

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY

### Workshop #3: Initial Concepts

**Date/Time of Meeting:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 6:00-7:45 pm

**Format:** Virtual (Zoom)

#### OVERVIEW

The meeting began with a welcome greeting from Paula Daneluk, Butte County Development Services Director, followed by a PowerPoint presentation led by PlaceWorks (consultant) that included project background, recap of the four main topics discussed in the second community workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and an overview of the main topics to be covered during the focus group portion of the workshop.

After the brief presentation, attendees participated in “breakout room” discussions in groups of 10-12 people. The Visual Guide used in each breakout room can be downloaded from the project website. Each room discussed three topics tied to set of strategies to consider, one topic per 18-minute session. Participants discussed the following three topics and questions:



- **Parks and Recreation** – Places to play, meet, exercise, and enjoy nature and the outdoors.
  - What park enhancements and improvements shown on the illustrative map benefit your community the most? Are there others not shown?
  - How do you envision the Upper Ridge Connector Trail? What are important neighborhood connections to consider and nodes to connect to?
- **Circulation and Resiliency** – Traveling around by vehicle, walking, biking, and transit, and ensuring effective emergency procedures and evacuation routes.
  - Are the Refuge Areas shown appropriate? Should there be additional ones?
  - Which proposed new internal roadway connections are most needed?
  - Is a “Resilience Hub” a good idea? Where should it be? What should it include?
  - What is the best way to improve pedestrian/bicycle connections?
- **Development and Town Center** – Type and character of new commercial, residential, and other community-serving uses, central gathering spaces and types of uses.
  - Should a Transfer of Development Rights program be considered for larger outlying parcels to sell or trade rights in order to move development to more accessible areas?
  - Should Design Standards be created for new development on the Upper Ridge? What are the most important aspects to address?

- What is the difference between a Town Center and a Community Center, and should we have both?
- If yes, what are the elements that should be part of the Town Center?
- What is the best location for the Town Center?

Following the breakout room discussions, notetakers (from the project team) for each topic reported back to the entire workshop, highlighting key items and themes. Participants’ key feedback and ideas for improvements and strategies are presented in the next section.

Following the discussion groups’ presentations to the entire workshop group, PlaceWorks briefly described the project’s next steps, including the project team’s development of initial concepts and strategies based on feedback received during the workshop and previous community participation, and the ensuing Workshop #3 on May 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss those concepts and strategies. The workshop adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The workshop was attended by approximately 35 community members.



## FOCUS GROUPS – KEY TAKEAWAYS

This section summarizes key themes and takeaways from the focus group discussion. In general, the items below represent shared values amongst multiple participants from different discussion groups.

### Topic 1: Parks and Recreation

- **Community Space Needs**
  - Preserve and enhance open space.
  - Connecting both the “Center” and Lakeridge Park through signalized pedestrian crosswalks across Skyway.
  - Look into designating old driving range as a public field/playground.
  - Could designate parking at Vine St and Boulder Dr to access Magalia Dam.
- **Access to Amenities**
  - Improve parking and signage at parks.
  - Update park access hours to earlier hours for residents who need access.
  - Non-motorized connection between lower and upper Ridge, in between neighborhoods.
- **Trails**
  - Develop an enhanced trailhead at Coutolenc.
  - Further analyze faults along connector trail.

## Topic 2: Circulation and Resiliency

- **Refuge Areas**
  - Consider Cedarwood Elementary in Upper Magalia as a potential refuge location.
  - Research other potential locations higher up on Skyway
  - Research other potential locations in Upper De Sabla (e.g., BLM land)
  - POA could be included as refuge area.
  - Combine existing recreation concepts with as refuge locations, especially locations with unvegetated areas.
  - Look for gaps along Skyway that may serve as potential refuge areas.
  - Paradise Lake may serve as refuge area.
  - Prioritize Rosewood as refuge area.
- **Internal Roadway Connectivity**
  - Topography may pose potential challenges to internal roadway connections.
  - Honey Run Road may serve as potential evacuation road.
  - Consider a connecting road from Bader Mine Rd to Skyway.
  - Connect dead-end roads to improve traffic flow.
  - New multifamily housing development should be properly insured and near evac routes.
- **Resilience Hub**
  - Existing Community Center is not built with fire-resistant materials.
  - Updating cell tower infrastructure, cell service often lost during fires.
  - Retrofitting resilience hub and new units with backup Garmin satellite system.
  - Bring back emergency alarm to be tested once monthly.
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements**
  - Difficult to safely walk and bike around Magalia
  - Skyway needs major ped/bike improvements.

## Topic 3: Development and Town Center

- **Transfer of Development Rights**
  - Consider vegetation, slope, and fire sensitivity of land when discussing TDRs.
  - TDRs should look into WUI expansion and other fire-related planning efforts.
  - Areas zoned low residential may be deemed as good TDR areas.
  - Using TDRs to conserve open space and maintain greenery is a great effort.
  - Consider looking into burnt POA lands.
  - There are not enough large parcels in the area to support the amount of multifamily housing needed.
  - Landowners may find this process to be too difficult to want to deal with it.
- **Future Development – Design Standards**
  - Consider using Nexii Building Solutions for new homes to make homes fire resistant and keep town character.
  - Magalia design standards should be considered.
  - More people should be involved in making such critical decisions, not only the participants at this meeting.
  - Restricting homeowners with design standards may be difficult to pass in the Upper Ridge.
- **Town Center and Community Building**
  - Town Center should be more commercial oriented while Community Center would be more recreational centered.

- Location one would be a great for a Town Center.
- Location two should remain commercial.
- Town Center should include coffee shops and other retail locations.
- Continue to use existing Community Center and focus on building Town Center.

#### Key Next Steps

- **Design Refinement:** to be shared during Workshop #4
- **Workshop #4:** In-person on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:30– 7:00 pm
- **Draft Community Plan:** September