



Horizon Jenks

Comprehensive Plan

Department Heads Roundtable Summary

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

On June 26, 2019, the City of Jenks hosted a Department Head Roundtable at The Hive, a local arts facility and event space, and home to the Jenks Chamber of Commerce. The workshop, which was attended by personnel from various departments, was a part of the plan's kickoff outreach process for the creation of the new *Horizon Jenks Comprehensive Plan*. Attended by nine individuals, this roundtable was an opportunity for department heads to offer their input and feedback regarding the City and the plan. The roundtable discussed issues, opportunities, and key strengths and assets of the City. Input from this roundtable will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final Plan.

The top issue identified at the roundtable was the City's lack of sales tax generation. Participants discussed the lack of sales tax generating retail businesses which is creating a revenue problem. Participants noted the lack of restaurants, shops, and attractions to support the needs of Jenks' residents and the growing population. Traffic was another top issue for the group. They noted traffic issues on the key north-south routes of Elm Street and Elwood Avenue, on the 111th Street east-west corridor, and generally in the southern sections of the City.

When asked to identify the strengths of Jenks, participants noted the City's schools, the Oklahoma Aquarium, and the Arkansas River as important assets. Participants also ranked the people and community of Jenks as an important asset, noting their involvement and passion for 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.

Issues & Concerns

Participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Jenks community. Next, participants worked to create a single, cumulative list as a large group where each participant shared important issues from their individual list. Participants were then asked to rank the three most important issues discussed from the cumulative list. Below are the highest-ranked issues as determined by this method, as well as all other issues identified throughout the workshop. The number of instances the issue was listed is included in parentheses.

Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Lack of tax revenue (7)
 - Sales tax base
 - Lack of sales tax generating businesses
- Traffic (5)
 - North-south connections
 - Elm Street and Elwood Avenue
 - 111th Street
 - South side of Jenks (south of the Creek Turnpike)
- Lack of restaurants, shops, hotspots (4)
 - Not enough to support growing population
- Infrastructure (3)
 - Aging
 - Upgrades
- Downtown redevelopment (3)
- Lack of land (3)
 - Landlocked
- Pedestrian connectivity (3)
 - Trails
 - Sidewalks
 - Downtown

Other Issues by Category

Land Use and Development

- Link riverfront development to downtown
- Confusing zoning code and comprehensive plan
- Too residential
- Lack of office space
- Lack of development around Oklahoma Aquarium
- The completion of the outlet mall south of the Creek Turnpike

Transportation

- North-south transit and traffic
- Parking for larger developments on Main Street

Government

- Fire Department staffing
- Community growth and size compared to staff growth
- Need to improve clarity of development process

Other Topics

- Lack of green infrastructure
- Rapid growth
- Lack of diversity
- NIMBYism
- Cookie-cutter homes

Priority Actions & 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.

Land Use and Development

- Downtown redevelopment (3)
 - Economic incentive packages
- Hotel with convention center (2)
- Surround the Aquarium with water park, retail, and mixed use
- Increase intensity of land use north of turnpike and east of Elm Street
- Purchase underutilized properties on Main Street and incentivize developers
- Use library land to build parking garage, retail, and library
- Get an In-N-Out Burger

Transportation

- Road infrastructure (6)
 - Widen Elm Street
 - Redevelopment of north-south arteries
 - Improve Elm Street and Elwood Avenue
- Pedestrian and bike infrastructure (4)
- Bridge across the Arkansas River in south Jenks
- Streetcar/trolley

Other Topics

- City services and infrastructure upgrades
 - Fire, Police, Public Works
 - Low water dam
 - Waterline and stormwater plan

Strengths & Assets

As the *Horizon Jenks Comprehensive Plan* 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, participants were asked to list strengths and advantages of Jenks that should be preserved. The following were identified:

- Schools (9)
- Aquarium (7)
- Low crime rate (5)
- People (4)
- Arkansas River (4)
- Professional staff (3)
- Compact size (3)
- Location (2)
- Connections to Tulsa (2)
- Progressive thinking (2)
- Quality of life
- Veterans Park
- Small town feel
- Downtown
- Polecat Creek