

Housing Element Community Workshop #1 Cultivating Connection April 22, 2021 Report Out

During the first Housing Element workshop, participants joined small tables of less than six attendees to discuss the key values and concerns about the future of housing in Lafayette. The groups talked through the following questions:

Round 1

1. What does it mean to have a place to live in Lafayette?
2. What values, interests, concerns do I hold about housing in Lafayette?

Round 2

3. What have you heard from others in round one that you feel is most significant for you personally?
4. What do you think are the most important themes or ideas the City should be sure to take into consideration in decisions about the Housing Element of the General Plan?

The table hosts took notes throughout the conversation and then reported out to the entire group on what came out of their conversations. The table below includes summarized notes from the end of the session, but a recording of the introductory presentation and table host report is available on the City's Youtube page at <https://youtu.be/nKQrHWa-Cfl>.

	Table	Host
1	Valley Oak	Matt Pease
	• Importance of the community itself • Lafayette is central to other areas • Natural beauty - parks, landscape, hillside • Great schools • People feel safe • Small government/use of volunteers on City Council and commissions • Importance of diversity • Complexity of the housing issue with many sides; RHNA numbers are unrealistic - local issues like topography are not being considered; wildfire safety is of concern; allocate housing more towards major metro areas and less in suburbs	
2	Black Walnut	Dick Craig
	• Eclectic nature of living here; quaint downtown; open space; small town feel; history is important; neighborhood feel; safety, commute, trails - want to keep all of that with the new units; what is the impact of new housing units to the city's character, environmental impacts, traffic? • Keep walkability, avoid negative impacts to downtown, keep businesses viable and downtown walkable • Semi-rural is a relative term • Affordability, Lafayette is a welcoming community but we don't have the diversity (racial/income levels) - young people may not look to stay in Lafayette because of those issues	

- Concerns about how the 2,100 units will fit - is it an appropriate number? As development takes place it should not displace others or negatively impact downtown in infrastructure or traffic, don't want to be just a bedroom community. - Keep jobs, "15-minute city" concept is a good one.		
3	Coast Live Oak	Chair Chris Lee
- Safety, beauty, community, a place that values education and children, environment, semi-rural. - People are serious about volunteering for the city - City seems to be dividing into older residents and those young double-income families and may create a division; young people and children may not want to move back to Lafayette due to lack of diversity - Looking for walkable bikeable city, walkable trails that involve creeks - Variety of people and housing and has small town charm - concerned about State forcing us to grow; placing burden on infrastructure - Is affordability possible? What does affordability mean? - Impacts to schools, open space, looking for zoning for slower growth, more organic growth to not overburden infrastructure. - Concern about state requirements, unrealistic, may create less room for business downtown. What is the effect if SFR zoning is abolished? - Is the state growing at the rate they are requiring us to zone for? - If business relocate further out from Lafayette then employees could have more affordable housing		
4	Madrone	Namratha Kasalanti
- Things we like: nature, space, hills, community, schools, safety, proximity to other things like SF, single family character - Concerns: are there enough jobs to support those that will move in, skeptical of the need for the new 2,000 units, nervous about a developer controlled plan vs. character of neighborhood - Focus on infrastructure, traffic, wildfire, housing should be lower scale in height; "15-minute city", walkability - GPAC and planners to look at master planning for smart planning - looking at big picture - Concern about larger buildings boxing in/imposing		
5	California Buckeye	Vice Chair Jim Cervantes
- Things we like: interesting and orderly but not pretentious, open space, more diverse now than in the past - work in progress, - Need to balance new units with commercial spaces. - Topography and fire safety is of concern. - Design is of concern - like what we do now. - Vistas, open space, fire safety, traffic, job opportunities as housing might replace commercial. - Public safety given narrow streets, downtown could accommodate more people but still concerned about fire safety.		
6	Blue Oak	Nancy Tran
<i>Table closed during session to consolidate participants into groups at other tables.</i>		
7	Redwood	Diana Elrod
- Appreciate availability of natural resources to the community - Feeling conflicted about wanting to stay semi-rural and at the same time acknowledge growth is		

happening and things change • DEI - important in terms of intersection of environmentalism/climate change • Make sure there is a robust range of housing for people so cars are less needed. • Children of current residents cannot afford to live here because of cost and may not want to based on lack of diversity. • MFR might be all downtown - Seattle has a variety of housing in all areas of the city. Laf is partly walkable/bikeable but could be improved to reduce car use.		
8	Black Oak	Lisa Martin
<i>Table closed during session to consolidate participants into groups at other tables.</i>		
9	Interior Live Oak	Joshua Muller
• Concerns around RHNA numbers and densification of the city - how do we balance the unique character with the state mandates and affordability? • Concern of downtown turning into housing and losing the sales tax base. • Schools, natural environment, concern about congestion. • Look at data to inform HE and developments • Enthusiasm about ADUs to contribute to HE • Mixed used in downtown; both housing and commercial		
10	White Alder	Niroop Srivatsa
• Pride in our community, peace, tranquility • Control over one's environment • Concern that Lafayette is becoming exclusionary in that only the wealthy could live here		
44	Arroyo Willow	Jonathan Katayanagi
<i>Table closed during session to consolidate participants into groups at other tables.</i>		
12	Boxelder	Jeff Warner
• Businesses - critical to ensure work on HE would support and enhance the businesses. • Understand change and growth happens, but a hope for a subtle type of growth to help keep the city the way it is now. • Design is important • Does overbuilding or developments of a certain scale have an impact on the groundwater/water table? That keeps the city green • Exclusion and high housing costs are of concern • Concern that the city will listen to what the citizens have to say.		
13	Cottonwood	Karen Maggio
• Community, lots of participation, people are connected, wonderful place to raise children • Concern with current development is not of as much quality as previous development • Some developments back up to SFR - character is affected when larger goes next to SFR • Semi-rural may or may not be the descriptor moving forward • How do we maintain the Lafayette we love? • Downtown developments are starting block views of the hills, fire safety and traffic - how do we grow and address these problems?		

14	Big-Leaf Maple	Greg Wolff
<i>Table closed during session to consolidate participants into groups at other tables.</i>		
15	Western-Redbud	Jonathan Fox
<i>Table closed during session to consolidate participants into groups at other tables.</i>		
16	Manzanita	Renata Robles
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