

COMMUNITY UNITY

PURPOSE

Community Unity was identified in a visioning meeting as the most important goal of the Lava Hot Springs Community Development Plan. This Chapter is intended to provide an understanding of what creates the special community bond. It is the hope that this chapter will guide decision makers toward the preservation of this most important aspect of the City of Lava.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The City of Lava Hot Springs is comprised of not just the people and places located within the city limits. Community meetings have repeatedly shown that there are just as many participants that live outside the city limits as those that live inside the city limits. To acknowledge the wonderful people that contribute to the City and who make up the heart and soul of community we refer to the Greater Lava Hot Springs Area.

The City is both a destination site and a small community. Summer only business activity does not adequately serve the needs of the community as a whole. The special nature of the city and the interdependency of business and community must be addressed. Marketing the community as a place to live as well as a place to visit is an important aspect of the comprehensive plan. The community is committed to keeping Lava as a home town not a ghost town. In addition to our treasured visitors, we need jobs, employees and children to keep what we have.

The Community Unity of the city will be best maintained by making careful decisions about parking. Parking decisions have the potential to cut the town into sections that serve or hinder this highly valued concept.

GOAL

The Greater Lava Hot Springs area is committed to growth in a way that retains the existing community feel. The community wants to plan for growth and orchestrate this growth to keep the friendly atmosphere, the home town feel and the common caring that has made Lava special.

Objective

Citizens would like to have a voice in decision making that directs the future. This comprehensive plan is a source of that voice. The citizens wish to be included and to give input through the planning process.

Strategy: Format the decision making process in a manner that gives a voice to the City of Lava and the Greater Lava Hot Springs Area.

Strategy: Continue to use opportunities like Horizons for visioning meetings and to address community issues. Citizens attend and appreciate meetings that identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

Objective

Improve current forms of including citizens by using the local newsletter and communicate to those inside city limits by utilizing the water billing system.

Strategy: A little newsletter in the water bill about why decisions were made and what decisions are coming up is appreciated by the citizens. This can be used as a great way to initiate dialogue that will pull in the whole Greater Lava Hot Springs Area. Lots of people don't use high technology. We shouldn't forget about them.

GOAL

Visioning meetings have indicated the community interest in having a Business incubator and encouraging cottage industries. These endeavors help the community live and work locally and maintain that home town atmosphere so highly prized.

GOAL

Parking is a particular concern when considering the development and maintaining the community of the City of Lava Hot Springs.

Objective

Allow convenient short term parking for locals and businesses.

Strategy: Preserve Small parking areas near existing motels and businesses support the local feel of small town life.

Objective

Create areas for larger parking needs that do not inhibit development and do not cut the town into uncomfortable sections.

Strategy: Explore and use planning tools or parking rules that allow all day and week long visitors to safely store vehicles away from areas better utilized for walking traffic.

Strategy: In the quest for the preservation of a unified community, leaders should consider several questions:

What is more important, having a corner developed or having parking?

How do we let Main Street be for walking and have a place for the cars?

Other solutions, nontraditional solutions need to be considered. Look at other small destination cities and see what worked and what didn't work for off street parking.

Can people be encouraged to walk from day parking areas when visiting? Consider ideas like multilevel parking. Look at parking regulations in Jackson and Park City Hailey other cities that rely on tourism and seasonal interests.

GOAL

Maintain the hometown feeling by creating an environment that includes local youth. There should be kids playing basketball at the neighborhood park.

Objective

Create an environment that supports many activities for local youth.

Strategy: When there are not enough kids for church ball encourage recruiting in the greater lava area.

Strategy: When school enrollment droops look into charter school or grants that can boost interest.

Strategy: Replace playing surfaces that are not appropriate for the activity with appropriate surfaces.

Objective:

Create park policies that support appropriate materials for intended activities

Strategy: Promote use of existing facilities for kids.

Strategy: support local swimming champion

GOAL

Keep the Home Town Feel by creating employers and by bringing employees here. Market the city as a place to live and work

Objective: Let people know this is a great place to raise a family.

One good thing with kids is that the City of Lava still has an “olden days” feel about it. The local citizens know all the local kids and just like “the olden days” they talk to parents and let them know if the kids are messing u. It’s great for a kid to grow up knowing neighbors and shop owners and knowing that all the local citizens are interested in their wellbeing and happiness. That’s a lot’s of wonderful “home town feeling” that is alive and strong in Lava Hot Springs.

Strategy: Create on line materials that show the welcome of cottage industries.

Strategy: Create on line materials that support the development of a business park.

Strategy: Enact owner occupied zoning on a percentage of new annexing.

See the housing and business chapters for important discussions and information related to marketing, neighborhoods and community supported business.