



Kickoff Open House Table Summaries | Thursday, June 25, 2015 | 6:30-8pm

OPPORTUNITIES

Funky, eclectic mix of industrial, artists and healing spaces close to the heart of downtown Las Cruces. Truly a Live / Work / Play neighborhood. Organically growing businesses, many of which are young, local, and innovative. How do we keep this energy bolstered and moving forward?

- **Human Scale Walkability.** It's people who live up the neighborhood – out walking, cycling, and gathering in parks and cafés. Plenty of the people who live here do not drive, so making things easy to get to is important.
- **Icons of our Area.** Water tower is a great icon, but is always a temptation for high school kids to climb it. Paint the water tower funky colors. Repurpose the water tower into a safer climbing wall and zip line – let people do what they like to do and help them.
- **Patterns / Systems / Repetitions.** How can we create green spaces, like “skipping stones across a pond?” And getting to work “a hop, skip and a jump away” is also compelling about the neighborhood. Draw the buildings apart with green space that helps the storm water issues.
- **Storm water.** Keep an eye out to turn problems into assets. Like channeling the storm water to support community gardens.
- **Jobs and Industry.** Use as a generator for economic development.
- **Retail.** Incentives like tax breaks will likely be necessary.
- **Community Gardens.** As well as community kitchens.
- **Artists and Aerial Dance.** Pottery, etching, and other things that require big or messy spaces. Project in Motion aerial dance company in the old mill. Theatre Ortesco coming down from Santa Fe already, as well as several companies from El Paso. Expand on public arts and cultural corridor.
- **Music.** There is already some local music happening in the area but could consider a music park along the western boundary.
- **Active Recreation and Cyclists.** How can the baseball diamond be better utilized? Maybe surround it with a mix of housing. And the drainage ditches maybe having cyclist trails with multi-use pathways.
- **Transportation.** How to better take advantage of bus and railroad? Albuquerque Rail Yards is a great inspiration, as a giant marketplace and great nightlife. Uses like restaurants and galleries along with live-work units could be interesting along the rail line would make a great transition with the surrounding historic homes. Major bus depot is close-by, so there is an opportunity to create a gateway into

the neighborhood. Turn Hadley into a multi-way boulevard, becoming more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.

- **Café Culture.** Mustard Seed Café in El Paso have homeless learning all types of skills, but it's super-popular. Guide all the untapped potential of the community.
- **"Maker Spaces"** in empty warehouses, with 3D printing. Encourage some light, green industrial uses to keep true to the character of the area without significantly impacting the surrounding and existing residential.
- **Schools.** Consider upgrades to the existing elementary school on the north edge of the study area.
- **Building Study.** Inventory if any of the existing structures might be able to be repurposed.
- **Housing.** We have a need for housing in a range of price points for rent and ownership. Have a mixture of housing price points that face onto the baseball diamond, instead of turning their backs on it.
- **Movie Sets.** Have people asking constantly for photo shoots but could get more friendly to movie production.
- **Wellness Program.** There is already an in-reach program with local schools for healthy, active lifestyles along with community gardening skills.

CHALLENGES

Carcasses of industrial buildings, along with drainage and housing challenges.

- **Economy.** Today's economy is tough. Why would a new business want to come here instead of the airport? We have to solve the historic problems.
- **Toxic Waste.** Steam plants and mining. PCB cleanup is needed.
- **Poverty.** Turnover of children in schools with poverty. Need to stabilize. The "Hobo Highway" runs along the tracks, and needs to increase lighting.
- **Crime.** Drug deals and drag racing along the eastern edge of the planning area.
- **Traffic.** Amador is getting over-traveled; need to turn the development to the interior of the land. Need to slow down traffic on Valley – speed limit is 35 but people go 50 – but would need to synchronize traffic signals so that capacity does not decrease.
- **Homelessness.** Indigent communities seeking to stabilize don't always mix well with the surrounding businesses. Consider moving the Gospel Rescue Mission across the street to be beside the Community of Hope.
- **Institutions Departing.** First Baptist moving to Sonoma Ranch. What is happening when they leave?
- **Stormwater.** Natural drainage through the study area turns part of the NE section into a swampland.
- **Parking.** Especially along Hadley, the parking and sidewalks need to be improved.