



# Community Workshop Summary

Thursday, August 1, 2019

On August 1, 2019, the City of Jenks hosted a Community Workshop at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Comprehensive Plan, *Horizon Jenks*. Attended by 77 individuals and City staff, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the City and the plan. The workshop provided a review of the planning process and a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the City. Participation and feedback from this and other workshops and focus groups will guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Horizon Jenks Comprehensive Plan*.

Some of the top issues raised at the workshop were related to transportation and connectivity. Traffic congestion was mentioned most frequently, with two key intersections identified – 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm Street, and 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Elwood Avenue. General traffic congestion at Elm Street and Main Street was also mentioned. Another top transportation issue identified was bike and pedestrian connectivity. Participants indicated a need for improved trails, bike lanes, and sidewalk infrastructure throughout the City. Participants also emphasized the amount of traffic during rush hour, noting that in addition to creating travel inconvenience across all modes, this posed cyclist safety issues on busy routes lacking bike lanes.

A second notable topic of discussion was the lack of business development in Jenks. Participants felt that this has led to a lack of retail, entertainment, and restaurant opportunities for residents. Participants emphasized their desire to have more options for shopping and quality dining in Jenks beyond fast food establishments.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of Jenks, participants most frequently identified Jenks Public Schools. Other top strengths and assets identified at the workshop included the City's small town feel and safe environment, and the Aquarium.

During the workshop, participants were invited to submit their home location using a mobile phone polling application. Participant responses were projected live on a map throughout the workshop, showing a stratification of participants throughout Jenks from north to south. Participants also used mobile phone polling to collectively display an active word cloud showing the strengths and assets of Jenks.

The following summary list encapsulates the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, rather, they represent feedback and comments received from participants. The numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.

## Issues and Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Jenks community. Next, in the larger group, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with participants at each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 64 top issues and concerns facing the community.

Participants were asked to rank their top three of the 64 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by this method, as well as all other issues identified during the workshop. The number of votes each topic received is included in parenthesis.

### Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Traffic (32)
  - 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm Street
  - 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Elwood Avenue
- Need for more retail (22)
- Need for sales tax generation (21)
- Water, sewer, and road expansion (20)
- Need for a large community center (20)
- Lack of entertainment options (15)
- Larger senior center with adequate parking (14)
- Appearance of Main Street Stores need to improve (13)

### Other Issues by Category

#### *Transportation*

- Bike and pedestrian connectivity (26)
  - Improve trails and bike paths
  - Sidewalk network
  - Space for cyclists

#### *Economic Development*

- Business development (16)
  - Downtown businesses
  - Attracting new business
  - More support for businesses
  - Closing businesses
- Plan for outlet mall (8)
- Need a Braum's Ice Cream (3)
- Lack of jobs (3)

#### *Taxes and Funding*

- Tax revenue (11)
  - Need to increase tax revenue
  - Need to increase the business tax base
  - Need to increase the resident tax base
- Need police and fire funding (6)
- Need a new animal shelter (4)
- Property taxes (3)
- Funding for aging infrastructure (3)
- Funding for public works (2)
- Improve trash, sanitation, recycling
- Smart growth to grow tax base
- Limited revenue opportunities for local government

#### *Natural Resources, Parks and Open Spaces*

- Need river and Riverwalk revitalization (9)
- Stormwater management (9)
  - Flooding concerns
- Lack of green space (4)
  - Trails
- Keep ecological and environmental health in mind

#### *Amenities and Quality of Life*

- Need larger library (4)
- Lack of gathering places (3)
- Public participation and flow of communication (3)
- No youth hangouts
- Highway noise
- Ice skating rink, Winterfest

#### *Land Use and Development*

- Vacant and undeveloped areas (3)
- Overdevelopment in the central Jenks area
- The zoning process is cumbersome and restrictive

### *Housing*

- Too many apartments (3)
- Housing outside of Jenks jurisdiction but in City limits
- Lack of affordable housing

### *Community Character and Identity*

- Downtown (12)
  - Is outdated and not vibrant
  - Needs fixing up
  - Dilapidated housing
  - Vacant buildings
- Lack of identity (5)
- Need venues to attract visitors (2)
- Take better care of landscaping and medians
- Bury more power lines
- Clean up West Beaver Street by Veterans Park
- Lack of signage and state promotion of the Aquarium
- Improve mobile home parks
- Lack of littering enforcement

### *Other Topics*

- No newspaper
- Hard to get information from City website
- Post office not reliable

## Priority Actions and Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below. The number of times the same or substantially similar project was listed by participants is included in parenthesis.

### *Transportation*

- Widen Elm Street (14)
- Increase and improve bike lanes and pedestrian trails (13)
- Build bridge infrastructure – south Jenks (9)
  - 131<sup>st</sup> Street
  - 121<sup>st</sup> Street
- Improve roads and traffic (6)
- Create a transportation plan (4)
- Improve public transportation (3)
- Widen Elwood Avenue (3)
- Connect the Riverfront and Downtown (2)
- Synchronize the traffic lights
- Widen 121<sup>st</sup> from Elm Street to Highway 75

### *Facilities and Infrastructure*

- A new community center (16)
- Build a larger library (7)
- Larger Senior Center (6)
- Act on vacant properties (4)
- Build an animal shelter (3)
- Address distressed properties with rehabilitation/condemnation program
- Build a childcare facility near West Elementary
- Develop property around the railroad

### *Commercial and Economic Development*

- Complete the outlet mall (9)
- New restaurants and retail options (9)
  - Provide incentives
- Business development (6)
  - Provide incentives
  - Development from outlet mall to Downtown
- Attract a Braum's
- Dinner theater
- Get rid of antique stores
- Movie theater
- Starbucks

### *Community Character and Identity*

- Renovate Downtown (9)
- Keep small town feel (2)
- Downtown festivals
- Clean landscape and medians

### *Recreation, Parks and Open Space*

- Build recreational facilities
- Frisbee golf at Veterans Park
- Gun range
- Parks
  - 106<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm Hill
  - Old Evans property
- Move Old Bell's amusement park to the River at 81<sup>st</sup> and Elm

### *Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement*

- Code enforcement (2)
- Bonds to improve infrastructure
- Development plan
- Identify what we can realistically pay for
- Master plan for downtown/river areas to encourage mixed use, granular walkable retail and housing
- Rewrite zoning code to encourage mixed use, diverse neighborhoods
- Public involvement

### *Other Topics*

- Police and Fire (3)
- Get rid of the vacant Juanita's restaurant space
- Support newspaper

## Strengths and Assets

As *Horizon Jenks* is developed, the key strengths and assets of Jenks should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of Jenks that should be preserved. Participants most frequently identified Jenks Public Schools as a key asset, and the Aquarium and the safe environment found in the City rounded out the top three strengths or assets for the City. Additional strengths and assets are listed below and the number of times they were listed by participants is included in parenthesis.

- School district (50)
- Small town feel (28)
- Aquarium (20)
- Safe environment (19)
- Riverwalk (16)
- People (14)
- Access to highway and turnpike (10)
- Downtown (7)
- Location (5)
- Police and Fire (4)
- Flying T
- Large lot sizes for houses
- Land availability
- Tax revenue ability
- Housing
- Altitude
- Attractive entrance from bridge
- We vote when it counts
- Cost of living
- Bike/hike trails
- Jones Airport
- Perryman Ranch
- Jenks Community Education Program
- Veterans Park
- Youth sports fields
- Bedroom community
- We are not 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Memorial (mall development)
- Rental bicycles
- Fireworks/4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Communication by City of Jenks
- New signage is nice
- Entrepreneurship
- Antique shops
- Golf courses
- Churches