



# Spanish Language Community Workshop Summary

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

On February 26, 2019, the City of Gunnison hosted a Spanish Language Community Workshop at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds multi-purpose building at 275 S. Spruce Street. Forty community members attended this meeting to share their input on pressing issues and concerns within the City, specific projects they would like to be seen undertaken, and the primary strengths and assets of the community. There was frequent overlap between the ideas shared by attendants, and these ideas are summarized below in the following sections. The feedback received will be used in the preparation of the new Comprehensive Plan, *Gunnison 2030*, to guide topics the plan will address and highlight existing needs of the community.

## *Note on Summary Context*

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Top Issues & Concerns

The following themes were identified by participants as top issues and concerns within Gunnison:

### Housing

According to participants, the most pressing issue in Gunnison is housing. Participants described high rents, poor relationships between landlords and renters, and a lack of affordable housing. High property taxes, a shortage of houses to rent or buy, and a lack of support for people who live in trailer parks to help improve the conditions of their homes, were also identified as important issues.

### Healthcare

The second most common concern was poor healthcare in Gunnison. Participants discussed the lack of sufficient medical facilities and doctors, particularly specialists such as pediatricians, optometrists, and dentists. Participants shared that Gunnison has only two clinics currently and is in need of additional clinics and a hospital. The need of doctors for lower-income people was also indicated.

## Transportation

Transportation was frequently identified as a concern. Participants wished to see improved public transportation options, particularly to Montrose, as well as methods for easier communication about transportation options.

## Education

Many participants expressed concern over education within Gunnison. Specifically, the lack of higher education opportunities for adults, education for children under three years old, social education, and formative education were identified as issues. Language barriers and communication within school was a prevalent concern and participants indicated the need for aid in translation, both in school and throughout the community. Participants also wished for scholarship opportunities to help pay for education.

## Other Themes

Participants shared their desire for more affordable childcare and access to youth activities. Participants wished to see lower prices for the Recreation Center to increase accessibility, as well as a recreational center with football, soccer, and gymnastics facilities. A new movie theater was also identified as a desired future development.

Participants discussed hotels that provide temporary homes for the homeless as a community concern. Additionally, the need for increased access to public services and a local license or identification office were identified as issues. Other concerns involved parking, hard water, and the social influence of immigrants. Participants also wished for a better newsletter and assistances for children with disabilities.

## Specific Actions & Projects

Participants indicated specific projects or actions that they would like to see undertaken as follows:

- Improve access to affordable housing (8)
- Build a community clinic (7)
- Build recreational spaces (5)
- Appoint home inspectors (4)
- Organize a workshop on housing rights (2)
- Educate people about their rights (4)
- Improve health (2)
  - More specialists
  - Dentists
- Build a shopping center
- Build an amusement park
- Create a bigger place to hold parties or activities without the police coming to close it because of the noise from music
- Create childcare services
- Improve transportation

## Primary Strengths & Assets

Participants identified the following as the main strengths and assets of Gunnison:

- The Multicultural Office (Ellen) (7)
- Food pantry (4)
- Security (4)
- Choice Pass (3)
- Schools (2)
- The community and its friendly people (2)
- Multicultural programs for people of different languages
- Cleanliness
- The City helps the community
- The roads are well-maintained
- The recreation center
- The people
- The hospital
  - The hospital does not require payment before treatment
- The stores
- Transportation
- The City takes the community into account and listens to them