



Senior Residents Focus Group Summary

Friday, August 2, 2019

On August 2, 2019, the City of Jenks hosted a Senior Residents Focus Group in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The focus group was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Comprehensive Plan, *Horizon Jenks*. Attended by 18 individuals, this focus group was an opportunity for senior residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the City and the plan. The focus group was conducted in a workshop format and included an overview of the planning process and an exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, projects, and strengths and assets of the City. This feedback is critical to informing the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Horizon Jenks*.

The top issue identified during the focus group was the need for a larger community center. Participants identified a need for community center serving the whole community but with specific programming and larger facilities targeted toward seniors. Transportation was another key topic at the focus group, with participants mentioning deteriorating road conditions and traffic as the top two issues. Participants articulated the need for road repairs including potholes and complete resurfacing of major arterials. Participants wanted through traffic reduced, particularly in downtown Jenks. Suggestions for transportation improvements included the synchronization of stoplights and adding lanes to Elwood Avenue.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of Jenks, participants included the City's schools, medical facilities, and small town feel.

The following summary list recaps the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the focus group. 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, rather they are reflective of the feedback and comments received from focus group participants. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.

Issues and Concerns

At the beginning of the focus group, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Jenks community. Next, participants were asked to say out loud to the group their top issue or concern. These were written down in a single, cumulative list. Participants were then asked to vote on what issues or concerns on the list they thought were top three. The result was a list of the 23 top issues and concerns facing the community. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by this method, as well as all other issues identified through the focus group.

Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Need for a larger community center with senior facilities (20)
- Traffic congestion (7)
- Need for improved transportation for seniors (4)
- Lack of attainable small-lot senior housing (3)
- Traffic on arterials (3)
- Need to widen Elwood Avenue and other arterials (3)
- People leave Jenks for shopping and dining (3)

Other Issues by Category

Transportation

- Road conditions (7)
 - Potholes at 96th Street exit on Highway 75
- Pedestrian and bike connectivity (5)
 - Crosswalks
 - Sidewalks
 - High-traffic residential neighborhoods
 - Beaver Street from Elm Street to the railroad
- Parking
- Gas stations are scarce

Senior Amenities and Infrastructure

- Lack of funding for new facilities

Amenities

- Need to develop the outlet mall
- Need a public swimming pool

Safety and Access

- Handicap accessibility (3)
- Visibility at intersections
- Crosswalks
- Better street signs
- One-way and two-way streets marked with clear instructions
- Larger print on street signs

Costs

- Cost of utilities (2)
 - Recycling fees even if you do not participate
- Property taxes are high

Other Topics

- Better drainage (2)
- Larger police force
- Veterans Park maintenance
- No more large apartment buildings
- Income revenue from new buildings

Priority Actions and Projects

In response to the list of issues, the group was asked to identify 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.

Senior Facilities and Infrastructure

- Encourage the development of small lot senior housing (3)
 - A 55+ community in Jenks

Transportation

- Improve streets (4)
 - Fill potholes
 - Repave major arterials
- Better manage traffic (3)
 - Synchronize stoplights
- Expand public transportation network
- Reduce downtown pass-through traffic to alleviate parking problems
- Make crosswalks safer for pedestrians
- Make parking safer downtown – the diagonal parking configuration can be difficult to navigate

Amenities

- Construct a larger community center (13)
 - Consider the vacant library site
 - Increase amount of senior programming
 - Ensure adequate parking
- Build the outlet mall (2)
- Make the library larger

City Infrastructure

- Improve drainage
- Conduct a study to improve the condition of the levy around the City
- Expand the Riverwalk
- Replace aging infrastructure in Old Town

Other

- Clean up litter
- Build an animal shelter

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, the group expressed the strengths and advantages of Jenks that should be preserved. The group listed the following assets:

- Schools (10)
- Medical (4)
- Small town feel (3)
- Low crime (3)
- Senior center (2)
- Aquarium (2)
- City website (2)
 - Communication and information
- People (2)
- Downtown (2)
- Support of senior population
- Antique shops
- River/Riverwalk
- Veterans Park
- Library
- Fast food restaurants