



MEETING SUMMARY FORM

Please fill out the following form as best you can. All information identified as public information will be summarized and published on the *Plan Santa Barbara* website (www.YouPlanSB.org).

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Meeting Date: July 20, 2007

Plan Santa Barbara representative(s): Bettie Weiss (City Staff); Kate Schwab (Outreach Committee)

Host Organization: The Downtown Organization

Number of Participants: 10

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

Question & concern expressed about whether the City's parking requirements allowed use of the downtown parking lots for residential use. Concern that this is being talked about a lot and it could negatively affect business and the economic vitality of the Downtown.

Question and concern expressed about possible changes in the core of the Downtown relating to building height. Also, are changes such as this being considered in other parts of the City.

Opinion expressed that it is important to keep some areas zoned for the "trades" and services – like in the Haley and M-1 areas.

Another opinion or question was offered to suggest that allowing housing in the M-1 and coastal area could serve to support the community – maybe better than timeshares.

The extreme pressure created in the housing market and potential increases in land values needs to be looked at carefully.

What will the City do to respond to the differing opinions offered about parking in the Downtown and throughout the City? There should be discussion about the Circulation Element (CE). The CE is intentionally very broad and vague, so discussions and decisions can go in a variety of different directions (2 examples were given – loss of parking in front of the Courthouse and possible loss of parking around Plaza de la Guerra).

People are concerned and nervous about present discussions based on expectations that people will change their behavior as it relates to the use of cars in the future. What if the projections are wrong and projects get built anyway and the community gets stuck with what gets built.

This is a democracy and the process needs to reflect the needs and desires of the people. Look at how people get around – personal transport is the top choice. What does the majority want and how do you hear from them?

Office rents are rising because Measure E limits new construction.

People do not like the projects on Chapala Street. How did the Council and Planning Commission approve it? Why didn't they say no? Is a down zone necessary? Most want to advocate for give & take with flexibility. Hope this is what comes out of the process – a way to balance many important issues.