

City of Houston Future's Workshop 9/18/14

Mind Maps Summary

Whole Group Session – Sharing common themes and findings

Community Character:

- Houston as a destination for tourism and recreation
- Have a unique identity or theme for us to be recognized by- distinguish Houston Alaska from the rest of the country and state
- Preservation of residential character – keeping “Houston Houston” with larger parcels for housing and minimal light pollution and noise
- Own a recreational identity; more than just trail heads
- Design standards for development
- Establish a Town Center keeping to the Houston feel
- Preservation of existing trails and ecology
- Involving community in the development and construction of community facilities
- Maintaining the quiet dark character – open for growth but keep it rural
- Community needs to be proactive
- Family friendly
- Make both sides of the river and railroad tracks feel like one community
- Wide reaching community government and development- increased involvement

Transportation:

- Train station in the City
- More connectivity – more emergency access
- Town center that is accessible and multiuse
- Multiuse pathways
- Better signage
- Main road be protected – increased vegetation
- Maintain multiuse trails
- Improved lighting and roadways
- Eventually expand availability of utilities and services
- Safety on the Parks corridor
- Development of King Arthur Rd.
- Hawk lane bike path – improvement of pedestrian safety via pathways and lighting

City of Houston Future's Workshop 9/18/14

Mind Maps Summary

- Industrial development along the rail lanes- light industrial
- Increase vegetative buffers in roadways
- Main artery needs proper planning for controlled access and the expansion of the Parks highway and the secondary roadways – *proper planning for corridor*
- *Port to Parks*
- Bus stop marker, signage, and lighting
- Park and ride with Valley-movers throughout Mat-Su and Anchorage Bowl

Planning

- More staffing for City, Fire department should not be responsible for all emergency and police services
- Evolve into a 1st class city
- Corridor study
- Planning land use (one comment on no zoning restrictions)
- Water resource planning –special attention to the flood planes
- Development suitability study
- MSB build out- match with community growth
- Program to reduce junk cars
- Transfer centers
- Incentive for people to come here – education, recreation facilities, design
- Encourage subdivision with more high income development

Housing

- Incentivize Dr. and medical facilities to move here
 - Assisted care facilities
- Plan for multi-family and senior housing with the aging population
- Conveniences for high end houses for a higher tax base – designate areas for high end housing

Community Facilities and Services

- Education – elementary school

City of Houston Future's Workshop 9/18/14

Mind Maps Summary

- Town Center with; pedestrian friendly facilities, landscaping, panels and walk theme, restaurants, mixed use, near river or railroad, building codes (Form based codes)
- Youth summer programs
- Opportunities for post-secondary education/carter school
- Public safety; EMS expansion, year round water flow for fire
- Flood control response planning
- Community watch
- Recreation; trails, multiuse, designated facilities for recreation (rinks, pools, ball courts), preservation of natural areas, facility maintenance for motorized and non-motorized users including horses and dogs
- Animal shelter
- Utility expansion dependent on road alignment ; natural gas, coal, alternative energy
- Recreation destination; use Little Su for business services (tourism)
- Cemetery
- Veterinary clinic
- Daycare
- Business districts; planned, designed, and built
- Pharmacy
- Dentist
- Medical facilities
- Assisted care facilities
- Gas station and goods services
- Grocery store or food shops

Economic Development

- Keep tax base
- Local jobs
- Riverwalk
- Community identity for economic development (using it to draw in visitors and residents)
- Centralized for recreation for Hatcher Pass, Deskha, etc. – capitalize on natural location
- Facilities at King Arthur; Laundromat, shower, gym, meeting place
- Daycare
- Natural resource development; coal mines, power plant, city owned utility