and drug users, Tent city under bridge, Lack of senior center in north Santa Ana with Tai Chi program, Senior center in downtown feels unwelcoming, Need senior center for upper classes, Using existing facilities and churches for programs, Need of maintenance in parks and equipment and facilities, More parks and recreation programs for families in north Santa Ana, Childcare, Trash bins are left out and lack of enforcement, Need more open space options for children on 1st and 17th Streets, Acceptable public educational public options for children (not private), High school, Security in schools, Safety
- **Community Safety** - Illegal marijuana dispensaries on Ross and 17th Streets keeps re-opening, Need more street lighting on Spruce Street, More police presence in neighborhood, Gang violence, Theft, Barking dogs, Fireworks
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Friendly neighbors, Quiet, Neighbors care about past and present and future of neighborhood, Neighbors of all ages, Neighbors are active, Lawns browning, Old buildings and new things, High density housing developments, Civic Center and library issues with homeless overcrowding, Not enough parking for apartment residences, Park in other neighborhoods
- **Mobility** - Centrally located to highways, Street lighting synchronization on Bristol Street, Lack of public transportation or light rail, 17th Street "express bus", Traffic areas of concern are North Flower after 17th Street, taking alternate streets, High traffic speed limits, Jaywalkers, Only one lane to enter freeway, School bus creates traffic backup, Memory Lane and Westwood Avenue traffic circle or crossing lane for pedestrians
- **Visual Character & Design** - Homes and architecture interesting, Tree lining of streets, Greenery, Pretty neighborhoods, Tree maintenance, Graffiti

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN SURVEY COMMENTS:

- **Arts & Culture** - Culturally rich, Arts, Museums, Music, Programs for children



- **Business & Economic Development** - Need a good quality hotel (not motel) in northern Santa Ana, Proximity to LAX and John Wayne airports
- **Community Facilities & Programs** - Fun activities provided, Newsletter delivery, Young kids getting into pot and smoking at parks, Senior center in north Santa Ana, Too few parks and not up kept, Poor public schools, result of underfunding, Difficult to work with Planning desk and not business friendly
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Farmers Market walking distance
- **Community Safety** - Frequent power outages at least 2 per year
- **Mobility** - Floral Park at north Flower and 17th Streets light too slow, Requested by residents to discourage cut-through traffic and not fair

WARD MAP COMMENTS:

- Towner Avenue and 21st Street has no stop sign
- Flower Street from 17th Street to Santa Clara Avenue has too much traffic
- Santa Clara Avenue and Baker Street stop sign not respected
- Eldridge Park needs better lighting, people there at night
- Santiago Creek Riverbed homeless, drug use, Log Cabin empty marijuana containers and needles from drug use left on picnic tables
- 21st and 19th Streets parking issues as residents of apartments below 17th St using available parking on 21st and 19th Streets, Taking parking from residents there
- Bristol Street from Memory Lane to Main Place Mall there is speeding over hill, People honking in underpass echoes so residents nearby hear late at night, Traffic congestion, 6-lane jaywalkers
- Bristol Street and 17th Street Homeless encampment
- Bristol Street from Santiago Creek to 17th Street needs better street lighting and better safety for kids walking to and from school
- Santa Clara Avenue from Baker Street to Broadway is like a speedway
- Memory Lane has no cross walk and is a speedway