

Fair West

Healthy Communities (14 Responses)

1. Summary of respondents – resident/business, owner/renter, general duration

The majority of respondents were homeowner residents of the Fair West Neighborhood ranging in residence between 3 years to 39 years. Eight respondents lived in the neighborhood 10 years or less, four lived there between 11 and 20 years, and one has lived in the neighborhood 39 years.

2. Summary of “what does healthy communities” means to community

In summary, respondents indicated that a healthy community is one where residents know and care for each other and are visible outside and in public spaces. A healthy community is a neighborhood that is safe for everyone, clean, has well maintained public and private spaces, has opportunities for exercise, and a good mix of business and diversity of people.

3. Summary of Public safety issues and Pedestrian Safety issues

The average response to the perception of crime is a 3. The types of crime experienced include theft and burglary, prostitution, vandalism, presence of transients (Fox Park), and substance abuse (needles at Fox). Possible solutions that are suggested include starting a neighborhood watch, requesting walking/biking police presence, and improving the lighting.

Most respondents felt safe walking, except at night. Possibly reflecting the residential, owner demographic of these respondents, most people walked within their neighborhood, north of copper, east of the fair and within the interior residential streets, and mostly for exercise (note that south of copper is the predominance of large apartment buildings). A couple of respondents stated more explicitly that they stayed away from the part of the neighborhood south of copper (including Central), the fairgrounds, and the larger arterials. However, there were a few respondents who walked with shopping, at the nearby Smiths and Sunflower, as their destination. One self-proclaimed “walker” walked as far as the coop in Nob Hill for groceries, using larger arterials such as San Mateo. Impediments to walking included speeding, lack of lighting, inadequate crosswalks, narrow sidewalks, presence of vagrants, the unevenness of sidewalks due to driveway cuts. The latter was mentioned various times as was the issue of speeding.

4. Summary of Exercise and access to healthy food

The vast of majority of respondents exercise regularly and mainly accomplish this by walking or biking in their neighborhood. One respondent biked to UNM work, accomplishing exercise while reaching a destination. Walking was the most common

form of exercise. When a gym was used, it was most often a private gym (YMCA, Mike's Iron Gym, Midtown, and New Heart), but sometimes a public facility (UNM, Highland High). The impediments to pedestrian activity noted above are the same to obtaining exercise within the neighborhood (speeding, lighting, safety at night, presence of vagrants, especially at Fox Park, and narrow and uneven condition of sidewalks. Ideas presented to improve opportunities for exercise include providing a walking trail accessible to the neighborhood (e.g. possibility at Expo NM), calming traffic within the neighborhood (crosswalks, signage), pave the entire perimeter of Fox Park, provide exercise stations at Fox Park, and maintain the tennis facility at Fox. One respondent warned that planting new trees in preparation for the eventual decline of the Elm trees at Fox Park is important.

There appears to be many groceries accessible to this neighborhood (Sunflower, Smiths on Lomas, Walmart, John Brooks, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, La Montañita Coop, Cosco and Talin Market. The most used, and perhaps the closest groceries are Sunflower and Smiths. A majority of respondents do not eat out within the International District, but eat at restaurants located at Nob Hill, Uptown, Downtown or in the Northeast Heights. However a handful did patronize restaurants in the International District (Café Da Lat, Bangkok Café, Café Tran, and Talin Market). Respondents felt there was access to healthy food, but saw an opportunity for more fresh, organic produce. A farmer's market at Fox Park was suggested. Improvements at the intersection of Lomas/San Mateo was seen as increasing safety when walking to the Sunflower from the neighborhood.

Zoning (9 responses)

1. Summary of existing zoning according to residents – zoning areas of concern, restricted/limited uses, new uses.

All responses were from residents. Respondents expressed wanting zoning to limit apartments and automobile sales and related uses on San Pedro, Lomas, Central, and San Mateo. The automobile dealerships bring about test-driving traffic through the neighborhood. Also, it is unsafe for people jaywalking from one dealership to the other at Lomas/Alvarado. Respondents expressed a desire for design that encourages walking, biking and is energy efficient. One person indicated a desire for wider sidewalks to remediate the issue posed by driveway cuts. One person stated a desire for pedestrian streets directing water drainage to landscaping areas. Another indicated a desire for local shopping opportunities within walking distance. A couple of respondents would like to see improvements to zoning enforcement of properties that are not maintained properly, have weeds, or pose fire hazards.

Economic Health (9 responses)

1. Summary of how economic health has been affected according to respondent. In what way – businesses opened /closed.

Respondents felt that evidence of the impact of the economy in their neighborhood is seen by the decrease in home values, increase in the quantity of homes for sale, increase in homeless population, less maintenance of properties, and an increase in the vacant buildings on Central

Respondents expressed a desire for a variety of businesses including local restaurants, coffee shop with outdoor seating, dance studio, office uses, health-related services and farmer's market.

2. Summary of interest in opening a business (only use people interested) type of business, challenges, home based business issues.

Only one respondent entertained the possibility of starting a behavioral health service private practice in the neighborhood but stated that the neighborhood's proximity to Central is a deterrent.