

Community Service Provider Focus Group

Thursday, May 17

Long Valley Garden club

Participants:

John Leung, County Planning Team

Chris Johnson, Manager of Bank of Willits, Harwood Park Board of Directors, Healthy Start

Dusty Duley, Mendocino County Planner

John Pinches, 3rd District Supervisor

Kerry Foltz – Laytonville Water District

Verna Cox – Long Valley Health Center Board of Directors

Tom Allman – County Sheriff

Phil Dow – Director MCOG. Involved in county-wide transportation issues.

Roland Spence – Laytonville Skate Park

Ultimately, the realization of Laytonville’s community vision is the creation of a vibrant, accessible, safe and sustainable Town Center for the greater community. A thriving Town Center will provide a vital component of the community’s quality of life and offer residents a central gathering place for commerce, entertainment and civic engagement.

Understanding and meeting the service, retail recreational and civic needs of the local community is critical to Laytonville’s long-term success as a self-sustaining community. The following list of amenities was formulated through extensive community input and reflects the needs and desires of the Laytonville community.

On Waste Water Treatment...

- County Supervisor believes that waste water treatment plant is not coming (due to cost feasibility) and is not an impediment to growth. Politically its not going to fly. Would impact drinking water standards in ten Mile Creek. Septic

maintenance failure is #1 issue for contamination. Ground water table is another environmental constraint. Investors are what is needed – do a better job of attracting private investment. Two lane Willits by-pass will put a focus on Laytonville businesses. Bank and Park’n Takit is all on one system, as an example of clustered systems.

- There is an opportunity for alternative sewer system and clustered housing. The lack of sewer stops people dead in their tracks, instead of looking at the community gain from new housing.
- Lack of waste water treatment is an issue for the Health Center as they think about expanding facilities and providing housing. The Health Center is interested in cooperating with others to solve the issue.
- The County Sheriff mentioned that Lay-

tonville needs sewer treatment, although it would open the door for unchecked growth and threaten the charm.

On Economic Development...

- Need to make the community work for the kids...they need jobs and housing and opportunity. Economic opportunity and businesses are key. When the Wil-lits bypass goes through, so the first stop north of San Francisco will be in Eureka, with traffic slowing in Laytonville – the major opportunity for Laytonville.
- There is consensus is that growth is needed, use planning tools to guide it. Need an economic base to support county services, schools and employment.
- The County Planning Team is hearing the same issues about youth needing something to do. The County and Laytonville needs leeway to grow, and yet we don't want to be another Santa Rosa. The Ukiah community found that how the design of growth happens is the most important issue. Strategies like compact

growth, clustered housing, second units can be solutions.

On the transient issue ...

- The transient issue is perceived to be due to the illegal economics of this region. They are trashing Harwood Park. Businesses are clearing bushes, taking out benches. Causes people not to come to bank/businesses. Removing the benches has alleviated some of the problems in front of the bank.
- County Sheriff quoted a local business person “for the homeless person, the road to Layotnville is a one-way street”. We have camping and trespassing ordinances to help regulate, but a public place is a public place. The problems in Laytonville are the same in Covelo, Ft. Bragg and Gualala. The transient problem in Laytonville got really bad 3 years ago following the High Times article advertising

trimming (marijuana) work in Laytonville. It's going to take something other than law enforcement to address the issue. Illegal marijuana is rampant, and there is legal marijuana as well. There is a current Board of Supervisors proposal to address the issue. Sheriff's office will distribute zip ties to medical patients and care providers...allowing law enforcement to do their job better. There is more marijuana in long valley than any other place is Mendocino County. Most of it is medical marijuana.

On the youth issue...

- We need to provide an environment for youth to have meaningful work and social engagement.
- The youth need something to do other than basketball, rodeo, or trimming dope. The skate park needs a downtown location to be donated. Skate parks bring

in business. Healthy Activities for Local Teens (HALT) at Healthy Start program has hired Roland to bring kids to skate park in Willits after school. Healthy activities for kids after school keeps kids away from alcohol and drugs. Graffiti is not an issue at skate parks, as at the Willits Skate Park, any graffiti closes down the park, so it is a responsible, self-policing community. The Long Valley Skaters Association has raised \$9,000 in donations for skate park. The Association is working with the Parachute Project, an organization started to help people in need of medical treatment, and transferred tax exempt status. Once they hit \$15,000, they will begin asking for matching funds. Funding likely to come from County, State, and private foundations (Tony Hawk Foundation). Skate parks can become a destination and bring in revenue.

- The County Sheriff added that the skate park in Willits is constantly utilized, it brings in out of state people, skate park becomes a destination point. Brings in tax dollars. Willits spent \$600,000 (does not include cost of land). There are 20 – 50 people at all times and parents are spending time with kids at the skate park.

