

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

July and August 2017

SUMMARY

Overview

The Whittier General Plan Update stakeholder interviews were conducted in July and August 2017 at the Whittier Community Center. The interview's purpose was to inform community representatives about the Whittier General Plan Update and gather their feedback on key topic areas. Participants were asked to share their opinions about Whittier today and a vision for Whittier's future. This report summarizes stakeholder input gathered in the stakeholder interviews.

Ensuring the Whittier General Plan reflects the diverse needs and priorities of the community, representatives from 36 local organizations were invited to participate in the stakeholder interviews. Twenty-four representatives from 19 organizations participated. Each interview was facilitated by a MIG staff member without City staff present to provide community members the opportunity and space to share their opinions freely. The participants were assured their comments would be summarized in a format that cannot trace individual comments to a specific participant.

Key Findings

The interviews' purpose was to engage stakeholders in interactive discussions about topics such as land use, transportation, and health. All comments and ideas were documented and analyzed to classify the key findings.

The key findings that emerged from all stakeholder groups:

Strengths

- Sense of community and small-town feel
- Involved and collaborative community
- Engaged and responsive City staff and leadership
- Greenway Trail, hills, and other parks and open space
- Historic feel of older neighborhoods and Uptown Whittier
- New development along Whittier Boulevard
- Proximity to regional destinations

Challenges

- Historic preservation program needs reexamination

- Housing affordability
- Insufficient student housing
- Perceived increase in homelessness and crime
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Streets need revitalization and beautification
- Insufficient transit provision
- Poor connectivity to surrounding communities
- Cut-through traffic
- Lack of citywide wayfinding
- Insufficient parking at parks
- Limited sports/athletic fields and indoor recreation
- Concern that new development hurts existing residents and will change the community's character
- City stifling potential growth
- Insufficient code enforcement
- Perceived Uptown safety and image issues
- Families struggling to meet ends meet
- Whittier is not a destination
- Insufficient services for youth, mental health needs, ex-convicts, and homeless

Opportunities

- Revitalize Uptown
- Use libraries as a resource
- Create a youth plan
- Increase emergency preparedness
- Partner with community organizations and businesses to increase services
- Take advantage of strong connection between city and community
- Beautify city
- Be a leader in sustainability
- Diversify and increase housing options
- Increase transportation options and affordability
- Use and preserve historic and older buildings
- Focus on specific areas that are prime for redevelopment
- Take advantage of and improve existing recreation opportunities and infrastructure

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

Participants included (in alphabetical order):

- John Beynon, Whittier Area Environmental Coalition
- Jeff Brauckmann, Whittier Community Foundation
- Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber of Commerce
- Linda Denton, The Whole Child (Homeless)
- James Dunkelman, Whittier College
- Miguel Garcia, Whittier Voters Coalition
- Caren Grisham, Whittier Community Foundation
- Andrea Gullo, Puente Hills Habitat Authority
- Oscar Hernandez, Boys & Girls Club
- Dave Klinger, PIH Health

- Debra Legan, PIH Health
- R.D. McDonnell, Whittier Community Foundation
- Irene Muro, First Day Coalition
- Allan Nakken, Friendly Hills Property Owners Association
- Candi Nash, Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association
- Mark Nelson, Friendly Hills Property Owners Association
- Andrew Pryor, Heritage Friends of Whittier
- Helen Rahder, Whittier Conservancy
- Olivia Rios, Whittier Uptown Association
- Gil Rodriguez, Whittier Host Lions
- Sue Settlage, Whittier Public Library Foundation
- Curt Skonticki, YMCA of Greater Whittier
- Tim Traeger, Whittier Museum
- Kristin A. Wilberg, Whittier College

The following summarizes comments from the stakeholder interviews.

Strengths

Character

- Hometown feel
- Community oriented
- Community feel
- Strong sense of community (2x)
- Small-town feel (3x)
- Close knit community – easier to achieve organization's goals
- Everyone knows each other, especially at events
- Supportive community
- Community values parks and recreation, programs
- Community involvement is broadening
- Lots of people are looking for the best interest of the community
- Character, feel, and identity of the community are very important to the community and it needs to properly managed
- It's a nice place where people want to live
- Family values
- Friendly
- Collaboration between groups
- Collaboration, sense of working together with non-profit groups
 - No duplication of services, other non-profits are not territorial, even if pursuing same funding; have same causes and goals
- Low crime
- Diversity social economics, neighborhoods, people
- Move up area with Hispanics/Latinos who strive to live in Whittier (nice neighborhoods)
- College town
- Whittier: Quality of life is great
 - Good active healthy lifestyle
- Whittier has good city pride
- City understands community

Events

- Uptown events bring out people, it is a community asset
- Annual events are great
- Bringing people together

City Government and Services

- Responsiveness of City staff, good hires
- Accessibility of leaders: Chief of Police, Mayor is phone call away
- City employees are great
- Excellent relationship with City staff and leaders
- City government, pro-business and development
- Good schools
- Lots of resources for families
- City is easy to work with
- Supportive and engaged City Council – show up to local events
- Good relationship with City and staff
- Direct connection with City
 - Mayor/City Council
 - Police Department (calls are up)
- Lots of County residents (good foot traffic) use branch library by Whittwood, even though County libraries were improved. City branch libraries offer better services than County libraries.
- Increased police presence in Uptown is good

Parks and Open Space

- Greenway trail (3x)
- Whittier Greenway, best thing for Whittier, people use it!
- Open space
- Green space
- Hills and open space are important
- Hills (2x)
- Hillsides and hiking, parking needs to be improved
- Rose Hills is a great green view
- Parks are good
- Healthy lifestyle
- Parks, Golf Course

Access

- Central location, close to Downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, but hard to get to
- Asset to live in Whittier due to proximity to Downtown Los Angeles
- Proximity to regional destinations
- Limited traffic congestion

Built Form and Public Realm

- Hillside residences/neighborhoods (old growth, trees, streetscape)

- Older/fuller vegetation in the older neighborhoods private realm
- Historic district
- Historic feel/places
- Historic charm
- Nice feel, old-time feel
- No large buildings
- Whittier College and the surrounding neighborhood
- Uptown – look and feel of older buildings, business type diversity, restaurants
- Like Uptown environment, but not some of the stores
- Buildings – Philadelphia/Greenleaf, Nixon, Crystal Marquee
- Good development along Whittier Boulevard, don't like buildings backing to street
- Good development occurring along Whittier Blvd/Beverly Blvd
- Whittier Boulevard is getting better, the drive is more pleasant; nice to have the fresh/new stores

Land Use

- Diversity of people and stores
- Cluster of destination shopping
- College is a destination
- Industrial, don't lose any more
- Whittier land values are strong and holding
- Likes new development along Whittier Boulevard
- Likes healthy affordable food options/stores and restaurants
- Whittier needs to look forward rather than past. What Whittier used to do or how it use to be isn't as important as today's reality

Challenges

Historic Preservation

- Permit fees for historic home/buildings too expensive. Consider a program like Pasadena's where the major expense occurs when you don't get a permit/approval
- Tie down issue with historic review. Review of buildings prior to 1941 seems arbitrary
- Need a comprehensive citywide survey of historic resources. Every building should be completed.
 - Lots of unprotected buildings
 - These resources are critical to City's identify
 - Look at Uptown Specific Plan
- City staff should have one person trained in historic preservation
- Concerned with historic process – too burdensome and unnecessary, creates obstacles
 - Residential uses must jump through hoops
 - Use preservation of historic resources for reuse
 - Don't add historic just because building is old
 - Want to add energy efficiency, but historic requirements won't allow (ex. windows)
 - Process and costs needs to be balanced

Housing

- Housing plan needs to be updated
- Incorporate more student housing in Uptown area, increase housing supply for students; College has met with staff on how to increase housing in Uptown; Churches that close may be future candidate sites
- Whittier student housing, half on campus, half in private housing around College
- Keep students together in Uptown and around College
- Increase supply of student housing
- Low income facilities compete with Whittier College students; some prefer to rent to students
- Several families living together to afford rent; long term mental issues for children (stress anxiety for kids and families)
- Concerned about being priced out
- Rent goes up, but salary does not; families move to lower housing conditions
- High transition rate – many families move in and out and don't stay long
- Housing affordability
- More affordable housing
- If want to attract younger professionals and families need for more affordable housing. They are looking for modern housing, not a house on a big lot. Looking for a modern lifestyle.
- Clientele being priced out
- Displacement/gentrification
- Kids can't afford to come back to live/afford housing in Whittier
- Homeless significant issue
 - Impact on economy, especially in Uptown
- Homeless increasing: mixed between reality and awareness
- Need more shelter beds, including those that target families
 - Level of community need is high
- Mentally ill homeless people, who do not take medication, should be institutionalized
- High density housing may impact traffic and parking
- City's highest density area (just south of Uptown, northeast of Whittier Boulevard)
 - Too many dense apartment buildings
 - High crime
 - Lack of park
 - Limited open space
 - Take out one apartment on each block and convert to small park accessible by street and alley
 - Need to recapture lost open space
- Jobs versus housing needs to be looked at

Services

Libraries

- Upgrade library facilities; they are getting old and outdated. City looked to build \$25 million facility in Uptown (Comstock and Bailey). Merchants loved idea to increase foot traffic. Politically, and due to costs, project died. City no longer owns site.
- The new library is myopic (nearsighted) – costs too much money
- High wait times to use computers at library; job applications: residents without computers apply for online jobs and wait for computers to respond to employment opportunities

Schools

- Public schools don't rank high
- Accessibility, hard to get kids from different Whittier school districts to Uptown Girls and Boys club. Mobility is a challenge. Boys and Girls Club has brought program to schools, but it is not the same.
- Need quality childcare, afterschool care, youth development
- Declining school enrollment

Health Care

- Need affordable health care facilities
 - One federal qualified health care facility (near SOI) accepts Medicare and noninsurance clients
 - Doctors don't take Medicare
- Big concern: lack of mental health
 - Social services
 - Self-care
 - Client stabilization, county health quick to medicate
- Public needs better understanding/awareness of issues
 - Education and mental health (First Day cannot treat if client refuses (due to mental health))

Homelessness and Formerly Incarcerated

- Shortage of re-entry programs from prison early release
 - Lack of resources and programs, including recovery programs
 - No rehabilitation programs for prisoners released -- not funded nor access to programs
 - Program of systems is disjointed
- Measure H priority funds chronic homeless and ex-offenders; however whole other level population is out there
- Some funding is coming in for recently homeless and verge of homelessness
- Community Development Block Grant is about to be dismantled, scary for service providers, funding down
 - Very challenging: need for services are going up, but funding down...something has to give
- Data says number of homeless has decreased, but in reality, homeless has increased significantly (systematic problem)
- Need for shower program
- Response team can't go to San Gabriel River and Hillside homeless camp, due to dangers

Safety

- Homeless, gateway to other issues: small crime, drug use, theft
 - Lack of safety; safety concern
 - Empty/vacant buildings providing space for break ins and sleeping areas
 - Break in to vehicles for sleeping
 - City is responsive, but homeless is mobile and move to other places, then they come back

- Using small vacant buildings
- Encampments
- Restricts lifestyle for kids and families
- Need long term permanent solutions
- Issue needs to be addressed
- Rise in crime
- Always use more law enforcement and better safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Safety
 - Need a plan to address issue
 - Whittier can be a safe place at times
 - Safety is a symbol of a good community
- Motel 6 is a big issue for crime
- Motel 6 is for voucher housing
- Coyotes coming down into neighborhoods and Uptown

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure is really old; will be an issue in next major earthquake
- Infrastructure and facilities need major update; cost will be an issue
- Funding for maintenance
- Parking (permit parking 24-hours is good)
- No Infrastructure
 - No parking
- City needs consistent lighting standards – like new street lights along Beverly, what about rest of City
- TDM is important. Shuttles to destinations.
- Trolleys/Shuttles between Uptown and neighborhoods and the Whittwood Center
- Mass transit needed for 5 points area
- Bike and sidewalks are needed in the east Whittier
- Whittier Boulevard
 - Caltrans owned
 - Needs to be cleaned up
 - Widened
 - Beautified
 - Nice improvements to Beverly, same improvements to Whittier
- Lambert, Painter, Colima needs to be revitalized

Access

- Whittier is way from freeways, but has access issues
- Poor freeway access
- Not close enough to freeway
- Lack of connectivity to areas outside of the city
- Inside city is access is good
- Arterials are jammed with through traffic making it hard to get around to local places in Whittier
- Cut-through traffic is a problem near the Whitwood Mall
- Cut-through streets: Slauson, Colima and Lambert
- Get a lot of cut-through traffic not destined for Whittier

- Provide more mobility for students to decrease vehicle usage and parking facilities
- Convert some streets to bikes only; they should connect to local destinations.
- More freeway signage directing people to Whittier
- Increased/improved gateway at Painter and the 605
- Need signage to Uptown, Whittier College, shopping centers, bike trail

Recreation

- Parking issue at Hellman trail; support shuttle between trailhead and Uptown
- Hellman park's parking restrictions need to be extended
- Parking near the hiking trails. Provide public parking near the trailheads?
- Issue: trail users impact surrounding neighborhoods
- Park access; City is under parked. Limited sports parks and athletic fields; park formulas and Quimby fees slide and benefits developers; can't believe inaccessible school sites count as park land
 - No youth sports practice fields
 - Lack of facilities
 - No lights at many facilities
 - Don't lock up facilities
 - Bathrooms are locked due to homeless issue
- Parks are old; old trees create liability issues; Used to be city of trees
- Puente Hills Parks – need more park rangers and need to empty trashcans
- Indoor recreation – skating rinks, bowling
- Batting cages
- Dog park on the east side
- There should be a “master plan” for the area focusing on the library/park/YMCA resources
- Lack of park land
 - Lack of soccer fields
 - Continue relationship with schools to for joint use agreements for field use
 - Build athletic fields over parking structures – like Biola University

Development

- Stifling potential growth
- Nelles needs to be developed
- Phase out wood shakes, use incentives
- Lost car dealerships, retail being replaced by internet
- Some aging retail remains, but likes redevelopment of Whittier Boulevard (creates new opportunities)
- City Council is too pro-development
- Overbuilding – traffic is ridiculous
- City is not taking advantage of commercial land
- D.R. Horton Amesbury project – interior driveways face nothing but garages; not sustainable; no good gathering spaces; prefer courtyard housing with amenities
- Large projects will change Whittier's character (example Mar Vista/Whittier Blvd. 45 condos are too many and Whittier/Catalina)
- Council does not consider if there are any benefits to the current residents
- Council does not think about the large project's impact to the local residents
- Development must help the community, benefit the community

- Concerned about new development's infrastructure expense and cost to current residents/businesses
- No hotels/no motels. Need to consider if there any local community benefits in hotels/motels
- Work to infill the vacancies and beautify the "vacant" areas
- Higher economic uses
- City can't erase history
 - Buildings have a lifespan
 - Opportunities to fix past city sins, like ugly apartment buildings
- Get rid of Section 8 housing
- Strongly disagree with Nelles. Too much change. What is the benefit to current residents? Pocket parks are not good.
- Nelles should be for a large park; need soccer and other fields, not housing
- Planning Commission not being tough on housing developers

Regulation/Planning

- Problem with absentee landlords who do not maintain the buildings/properties. Need to increase code enforcement.
- City must adhere to General Plan policies and implementation measures; Stick to the Plan; amendments and changes to
- Plan creates issue and accountability
- Stop businesses (e.g., Home Depot) from whacking down trees
- Limited community participation – the same people participate over and over.
- Code enforcement – very reactive, not proactive
- Avoid heavy handed regulation to existing residents
- City council is too reactive – needs to be proactive

Uptown

- More chains moving to Whittier Blvd; would like to see some chains in Uptown, improvement
- Not a destination, would like to see Uptown turn into Old Town Pasadena, Downtown Brea and Fullerton. It will be a great asset for the community and Whittier College
- Attract students to Uptown, provide services and goods for students (create better town and gown environment)
- Uptown should be more like Culver City or Old Pasadena
- Save Uptown – there is real progress to turn it around
- Need more public spaces/gathering spots and throughout other shopping areas
- Homeless (data shows number decreasing, but problem appears to be getting worse; affecting Uptown commercial viability and safety)
- Petty crimes in Uptown
- Uptown does not feel safe (homeless, goth kids, transients, panhandlers)
- Parking problem in Uptown
 - It is a City problem; don't understand why structures close at night; it doesn't cater to night life
- Uptown should not look like Brea

Socioeconomic Conditions

- Whittier is two communities, separated by socioeconomics
- Less jobs for high school kids

- Families working 2 to 3 jobs
- Whittier seems to have a high percentage of kids needing school lunches

Use Types

- Need higher end grocery stores and specialty shops
- Whittier is not a destination
- Why the proliferation of drug stores?

Other

- More emphasis needs to be placed on the west side
- Support Whittier Conservancy
- Same people at events
- Residents have a bit of isolation mentality (we are better than other surrounding communities); 'Quaker way'

Future Opportunities

Uptown

- Improving look and feel of Uptown Whittier
- Uptown, opportunity for improvement
- More restaurants in Uptown
- Uptown merchants need to improve the maintenance – sidewalks dirty, public spaces dirty
- Revitalize Uptown (spend the \$12 million) for infrastructure and parking
- Establish a valet system for Uptown area, \$5 per visit, restaurants can validate
- Uptown is need of makeover; bring back to inviting atmosphere
 - Uptown is becoming more popular
 - Uptown on verge of major renaissance
 - It should be festive and historically significant
 - Homeless is an issue and kids with skateboards
 - Need to look at existing Uptown Specific Plan – need to protect and preserve historic structures – look at specific plan implementation
 - Some buildings don't fit Uptown character
- Uptown Business District, need to raise fees to provide better services
 - More parking (Comstock parking structure coming)
 - More safety, bike police patrol in Uptown badly needed
 - Tagging is an issue (City and PIH very responsive to issue; PIH Health goal: graffiti doesn't see second sunrise)
- Uptown should have a used book destination, a place to get specialized book or hard-to-find-books
 - Family environment, but don't go to Uptown with family, too many transient; rather go to Brea or Fullerton

Services

- More resources for disadvantage groups/families in Whittier

Health Care

- Hospital, Cancer Center – medical and medical R&D
- Diabetes is a huge problem; particularly in LA County Planning Area 7 (SPA 7); worse in LA County for diabetes
 - Need to encourage healthy behavior, particularly with children in schools
 - Educate kids and families
 - Diabetes care is very expensive, hard for poor, increases health costs
 - PIH wants to help more with health and exercise
 - Bus stop quickie exercise stations
 - Access to healthy foods

Library

- 66% of Whittier community is in favor of putting on the ballot to renovate and improve main library
- Library provides a community resource, learning resource for students of all ages
- Library a great community resource for literacy
- Spanish language programs can be improved

Programs

- More community services and programs: sports, family oriented, improvement

Youths

- Opportunity here for children
- Youth Plan Needed!
 - Access to afterschool programs
 - City can address by bringing in partners (partner with schools and nonprofits)
 - Lack of funding
 - Programs and collaboration with partners is disjointed
 - No synergy
 - What are we trying to achieve for youth? What is City focus?
 - Include families/kids in engagement

Emergency Preparedness

- Mobile Reserve staff report to local police and use during emergency event
 - Include local veterans – report to police
- Form fire safety council
 - Can provide grants to City
 - Santa Ana event can create spot fires one mile down from fire in Puente Hills
- Need a repeater system to prevent dead spots during emergency, so emergency personnel can relay communication systems without dead spots
- Water tanks – in earthquake, they will come down, need to protect water supply; City should plan for water infrastructure to save potable water
- Need for an emergency response team (First Day, nonemergency calls would go to them first)

Community and Community Group Involvement

- City is rich with nonprofit organizations
 - Organizations
 - Events
 - Family
 - Reflects city leadership
- Boys & Girls Club Programs: extended learning and living opportunities
 - Robotics, sports, arts, music, dance, field trips, college tours (provide programs that many schools have dropped due to funding); case management; post high school planning, youth programs; STEM
 - Educational enrichment
 - Good character and citizenship building
- First Day has strong ties with Whittier College and other colleges (Rio Hondo, Fullerton)
 - Student interns
 - Service projects
 - Resources for clients
- City is very giving, wealthier residents
 - Volunteers
 - Churches give
 - Need to coordinate with city on volunteers to capture volunteers
- YMCA would like control of the adjacent park so the homeless and illegal activities can be cleaned up
- City should save resources and have local service providers provide afterschool care, recreation programs. City should rent its facilities to the service providers rather than running the programs themselves
- Healthy living incentives are important. YMCA is looking to partner with City, College, and other providers to promote healthy living (safety, education, recreation). Capitalize on the synergy
- Whittier needs to partner/collaborate with other cities

City

- Work with businesses
 - Tips for awareness
 - Education residents/awareness
- City good to work with
- Public communications
 - Political groups can impede city progress
 - Need to allow open public engagement
 - City can create/curate public blog about city news and events – ideas to improve city; since local newspaper has changed direction
- City looks to be a leader within the region (but at a small-scale)

Public Realm

- City beautification is critical
 - Leave it up to retailers
 - Need to fix up street medians (convert to drought tolerant plantings) and bring back landscape
 - Businesses don't take beautification seriously

- Trees are dead
- La Cuarta – dead trees
- Need to beautify city – make pretty and prosperous
- Historic monuments of Whittier residents
- Public art throughout Whittier
- Building design/landscape design to deter homeless (PIH using successfully)
 - Rocks
 - Bougainvillea plants (Plant with thorns)
 - Hedges
 - Cameras for safety, safety for PIH staff

Sustainability

- City could be leader in sustainability and innovation
- New projects related to sustainability
- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Clean energy
- User friendly innovation/technology (online parking permits)
- Smart city approaches
- Need a sustainability plan and innovation department
- Emphasize bikes and electric autos (charging stations)
- Electric charging stations
 - City doesn't encourage
 - Need to add to code
- Energy
 - More solar power needed
 - Go green
 - New development needs to be greener and innovative
 - Housing audits are needed/energy retrofit
 - Lots of low income people – need incentive program to help them retrofit homes to energy efficiency (wave permits)
- Sustainability is important; need to lower carbon blueprint
 - Need widespread buy in
- Vision for sustainable
- Add green building standards for buildings
- More healthy choices
- More sustainability
 - Tree city/urban forest are important
 - Require more trees for new development
 - Adaptive reuse of new and old buildings is very sustainable and avoid landfill waste

Housing

- Diversify housing opportunities: student housing, housing for working families and low income
- Penn/Comstock good example of affordable housing
- Need more affordable housing for working poor
- Provide stable homeless housing along river; not encampments, but actual studio bedroom and 1-bedroom housing
- Guildford Hall project – top notch project for innovation

- Need to do more of that
 - We need innovation solutions
- More mixed use in Uptown
 - Has to be done right
 - Enhance Uptown - good for businesses, bring more professional people/artists to Uptown
- Build more housing; but condos are expensive
- Lincoln Specific Plan – building and growth is good. Needs to be family oriented.

Access

- Wants stronger gateways and sense of arrival – especially on Whittier Boulevard
- Wants a stronger better impression at Washington Boulevard @ 605 – better infrastructure, better stores
- Bike rental program in/around Uptown, Civic Center, College
- Parking issues can be reduced by using churches parking lots when churches aren't busy
- Goldline
- Increase mobility; inexpensive shuttle
- Uptown valet
- More bike lanes (can be better coordinated)
- More traffic calming
- Add bus schedules, headways, info to City's website
- Remove parking on Whittier and additional vehicle lanes
- Need better transportation: affordable and more accessible
- Improve transit

Development

- Whittier College has no plans for major growth due to limited land footprint; will continue to use facilities master plan
- Continue to utilize older, historic buildings, but preserve resource
- Renovate other older, non-historic buildings
- More revitalization on Whittier Boulevard by freeway
- Nelles is the last opportunity. Install valet to Uptown
- Connect Nelles development to Uptown; better wayfinding
- Whittwood offers opportunity for “Caruso”-like shopping experience
- Go Green – Whittier should be leading the way, plugs in, new development
- West end needs higher density; spread out higher density
- Supportive of Nelles project
- Supportive of future Metro light rail station
 - Don't want to turn station to large bus stop though for homeless hangout and blight
- Larger full-scale movie theater (stadium seating)

Recreation and Open Space

- Technology access
 - Wifi at parks
 - Movement/mobility plan for children (shuttles?)
- Another dog park needed

- Park in Uptown, shuttle to trailheads (be careful not to bring too many people to hills); needs to be coordinated with Puente Hills Authority
- More community gardens
 - Apartment living stressful; residents need outlet, open space
 - Apartments have limited parking; no gardens
 - Have to park, then haul groceries
 - Need good fencing to keep coyotes out
- Measure A funds
- Trails Plan
- Assessment to pay for fuel modification for hillside (it's an idea)
- Incentives to convert lawns to native gardens
- More art in public spaces; add program
- Trailhead funding
- Need to update resource management plan
- Further partner/coordination
 - Communications
 - Sophisticated public distribution services
 - Run programs through parks department
- More wildland opened up for public access
- Take load off of Hellman Park
 - Open new trailhead – Pescadero parking lot
 - Existing fire roads can be used as trails and brush fire access
- Visitors come to Hellman/Turnbull park. People come to Whittier - need to capitalize on them. Make it an asset for local businesses
- Connect Whittier open space to emerald necklace
- Whittier Narrows is important to Whittier
- We need innovative/sustainable park solution
- Vick Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High School can be potential for park space
- Respect natural environment
- Need flatter open space for athletic facilities

Other

- Opportunity to advertise GP events at Wake Up Whittier – 3rd Wed/month. 170 – 200 people
- New opportunity for families and children regarding homeless “Imagine Whittier”
- Capitalize on local events – Christmas Parade
- Think big and broadly
 - Don't get stuck on details