



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS
Our Town. Our Choices.
A Road Map to the Future**

**Town Hall I: April 15-16, 2005
Small Group Discussion Notes**

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Participants

- Jim Ciraulo
- Dan Coughenour
- Frank Ferrara
- Tim Glose
- Larry Haddy
- Joyce Henderson
- Bill Jaeger
- John McEvoy
- Dawson Rauch
- Marjorie Rennie
- John Rennie
- Clarence Walters
- Larry J. Woodlan

What do you like about Fountain Hills, and what would you change?

<i>Like</i>	<i>Change</i>
Scenery	More shopping and recreation
Small town	Don't have to go to Scottsdale
Ability to network	Better transportation (cab, etc.)
Lack of congestion: left turns are easy	Responsiveness of government
Comprehensive plan controls on growth	Information for newcomers
Open views: expansiveness	Liked it better the way it used to be
Beauty small town	Handicapped access (small trailer: 25 year resident)
Visual beauty	Library expansion
Lots of clubs and organizations to join	Youth entertainment opportunities
No street lights; dark skies	Code enforcement lacking (lighting)
Rural feel with proximity to city	Places like Desert Ridge for teens to hang out
Individual: not cookie cutter like Gilbert	Need to change from general law to Charter Town Government
Volunteerism and camaraderie	Youth and seniors
Small town friendly people	Stay at 30K
Target	4 wheeling in desert
Restaurants	Motorcyclists on Saguaro Blvd.: Sheriff closes off intersection to let them through with no neighbor notice
Size of town and ease of access	

What could make you leave?

- Too high property tax
- Property value decreases
- If state land by McDowell Park is developed in to high density residential area
- Increase in crime
- If quality of education declines
- Rezoning land to higher density, developing open space
- Sidewalks and street lights throughout
- Changes in zoning that diminish scenic views and access to open space
- Town gets too big
- Overdevelopment of adjacent Indian Reservation Land
- Sun City feel

Core Values and Vision Discussion

Value: Personal Financial Security

Vision: Property Values Maintained

Value: Preserve town character.

Vision: Slow speed of vehicular traffic, few stoplights, dark skies, no sidewalks, rural feel, maintain traditions, architectural control, fountain/park, friendly exchanges with neighbors, downtown and elsewhere.

Value: Sense of Community.

Vision: Fewer gated communities. Continue extraordinary sense of volunteerism and organizations good to know your neighbors.

Value: Public safety.

Vision: Continued sheriff patrol. Volunteerism; block watch patrol; know and look after our neighbors. Care.

Value: Environmental preservation.

Vision: Geographic isolation of town. Limited growth. Preserve views. Dark skies; see stars. Limited industrialization.

Value: Spirit and Vitality of town.

Vision: Mix of age groups. Education and culture. Library. Theater. Museum. Arts council. Adult Education. Senior Center. Service clubs/volunteers. Keep kids from moving away.

Value: Recreational opportunity.

Vision: Good and well-marked access to trails and open space. Information available about recreation with good maps, etc.

Vision Attainment Strategies

1. Civic Association (existing) is good and should continue: Reexamine form and culture of government.
2. Park, Avenue of the Fountains. Cohesive group formed by town to oversee (sense of unity) group of residents to help drive (avoid problems with staff turnover) integrated focused attraction.
3. Good planning/zoning commission and enforcement. Make it difficult to get an exemption.
4. Strong land conservation policy and no building on hillsides. Regionally integrated planning with municipal neighbors. Information, educated awareness.
5. Need city-wide internet access (town run?). Need funding (taxes) to pay good teachers. Consider affiliation/nearby community colleges and ASU: hold night classes at the high school. Population too small to support full-blown community college but many students go straight to community college and may use here.
6. Property tax. Retail sales/business taxes. Take over city services (water, trash, sewer, police, fire. Be judicious about spending. Careful consideration and look into future implications, *i.e.* operations and maintenance costs. Interregional lobbying at state legislature re: taxes. If school age population declines, consider school district merger.
7. Continue existing strong events—art fair—could be diversified (seems like the same artists all the time). Draw attendance with popular music group. Bring crowd-attracting entertainment to town. Art Fair space becoming more and more limited (cultural council needs to examine...also look at Cave Creek, Carefree, Sedona for comparison purposes.)
8. Examine existing resources and determine need for more? This group does not wholly share in this vision...is there really a need? Possible partnerships with municipal neighbors. Need to address limited access to FH...only SR 87 and Shea...other ideas...Via Linda and Dynamite. Lots of discussion on transportation routes.
9. Availability of information for citizens on web. Encourage involvement of young people and new people. Some organizations not welcoming...cliquish. Need more accessibility to elected officials. Channel 11 is severely underutilized. Encourage citizens to attend meetings and vote. Volunteer appreciation (Town Council) is good. Citizen boards and commissions.
10. We want things from them but what do we have to offer? Periodic dinners or other events, inviting neighbors to network, talk, develop relationships. AZ League of Cities and Towns. FH should initiate relationship.
11. NIMBY. Housing market should be what market will bear. If yes, state land may be a good place. Low cost housing causes kids to bear stigma of poverty. No need. Land too expensive! No subsidies. Consider some high density development to make state land more affordable. Policy to set aside a portion of redeveloped areas.
12. Property taxes may be needed to provide. Group feels we are doing well. May have already attained this vision. Good now; maintain what we have using necessary means. Require fire sprinklers for new buildings. Urgent care; look at satellite facilities from neighboring hospitals.

13. Support and appreciation of elected officials and staff. Town website should have a clear link to Chamber Civic Organizations. Database of organizations and regular communication between/among.
14. High price housing; zoning; concern for higher density in redevelopment areas.
15. Good information available to residents and visitors. Clear maps, signage. Secure ROW for access, WEB, build trailheads, set aside dollars, seek grant funding in partnership with town.
16. Maintain and enforce/strengthen dark sky codes. Partnership with neighboring governments. Educate community on value of wildlife and how to interact with them.