



Comprehensive Plan Spanish-Speaking Community Kick-Off Meeting Summary

June 13, 2019

The City of Montrose hosted a Comprehensive Plan Spanish-Speaking Community Kick-Off Meeting on June 13, 2019 at Columbine Middle School. This kick-off event was the second public meeting for the *Envision 2040 Montrose Comprehensive Plan*. The community gathering included approximately 30 participants and 10 staff for a total of 40 attendees. The goal of the meeting was to gather input on community vision and values. The meeting began with an open house and refreshments. Child care was also provided during the meeting.

During the open house, participants were asked to fill out a “What I Love about Montrose” card. A total of 28 cards were returned, some with numerous themes. The number in parentheses indicate the quantity of responses received for each common theme.

Themes:

- Community, family, people (13)
- Parks/walkways (12)
- Safety, low crime (11)
- Proximity to nature/beauty (11)
- Cleanliness (6)
- Access to health care (3)
- Accessible businesses/downtown (3)
- Diversity (1)

Dave Bowman, City Mayor, welcomed the participants and introduced the meeting facilitator, Melissa Burkhart from Futuro Sólido, USA. The presentation included information on the purpose and process of the Comprehensive Plan, potential elements to be included in the Comprehensive Plan, an estimated timeline, existing conditions and growth trends, and future workshop dates. Following the presentation, attendees participated in the “pennies in a jar” exercise where everyone voted on a variety of values by placing pennies in different jars based on the values that were most important to them. In addition, they could write in “other values” that were not included on the jars. Following is a list of the top values in order of importance based on the top number of votes or pennies received.

Numbers 3 and 4 were tied, and numbers 7 and 8 were tied.

1. Prosperity and Opportunity
2. Health
3. Safety
4. Stewardship of Natural Resources
5. Family Centered
6. Diversity
7. Inclusivity
8. Fiscally Responsible
9. Future Oriented

Some of the “other values” received included: safety (more public lighting); equal access to services and support; and support for innovation/entrepreneurship. Participants were also asked what was most important to them in the community. The following themes and number of votes were as follows: health (17), safety (13) housing (10), education (5), and infrastructure (lighting on streets) (3).

After the values exercise, participants worked in small groups to identify things that would like to see changed and created in Montrose. Each group chose their top 3 changes and top 3 things to create and presented those back to the larger group. The following table shows those results along with potential strategies identified by the groups to address to those issues. Highlighted items indicate that the “change” or “create” noted was a “top 3” pick for at least one group. The most common items that participants wanted to *change* included: more affordable/equitable housing; access to better working conditions and higher paying jobs; affordable youth activities; and assistance to prevent drug addiction. The most common items that participants wanted to *create* included: affordable/equitable housing; mental health crisis services; multicultural center; DARE drug addiction prevention program until end of High School; more robust public transportation; and more job opportunities at the local level.

The feedback received at this meeting and future workshops will help guide development of the Comprehensive Plan and future vision, goals, and recommendations for the final *Envision 2040 Montrose Comprehensive Plan*.

City of Montrose Community Kick-Off Meeting
 June 13, 2019
 Results from Small Group Discussion

CHANGE: What change would you like to see in Montrose? Highlighted cells indicate that this was a “Top 3” pick for at least one group:

CHANGE	# of Groups Listing	Potential Strategies Identified
More affordable/equitable housing	3	
Increase early childhood education options	1	Expand Kindergarten; there are waitlists for preschool
Free use of parks	1	For group exercise use
Access to better working conditions and higher paying jobs	3	More job opportunities overall; Increase minimum wage
Increase/Improve traffic flow around town	2	
More lights in city	2	Lights in residential areas and mobile home parks.
Affordable youth activities	3	After-school and summer activities
More representation of Latino community	1	Create Unity, One Community
Shelters for homeless	1	There are homeless all year round
Assistance to prevent drug addiction	3	Especially for youth
Multilingual education options	1	Hire more bilingual teachers
Accessible health system	2	Access that doesn't take into account immigration status
Revert Main St back to old traffic flow	1	
Expand recycling and encourage recycling	1	
Increase/Expand transportation options	2	
Retain medical practitioners	1	
Improve handling of mental health crises and those who need mental health services	2	
Encourage use of bikes and public transportation	1	More bike lanes
Expand post-secondary education options	1	
Pave the streets	2	

Police/cameras in parks	2	Need security in parks because youth are at risk of drug-use and vandalism
Clean up parking lots/empty lots	2	Get rid of empty trailers on land/ lots; people are squatting there. The land/ lot owners need to check on this.
City trash pick-up in all neighborhoods	1	
More green space/parks	1	
Parking lot ordinances	1	
Equality in city services	1	Some service locations are in poor repair
Bring back Main in Motion (Thursday)	1	
More drivers' education for youth	1	There are a lot of accidents due to lack of education and respect.

CREATE: What would you like to see created in Montrose? Highlighted cells indicate that this was a “Top 3” pick for at least one group:

CREATE	# of Groups Listing	Potential Strategies Identified
Affordable/ equitable housing	3	
Create a rehab center for addicts	1	
Multicultural center	2	Cultural outreach- One Community
DARE drug addiction prevention program until end of High School	2	
Protection from sexual predators for our families and children	1	
Bypasses to get through town- East and West bus loop	1	
Opportunities for youth	1	Four year programs; people leave and don't come back.
More higher education opportunities.	1	
Mental health crisis services	3	
Bike rental/borrowing around town	1	
More robust public transportation	2	
More job opportunities at local level	2	
Create an amusement park	1	Similar to Glenwood Springs or Waterworld in Denver
Expand/create university with dorms	1	
Create an aquarium	1	