

Envision 2020 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

BISBEE MEETING SUMMARY

March 5, 2008

Number of Participants: 26

Note: Topics listed under "themes" represent responses that were mentioned by several of the different working groups in response to a particular question.

What changes are expected to impact the area?

Local themes

- Population growth
- Water issues
- Pressure on wildlife—loss of corridors, flora, fauna
- Loss of open space
- More traffic

Also mentioned

- Border issues
- Light pollution
- Pressure on San Pedro
- Views & vistas
- Historic preservation—all over county
- Government take over of property
- Attack on dark skies
- Urban sprawl due to RU4 (too high density)
- Loss of agricultural land & water rights
- Type of population—more retirement, less "living wage" jobs
- Rental market
- Increased tourism, more RV's
- Water, energy, air pollution, sanitation
- Increased taxes
- Housing affordability

County-wide perspectives

- Increase in light pollution
- Need for alternative power production
- Continuing overdraft of aquifers
- Growth bringing more public/private water companies

What characteristics of the area should NOT be changed?

Local themes

- Dark night skies
- Historic landmarks & characteristics
- Cultural character of Bisbee—small town sense/scale
- Open space & views
- Rural character
- San Pedro Riparian Area
- Clean air

Also mentioned

- Non-multiple complex sprawl
- Slow pace
- B Hill
- Potential damage from mining—not change or damage land
- Walk able areas
- Embracing alternative lifestyles
- Casual mix of suburban/agricultural heritage
- Vastness
- Live & let be
- Clean water & enough water
- Property rights
- Retain Hwy 80 Mountain Canyon viewsapes and corridor
- Keep mining & ranching legacy
- Top of mountains left undeveloped
- No development without water
- Keep community businesses instead of corporate mega-stores
- Keep wildlife & biodiversity
- Don't create homogenized sub-divisions
- Individuality
- Cattle ranching

County-wide perspectives

- Preserve open spaces
- Current access to public lands

What do we fear or hope for as the community changes or grows?

Hopes

Local themes

- Sustainable/green economy—clean jobs, industry, eco-tourism
- Cochise county be a model for sustainable development—promote solar homes, solar companies, recycling

Also mentioned

- Save the San Pedro
- Conservation subdivisions
- Affordable housing
- Retain uniqueness

- Better public transportation--to Tucson, Phoenix and within the County
- Open space
- Positive relations with Mexico
- Dog park
- Bike & hiking trails
- Maintain small community
- Enhancing historic heritage
- Common sense regulation
- More good paying jobs
- Thriving artistic creative community
- Adequate school funding
- Resolution of border issues

County-wide themes

- Impact fees will be imposed
- Decent jobs
- Affordable housing near workplace
- Infrastructure
- Take into account smart growth principles
- Preserve natural Arizona flora, fauna
- Preserve access to mountain & wild areas
- Self sustaining communities

Fears

Local themes

- Water issues—not enough, pollution
- Cookie cutter subdivisions--sameness in housing styles
- Suburbanization—sprawl

Also mentioned

- State land developed indiscriminately
- Destruction of San Pedro
- Growth
- The border wall
- Not stopping wildcat developments
- More golf courses
- Pollution—lights, noise, traffic, air
- Mountain ridges, hilltops and canyons fill with rich people's houses
- Will look like Prescott Valley
- Border militarization—helicopters causing air and noise pollution
- A house every 4 acres
- Drug culture & illegal activity
- Loss of housing affordability
- Border issues unmanageable
- Losing access to open space
- Planning gives in to developers, not community needs
- Fear of county becoming like Sierra Vista

County-wide themes

- Impact fees without supporting growth
- Close Fort Huachuca—economic impact
- Basing water decisions on emotion, not science
- Loss of property rights
- Increased crime & other problems that come with growth
- Loss of dark skies
- Extremists: both growth and anti-growth

What are your ideas for how the community should change or grow?

Local ideas

- Residential & commercial development
 - Conservation subdivisions
 - Do not allow more density/400 acres + 100 houses only, but cluster them on 40 to 50 acres and keep 350-360 acres open
 - Preserve 70%
 - Encourage affordable housing
 - Infill existing areas of San Jose and Warren
 - Build new developments within city limits—no annexing
 - Develop eco-friendly, walk able community near airport
 - Light industry in Naco and near airport
 - Move/create commercial/retail area (for residents, not tourists) to San Jose area
 - Clean mining for jobs
- Zoning
 - Maintain green open space corridor along HWY 80 between Sierra Vista & Bisbee
 - Protect HWY 80 corridor from ridge top and high density development
 - Save Juniper Flats—no subdivisions
 - Rezone RU4 to lower density RU 10,18 & 36 all over
- Environmental
 - Protect San Pedro Riparian Area
 - Protect San Pedro Watershed and drainage
 - Native plant protection
 - Wildlife protection
 - Solar and wind power
- General ideas
 - Recycle, recycle, recycle
 - Well developed public transit system, no need for new roads
 - Support community gardens in Bisbee
 - Remove border wall
 - County-wide trail system from east county thru Old Bisbee, Warren to Camp Naco and on to San Pedro—Rails to Trails
 - Limit towers (cell, etc.)/freeze towers on “B” Hill

- Preserve archeology—mammoth kill site
- Growth only after water supply determined & alternative energy used & ecology protected
- Better parking in Old Bisbee
- International Peace Park to span the border
- Bring back the railroad
- Dog Park
- Preserve history and culture
- Dark night skies

County-wide ideas

- Scattered self-contained communities—“nodes”, neighborhood and surrounding area appropriate.