



ORANGE GENERAL PLAN SENIOR RESIDENT WORKSHOP

October 14, 2005

Orange Senior Center
170 S. Olive Street
10:00 a.m.

Summary

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Document how the community has changed over time.
2. Identify the City's strengths, weaknesses, issues, and opportunities as they relate to senior issues.
3. Identify senior mobility, safety, recreation, and housing issues and opportunities.

Agenda

- Introductions and Objectives
- Presentation: *The General Plan Update Process*
- Discussion: *Orange's Past – Through the eyes of those who were there*
- Discussion: *What We Value – Orange's Strengths and Weaknesses*
- Presentation: *Orange draft Vision Statement*
- Discussion: *Orange's Future – Issues and Opportunities*

Orange's Past

Participants were asked to reveal how long they have lived in the City of Orange. The responses ranged from 10 to 55 years and beyond. A number of the participants are native born to Orange.

When asked what features brought them to Orange responses include:

- The orange groves
- The vacant lots
- The strawberry fields
- It was a rural area
- The trees
- Small town atmosphere and friendly neighbors

When asked to describe what qualities made Orange unique responses include:

- A tight knit community
- You get to know your neighbors
- A wonderful Fire Department
 - Some participants cited the old Fire Station in the Plaza area as a lost treasure that was inviting to the area's children.
- The City was built around the Plaza
- Presence of hospitals and educational institutions

Remarks were also made about:

- The transformation from rural to urban
- The on-call senior bus system



Orange's Present

Participants were asked to identify key issues and opportunities that they encounter within their day to day experience in the community. Responses include:

- **KEY ISSUE:** A lack of transportation options for seniors
 - Current transit programs are not affordable and limited in their reach and flexibility
 - Existing cab system is expensive
 - Other cities like Huntington Beach have on-call services
- Circulation issues includes the perception of lack of safety at bus stops and limited access to desired destinations.
- The farmer's market is inaccessible and small.
- Traffic noise is on the rise.
- Too many traffic signals and stop signs creates an unsafe atmosphere.
- Trash collection system was cited as a positive.
- Land uses are becoming more commercial.
- Handicapped parking areas are not where they need to be.
- Residents applauded the free access to emergency services once they qualify and register with the City.
- Issues regarding the Plaza include:
 - Too much traffic.
 - Handicapped parking is on the wrong side of the street and there is not enough handicapped parking.
 - Universal access issues that create a sense of feeling unsafe.
- The Police and Fire Departments rated an A+.
- Storm water run-off issues at Harwood/Chapman and Main/La Veta.
- The Cypress Barrio must be recognized as an historic resource.
- Perception of pedestrian safety: Walking along Tustin can feel unsafe. Walking in the Plaza feels safer.

Orange's Future

Participants were asked to highlight key issues or opportunities that should be resolved through the General Plan update process. These include:

- **KEY ISSUE:** Provide for more transportation access that is safe, affordable and comfortable. The combination of increased service demands and cuts to existing programs threatens the health, safety and well-being of Orange's most senior residents.
- Maintaining the neighborly feeling of the City.
- Plant more trees and be selective with the species.
- Repair uneven sidewalks.
- Encourage development of a grocery store within the Plaza District with extended hours.
- Reduce traffic noise impacts.
- Recognize that the population is getting older and that the urban environment and services must be designed to accommodate universal access.
- Mitigate impacts from anti-war protesters who use the Plaza as a platform.

