City of Mill Valley Community Vitality Working Group Meeting #2

Meeting Summary

June 20, 2012

Working Group Attendees:

- John McCauley, Chair
- Ken Brooks, Vice-Chair
- Shawn Marshall (Absent)
- Josh Deitch
- Ann Aversa (absent)

- Dan Kelly
- Stephanie Witt
- Stephen Burke
- Lynne Klein
- Jason Michaels (absent)

City Staff:

- Mike Moore, Planning & Building Director
- Danielle Staude, Senior Planner

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public

Meeting Overview:

I. Call to Order: 7:01pm

II. Public Comment

Barbara Ford: Please clarify where Historic Preservation will be discussed as part of the General Plan- in the Arts & Culture Subcommittee? Also, where is heritage discussed (eg preservation of trees and other landmarks that are not physical buildings) See III below for details.

Joan Murray: Also a member of the Historical Society. Wants t be sure Working Group has all the preservation efforts that the Historic Society has made.

III. Follow-Up Items

Lynne Klein provided the Working Group with meeting notes from the Arts & Culture Subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed historic preservation at their first meeting and determined that it was not part of their role—except for when it relates to art and culture, such as walking tours or possible landmark signage.

Mike Moore indicated that historic preservation, in terms of historic buildings is zoning/regulation related and is on the Planning Commission's list of items to address. Work on this topic has not started to date. The historic society will be part of this discussion. In the meantime, Mike indicated that he could meet with the historic society to discuss the status. As for the General Plan, a goal related to Historic Preservation could be developed with policies and programs as the group has discussed (reviewing the Historic Overlay; incorporating into arts and culture as part of heritage)

IV. Discussion Item: Existing Conditions & Trends

This topic area discussed those priority topics not discussed at the June 13th meeting, including Public Health/Healthy communities and Resource Management

Public Health

Use of Rec facilities

- Consider a limit on the use of facilities (soccer, basketball, lacrosse)
- Can't accommodate all kids or all sporting events

Usage agreements

Public schools are being used

- Pay for access and school use policies

Organized sports are a huge part of Mill Valley culture and growing

Use of facilities

-gymnasium (Edna)

Internet—Connected Society

- Community Center potential resource
- Human connectiveness during virtual times
 - o Recognize we will be more connected with technology but, how to maintain human connections
- Free internet—Palo Alto
- How to maintain and foster physical connection during a time of technological advancement? Encourage events that bring people together on a social level
 - o Friday Nights / Social Gatherings on the Plaza
 - o Jazz in the Park (e.g. Tiburon)
 - o Street closures (e.g. Tiburon Dancing in the Street)
 - Marin Horizons scavenger hunt in association with Historical Society

Enchanted / Eucalyptus knolls

Connect East Mill Valley to events

Connectivity through walkability

Ask Residents: what will get you out of the house and connect with the community?

Streetscape Improvements

Design Committee was established to review public works projects as well to maintain standards and material consistency (not same but guidelines so there is some consistency and uniformity)

Begin to have standards again

- DPW standards
- Planning Design Committee

Character

- Consistency in streetscape design
- DPW standards
- Coordination with CC on look and feel with some consideration of eclecticism
- * Potential Goals: Undergrounding beneficial

Opportunities and Constraints:

Lack of minimum wage employees in town/

- Constraint to economic vitality and turn over
- Opportunity: coordinate with schools and local low income areas/community or career centers (e.g. Pickleweed in San Rafael)

Underutilizing Depot area

- Speakers corner
- Getting people to connect and out of house
- Marketing plan

Modern life with kids = a full schedule

Coordinated calendar and map of the community needed

- Mill Valley downloadable "application"

Next Door—Real time, virtual population

Role of City

- Clearing house of information, events to allow for a vibrant and informed community
 - > allows connectivity
 - > info management culture
 - > other people provide services
 - > how to accommodate services
 - > form coalition and partnerships
- Solvent City

Constraint—NIMBYism

- Neighborhood association (assemble when dislike a project)
- Leadership and Courage / Greater good for the Community
- Use vs. Spending (\$ per person)
- Role of guidelines and regulations vs public opinion (re: improvement to private property residential and commercial)