



MEETING SUMMARY FORM

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Meeting Date: July 16, 2007

Plan Santa Barbara representative(s): Paul Casey, Community Development Director and John Jostes, City Planning Commissioner

Host Organization: Allied Neighborhood

Number of Participants: Approximately 20

Please take a moment to summarize the meeting. What were the overall themes? What issues arose? What concerns did the participants express?

Comments:

Concerned with more people living in the City exacerbating traffic and other issues – affordable housing efforts are bringing more people to the City.

Can the City target who lives in affordable housing so it's existing residents and/or existing employees, not someone from out of state?

What should single family neighborhoods be concerned about in this process?

Safe Routes to Schools efforts need to be enhanced and more money spent on projects.

There should be a density limit in the City – mixed use allows the existing commercial space PLUS more residential on the site – this leads to projects that are too big and dense. Need to consider only what's allowed from a residential density standpoint.

Underground parking in the SD-2 zone in Upper State Street allows for too much development and building bulk above grade – a portion of that space should go towards open space and landscaping.

When the City looks at 5 or 6 scenarios in the next phase of planning, one of them should be the existing goals and policies – because what we have now is pretty good and should be kept.

Opposed to extensive density, and Inclusionary housing policies are exacerbating that.

The City does great in low income affordable housing – and the City should stay focused on rental housing

The development patterns in downtown are leading to an overcrowding of the downtown area

Need to relate the percentage of affordable housing units in the City (13%) to an actual number so people can understand what that means.

Allied Neighbors prepared a survey for their membership and neighborhood associations. Over 2,000 surveys were sent out – with 120 returned. The results were shared and will be compiled and submitted at a later date.

The City should consider doing a survey of all City residents as part of this process, and use the Allied Neighborhood survey as a basis.

Density is ok, but it has to come with some real transportation options.

Air quality is a problem – we should be building residential units along heavily traveled auto and transit corridors because of air quality health concerns – or at least provide more landscaping and open space.

The Air Pollution Control District web site has good information about motor vehicles being a high source of air pollution.

The City's Plan Santa Barbara website should allow residents to read all the comments that have been submitted.

City needs to pay attention to traffic as part of this process.

Santa Barbara does not exist in isolation – what happens in other areas in the South Coast matters to Santa Barbara – need to stay aware and engaged with other jurisdictions.

The City is approving too many modifications.

Staff has too much power in the planning process – and based on what authority?

The Planning division should have an ombudsperson to assist neighborhoods.

The Planning Division should assist Allied as best as possible during Plan Santa Barbara in gathering information, doing some analysis, and other upcoming potential requests.