

Elder Homestead

Healthy Communities (9 surveys)

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

Seven respondents are from Elder Homestead neighborhood and two are from South San Pedro. The majority of respondents are residents owning a home in the neighborhood ranging in residence from recent (2 months to under 5 years) to longtime (over 20 years) dwellers. One respondent is a business owner.

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

A healthy community is a place where neighbors know and care about each other and have a place to congregate. It is a safe, clean, and well-maintained, environment free of crime and both vacant residential and commercial properties. It is healthy because there is access to healthy food, social and mental health services, and places to exercise. In a healthy community there are good schools and children are safe and not criminalized.

3. Summary of Public safety issues and Pedestrian Safety issues

The most frequent response to the level of crime in the neighborhood was 3. Crime experienced included vandalism and theft, presence of transients and homeless, and substance abuse. To reduce crime, respondents suggested more police surveillance, begin a neighborhood watch program, limiting alcohol sales (corner of Market/San Pedro and Damacio’s), reduce the number of vacant buildings, encourage landlords to maintain their rental properties, beautify the neighborhood through public art and planting street trees, and provide better lighting and open space for use by varying age groups.

Most people walk for exercise and do so within their neighborhood boundaries, while some leave their neighborhood to get to nearby open space areas (Vietnam Memorial Park and Bullhead park). Most people felt safe walking, except at night. Impediments to walking included speeding, narrow sidewalks, lack of street trees, absence of crosswalks, and lack of adequate street lighting. Speeding stood out as a significant concern among respondents. A few people stated that the lack of bike lanes and safety issues related to biking were also a problem, and one respondent indicated that it was a bigger concern than pedestrianism. One respondent indicated that improved shopping and retail opportunities would motivate him to walk for shopping purposes, rather than just for exercise. Several respondents indicated a desire for a “Pedestrian Boulevard” along Kathryn, connecting San Mateo to Louisiana.

4. Summary of Exercise and access to healthy food

Most respondents exercise at least a few times a week by walking, biking, or a sport activity. The majority of people exercise outside of a gym. Two people use a private facility and one uses Cezar Chavez Community Center. A couple of respondents indicated a need for an exercise facility more accessible to the neighborhood. The

impediments to pedestrianism are also obstacles for being able to exercise in the neighborhood. A couple of respondents reiterated the lack of safe biking opportunities within the neighborhood highlighting the need for a north-south running bike lane.

Zoning (5 surveys)

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

One commercial business owner-respondent noted the awkward land uses along Louisiana, between Lomas and Central, noting that changing all uses along that strip to commercial could be a solution. This respondent also noted tractors on Louisiana and Zuni that appeared inappropriate. Another respondent believed that the Hotel on Gibson, across the Methodist Church, had an incorrect zone, but did not indicate what the correct zoning should be. Uses that respondents would like to see limited include package liquor sales, motels, apartments and junkyards. One resident pointed to the issue of alcohol sales at Damacio's Grocery and Liquor (within Willow Village Shopping Center on San Pedro, north of Wilson Park). Respondents have a desire to see a decrease in rental properties, increase in homeownership, and improvements in zoning enforcement.

Economic Health (5 surveys)

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

There is a mix of responses with several respondents indicating that businesses have both opened and closed, with restaurant use being the dominating use that has opened. But at the same time, people have noticed that there is less spending in the community due to unemployment and lack of disposable income.

Respondents would like to see an overall increase in diversity of businesses. Desired retail uses include grocery, coffee shop, bakery, music, sporting goods, and food trucks. One respondent indicated a need for more medical and dental services. The Albuquerque Women E.A.R.N. business (located at 955 San Pedro within Willow Village Shopping Center) was highlighted as an awesome business in the community by one respondent. Another person suggested the idea of an International Mall in the district.

2. Summary of interest in opening a business; type of business, challenges, home based business issues.

One respondent is a current real estate business owner in the neighborhood. This person noted that crime is an obstacle to doing business. Otherwise, no other respondents expressed an interest to do business at this moment.