

**SOQUEL VILLAGE/HEART OF SOQUEL
COMMUNITY MEETING**

05/18/10

Table Report Back

Table #1

- Like small town character of Soquel Village.
- Buildings need upgrading – It's a Hodge-Podge.
- Park should have plaza.
- Parking should be scaled back – Use most of Heart of Soquel for the park.
- Special events should target weekends. Use off site parking shuttle, like Capitola.
- Questions – (Name? Visitor/Resident?) Add these questions.

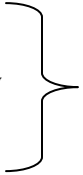
Table #2

- Soquel Drive is noisy, busy, and dangerous.
- Rear area has no overall design.
- Back of buildings – smelly, trash – look disorderly.
- Existing parking is tight.
- Renovate rear of buildings
- Walking path and park space is good idea.
- Don't emphasize parking
- How to access creek?
- Security will be an issue – need policing.
- Pedestrian, features, wide paths, and bike parking should be incorporated into plan.
- Use landscaping to hide trail
- Provide outside seating/dining at back of buildings.
- Coordinate signage, painting of buildings.
- Make area safe for children/strolling.
- Slow down traffic.
- Downtown "Diner" would be good.

Table #3

- Some people say there are too many antique shops, while others love antiques.
- Back of building area is too utilitarian – needs artwork.

- Trees are good.
- Safety for drop off mail behind buildings.
- Back of buildings are scary.
- Like farm town feel of Soquel.
- River walk
 - Natural beauty is nice
 - Homeless is problem
 - Spend money on safety/security first.
 - Better access to Soquel Elementary would be good.
 - Public bathrooms are problematic unless carefully maintained and have security measures.
- Questions
 - Office spaces
 - Physical therapy
 - Tire shop



Add these to list of businesses or activities that bring people to village

 - How many people drive through the village? Are they visiting for the summer or holiday?
 - Why did you choose to come to Soquel?
 - Questions should be for residents and business owners.

Table #4

- First priority is to improve parking. Traffic is still issue.
- Mixed mismatched store fronts don't look good.
- Existing improvements such as sidewalks and street trees are good.
- Driveways to rear at post office are hazard to pedestrians.
- Rear parking is disorganized.
- Good idea that Heart of Soquel should be a park. It should focus on picnicking, walking – without traffic, natural beauty.
- Better circulation of rear parking and spaces
- Better signage. Hide trash.
- Questionnaire should include:
 - Expand question about how people get to village – walking or car, skateboard?
 - If people visit multiple times, explain if for different reason.
 - Like small village atmosphere

Table #5

- Same as what Steve said (previous table).
- 1990 Plan is good. Keep working on it.
- SE quad needs better old town character. Minimum maintenance is the only thing happening now.
- Backs of buildings could have outdoor dining – w/connections to foot path to creek.
- Improvements to HOS are a good idea.
- Improve signage – better atmosphere – utilize backs better.
- Look at one-way circulation to help organize parking.
- Path under bridge to north Soquel would be nice.
- Well landscaped.
- Dumpsters need screening.
- Questions - none

Table #6

- Lack of unifying theme, but keep village funky (Don't match Capitola Village).
- The government buildings are the most unattractive; Post Office, Fire Station. Focus on fixing these up. Provide more landscape.
- Parking and back could be broken into smaller pockets and include landscape.
- It's a good idea to develop along creek, cleaning up might reduce homeless issues.
- Small public events would be okay.
- Question: Why is Soquel a destination? People don't come to Soquel to spend money, many things are deterrent to visitors. Coffee shop is only destination. Also, people who come don't have money to spend.

Table #7

- People do come to Soquel to eat in restaurants
- Need coordination of retail spaces – more than one of each kind of business would help.
- Village has lots of concrete and parking. Parking lots are a big expense of paving.
- Blight behind post office is problem.

- To develop the Heart of Soquel as a park is a good objective – w/pedestrian path – greenery – keep space open.
- Keep homeless out.
- Questions – Define purpose
 - “What draw’s you to Soquel?” What’s special?
 - Do you visit more? Or less?
 - Frame as positive questions – What prevents you from coming?
 - Do you spend money in Soquel?
 - Include Farmer’s Market/or Flea Market.
 - Do you feel safe in village?

Table #8

- Street is shabby – No room for bikes.
- Back of buildings are a confusing/mess – parking and circulation.
- Like the idea of a park. Community Center should also be a possibility. It could be a meeting place with classroom? (Use existing small building on the site.)
- Bike access trail.
- Signage for pedestrians only.
- Planted medians – fencing w/landscape.
- Village square would be good - Possible community garden.

Table #9

- Same answers to 1st question (cross point church representation).
- Like concept of park – Problem is homeless and vandalism.
- Hangers out is a problem behind church.
- Improve circulation – More parking – One-way parking lot doesn’t work.
- Create place behind restaurants for people to enjoy.
- Questions
 - Are there additional services needed?
 - How do you regularly travel to village?
 - Skateboard?
 - What would make the area more enjoyable? Safety, Crosswalks

- 1st Impression needs descriptive words as examples. Some people's first impressions are 30 years old.
- Vision. Question. How about using AJ Park as a meeting/event space rather than Heart of Soquel.

Table #10

- Like the small town charm. Vandalism is a problem.
- Not enough parking – too cramped.
- Good idea for park along creek.
- Circulation and parking needs improving.
- Trash is problem for restaurants.
- Remove fencing which blocks views.
- Access to creek is important.
- Access to back of restaurants would be helpful.
- Soquel needs a microbrewery.

Table #11

- Street is a thoroughfare, not a destination.
- Old plan has been implemented.
- Not enough parking in back. Better access and pedestrian circulation
- Security concerns may not be an issue if the area is redeveloped.
- Jogging trail would be good.
- Want outdoor music events.
- How about a museum in Soquel – Use existing buildings.
- Amphitheater should step down to creek – Let it flood in winter.
- Don't turn back on creek – See how beautiful it is.
- More parking. Get rid of trash. Better circulation.
- There could be a Bocci ball court.
- Questions: None

Table #12

- Lots of same comments are above.

- Driveway from “Play It Again” and post office needs mirror now! Don’t wait. It’s a safety issue.
- Improve buildings – Need diversity of design.
- No mansard roofs. Public buildings are dull.
- Back of buildings – same comments.
- Area needs security measures before improvements are put in place.
- Habitat should be for fishing.
- Better recreational use of stream – if it’s safe. Test water, provide information for education.
- Circulation – Not a lot of traffic on weekends in the village.
- Need Soquel High School drop-off to help traffic work with school.
- Schools should stagger times for starting and ending – Coordinate between schools.

Additional Comments

- Businesses can’t afford to get permits to remodel buildings and make improvements.
- Soquel Creek Water District does monitor creek for water quality – interpretive materials would help.
- Parking in some areas are underutilized (Laundromat), back of buildings is congested.
- If there were a community center kids could have a productive space – might reduce vandalism, graffiti.
- Two-way mail drop is good idea. Also drop off for high school kids.