

**Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan Amendment
Community Services Element Review
October 4th, 2011 Key Stakeholders Meeting Notes**

Needs of specific age groups

1. Facilities should be inter-generational; this would create a much more enriching experience. This will encourage kids to get involved for service hours.
2. Activities/programs that bring different ages together must have a clear goal.
3. Need to use metrics to see how well programs we are supporting are doing.
4. Transportation is key to kids and seniors.
5. Look at population numbers. Need to address issues and programs that these numbers tell us about.
6. Project Safety Net collaboration is a model the community can follow to address senior issues.
7. All tied together...aging issues and disability access.
8. Regarding the City's programs, suggestion was made to go back to zero, do needs assessment for what is needed now and in the future.

1. The needs of specific population age groups.

1a)

1. Price increase in housing cause difficulties in moving/living
2. More apartments, less living space
3. Facilities for all ages with separate sections/branches for specific ages
4. Cannot afford separate age specific facilities
5. Create more community space
6. Need for teen specific space
7. Flexible/multi-use space
8. Importance of having geographically dispersed centers (different parts of town)
9. Importance of local activities
10. Flexibility in modifying for community

2a)

1. How do we outreach/evaluate for different groups?
2. Palo Alto Weekly, PAUSD, neighborhood newsletters, Enjoy
3. Multi-language usage
4. Promote activities without language barriers
5. Can't hit every language
6. Find community "elders"/leaders lack of central communication
7. Raising awareness to all opportunities
8. Spotlight facilities (i.e. Library month)
9. Lots of competition between services/groups
10. How to collect data about programs
11. Evaluate effective programs
12. JCC, Palo Alto Adult School – collaborations
13. Opening lines of communication – no duplicating/competing
14. Reaching broader audiences

3a)

1. Address City focus vs. School focus
2. Collaborate with school district

3. Programs free of charge (health)
4. City should have more voice in schools
5. More accessible facilities for teen free of charge (vital health)
6. Community calendar – kept up to date
7. Flexible website
8. Scholarships
9. Parent/student involvement
10. Safer bike routes to schools
11. Student/teacher relationships

4a)

1. Dog parks, more local/accessible
2. Facilitating multi-generations in parks
3. Sponsored senior lunches – 3rd location – collaborate with community centers
4. Art Center, library – senior lunches like “La Comida”
5. Free shuttles making routes accommodating to seniors
6. More stops, destination based
7. Schedule-based shuttle routes based on community events

1.1 The needs of specific population age groups.

1. How should the City make best use of its facilities to serve specific population age group? For example, should the City make specific facilities serve specific age groups or use all of their facilities to serve many different age groups? How should the City use its facilities to better serve teens and the over-50’s age groups in addition to the other age groups it already serves?
2. Palo Alto is composed of a very diverse population including; ethnically, age, and economically. How can the City’s services better reach and engage these populations?
3. What role should the City play in promoting the social, emotional and physical health of youth and teens? Are there critical and unmet needs that the City should be sure to provide to these age groups?
4. The City’s 2006 study; “Impact of the Aging Baby Boom Population on Palo Alto’s Social and Community Services”, reported that 80% of our Boomers say they are planning to stay in Palo Alto as they age. If true, in the next twenty years, and given the fact the Palo Alto is generally considered residentially built-out, the percentage of our older population will outpace all other demographic segments, creating a scenario where upwards of 40 percent of our total population will be 55 years of age or older. This means that those age 85 and older will be the fastest growing population segment in the City. How should the City best serve this rising senior population? Are there critical and unmet needs that the City should be sure to provide to this age group?

Teen Issues:

1. City is still not paying much attention to kids. The City surveys are one-dimensional framed by adults, not accurate. Teens are still underrepresented in the community voice.
2. City needs to promote more teen involvement
3. City needs to get more involved with teens through different mediums, example visit school classrooms to get them more involved, through the school district, school board etc.
4. Media Center video or mini DVDs on teen life.
5. The new school schedule is a positive change.

Senior Issues:

1. The trend is now to "Age at Place". Therefore, seniors need services like meals delivered, transportation for medical visits, transportation to meet daily needs. The city should expand its transportation network.
2. Not enough transportation network through out the City. Need expansion of existing transportation facilities.
3. Need to have a "Walkability" study of sidewalks for seniors. Sidewalks are not repaired and at places are not wide enough for seniors to comfortably walk. This prevents them from walking, need to improve them.
4. Landscaping adjacent to sidewalks are not maintained properly, needs City intervention to make improvements.
5. Will Avenidas be able to support the growing senior needs? City needs to contribute more and help Avenidas.
6. More fund raising events should be arranged by the City to meet the senior needs.
7. Suggestions of use of City facilities and school facilities for senior use.

Ethnic Diversity:

1. City is not doing enough to help its ethnically diverse population.
2. City should do more outreach through its neighborhood organizations.
3. City should enhance its support for neighborhood organizations.

POPULATION AGE GROUPS

General Population:

1. City can't create all the programming, need to emphasize collaboration with YMCA, JCC, PAUSD, Faith based groups, and non-profits serving residents.
2. General shared space after hours; shared use does not compromise child care licensing
 - a. Example: Teen meeting space after 6pm at PACCC
 - b. Example: Senior programs at MPCC & Library
3. YMCA, JCC, City → should have goals or programs that are complementary

Seniors:

1. Want a Sense of Community, to be welcome in multi-use spaces community centers etc.

2. The need for a dedicated Senior Center will remain important. Avenidas in need of significant capital investment
3. Need to know make resources available for seniors not just at a "Senior" facility
4. Baby Boomers will be less inclined to go to age-specific facilities
5. Baby Boomer population will be seniors, but don't want to be considered seniors
6. Although Palo Alto may be viewed as a pedestrian and bicycle friendly community, seniors are uncomfortable walking just a few blocks as sidewalks are in poor condition. **Sidewalks have too many tripping and injury hazards for elderly.**

Teens:

1. Call it a "Teen" event → make it specific for teens.
2. Give teens responsibility, of planning activity.
3. Provide more opportunities to empower teens to create their own events I town
4. Teen Leaders → Teen programs run by teens
5. Area of concern: Teens residing in Ventura area don't have resources to be mobile within the City. Lack bikes and vehicles. ... Becomes very "neighborhood" and thus needs activities in the Ventura area.'
6. Invest in promoting health, prevention much cheaper than cure

Singles-Oriented Activities:

1. Not enough programming for singles: 1 in 4 are single

Baby Boomer Population:

2. City is unprepared to serve the upcoming Baby Boomers
3. Lacking facilities; existing Avenidas needs renovation
4. Permitting hindrance to renovate a facility
5. Example: More sink required paving parking lot
6. Lack of professionalism/respect at the Development Center