



City of Del Mar



Community Conversation for Village Revitalization

May 3, 2011
South Hills and South Bluffs Area
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Staff: Mayor Mosier, Council Member Haydu, and Planning and Community Development Director Garcia

Community members: Approximately 11

Mayor Mosier welcomed everyone and introduced Council Member Haydu and Planning and Community Development Director Garcia. Mayor Mosier provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Community Conversations. Mayor Mosier opened the floor to public comment for items not relating to the Community Conversations. He stated that the goal is to revitalize Del Mar to be economically and environmentally sustainable.

ACHIEVING A PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED VILLAGE

The community members brought up the following suggestions for achieving a pedestrian-oriented village:

- Need for a more viable downtown;
- Would like more pedestrian improvements from 9th to 4th Street and south of Torrey Pines Bridge;
- Sidewalk cafés should not block pedestrians on 15th Street;
- Look to creating a promenade on 15th Street (8 to 10 feet wide sidewalks);
- Can north side of 15th Street sidewalks be different than south side?
- Cafés have been a success; and
- Need to be more pedestrian friendly with contiguous sidewalk.

The community members brought up the following concerns with the downtown:

- Bicycle lanes – cyclists need to stay in lanes. It requires monitoring and enforcement;
- South end of Camino del Mar and bridge needs a sidewalk;
- No pedestrian accommodations in places - pedestrians need area, just like bikes;
- 15th Street sidewalk cafés – now crowded; and
- Curb landscape at 15th Street problematic.

HOW TO DEFINE “PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY”

The community members brought up the following criteria and characteristics:

- Interesting things to look at;

- People watching;
- See people you know;
- Continuous sidewalk;
- Have a circulation pattern;
- Contiguous; and
- Children and family friendly.

PARKING

Community members brought up the following suggestions for parking:

- Direct people to parking with signage;
- Have incentivized parking;
- We have ample parking, just in the wrong place, poorly designed;
- Suburban standards too high of a ratio;
- Have golf carts and scooter incentives;
- Install electrical charging stations; and
- There is free parking at City Hall but it needs to have better lighting, signage and striping.

MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL VILLAGE CHARACTERISTICS

The community members brought up the following suggestions for maintaining traditional village characteristics:

- It is dark on the east side of downtown;
- There needs to be street lights (aimed down, low level);
- No office on street level/frontage;
- There needs to be incentives to upgrade the buildings. At this point, there is no motivation and most of the buildings have absentee owners;
- Love the idea of second floor residences;
- The downtown is lively at night but there is a concern regarding light and noise; and
- You can only do so much with zoning but economics must support it.

There needs to be a long term plan. It could be a change to regulation.

DEFINE DOWNTOWN

- Has character.
- Not a tourist trap.
- Create a handout for general distribution to talk about revitalization. Include the following:
 - What does it revitalization mean?
 - Why should I be involved and care?

- Why did the Village change?
- The largest opportunity is the City Hall site. It is an anchor to the downtown.
- Why can't City Hall be built on the Del Mar Garden site?

COMMUNITY INPUT AND NEXT STEPS

Mayor Mosier gave the timeline:

Spring of 2011	Additional community input
Summer/Fall 2011	A draft Village Plan will be developed
Fall 2011	Community review program
Spring/Summer 2012	CEQA compliance
Summer 2012	Final Village Plan approval
Summer/Fall 2012	Community outreach program
November 2012	Community vote in general election

Mayor Mosier thanked the host for her generous and gracious hospitality.

Planning and Community Development Director Garcia thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to give input to the City. Community members can give input by submitting a letter to the Planning Department or by email conversations@delmar.ca.us. She noted that there is information about other Community Conversations on the City's website: www.delmar.ca.us, flyers posted at City Hall, and flyers that will be included in the next few months utility billings.