CITY of LARKSPUR

Library and Community Center Project

Town Hall Meeting 1

September 2, 2015

THE GROVE CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

CITY of LARKSPUR - LLCC TOWN HALL MEETING #1

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 2015

AGENDA

TIMES	ACTIVITIES
6:30	Welcome, Intros, Agenda, "What Brought You Here?"
6:50	Learning From Our Past – Helen Heitkamp
	Community Design – Dan Hillmer
7:15	Community Dialogue Pt. 1.
8:05	Community Dialogue Pt. 2
8:45	Checking Out
	Summary + Next Steps
9:00	Adjourn

ROLES

- COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- CITY COUNCIL
- FACILITATOR
- GRAPHIC FACILITATOR
- CITY STAFF

RULES

"What makes a community conversation great?"

- Be open to hearing different perspectives
- express curiosity to move the conversation forward
- Slow down to listen
- give the speaker your full attention
- be polite, think it through, like a big family
- listen for the good intention
- use brevity. keep it to the point.
- pay attention, use respect
- YES, AND...
- accept your impatience

OUTCOMES

- Kick off the Town Hall Mtg. process, frame their purpose relative to the larger community design process, + create the foundations for a generative community dialogue
- Explore the qualities + character of the various landscapes of Larkspur
- Community members listen + learn from each other "neighbor to neighbor."
- All voices are heard + acknowledged in the process in the service of building trust.

WELCOME

- Mayor Larry Chu

Look and Feel, Community Process

LARKSPUR LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER

This is the 1st of 3 Town Hall Mtgs

taking a STEP BACK....

WHAT is SPECIAL about LARKSPUR?

1 Council will listen to feedback

2 give design guidance to ARCHITECTS

LMS

- Gisela Wendling
- Giselle Chow

The Grove

The work

YOUR FACILITATORS...

- HELEN HEITKAMP – "The Larkspur Historian"

Founder of Heritage Board

The CREEK...

...a MARSH....

divided by the RANCHOS...

one house

bulldozed houses to fill MARSH

BICKERSTAFF KNOLL

Indian villages

- THE GOLD RUSH

Clear cut canyons... for LUMBER...

CHANGED the LANDSCAPE

WHAT IS NEXT?

1920's NIVEN. bought a small section of LAND...

1956 beginning of NIVEN NURSERY...

ROSES

2006 CLASP..

2013 site + greenhouses SOLD

toxic soil... lead paint in greenhouses..

Indian artifacts preserved + buried..

- COUNCILMEMBER DAN HILLMER

aerial photos

look for presentation online

DOMINANT RELATIONSHIP to LANDSCAPE....

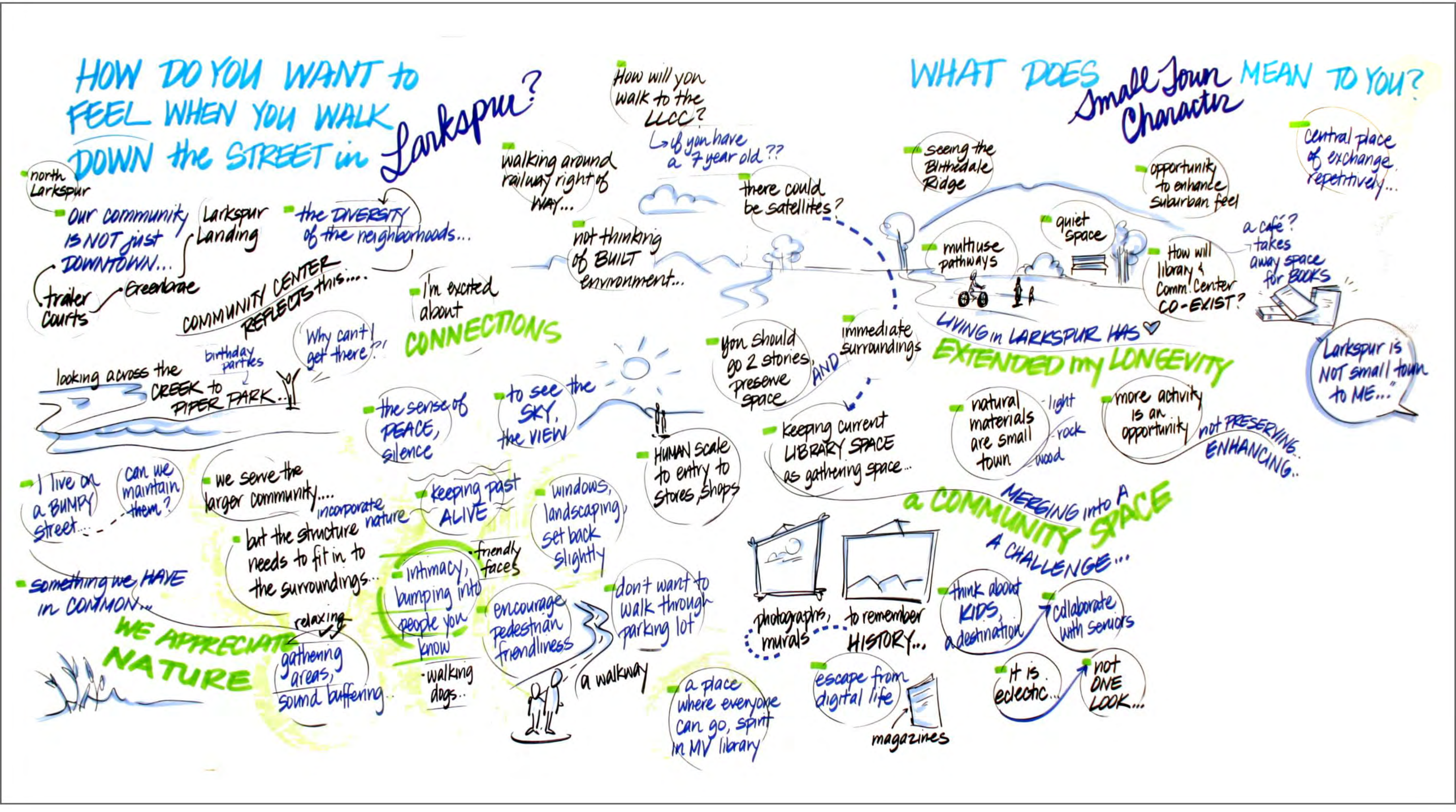
- neighborhoods carved out of trees...
- each neighborhood has a public space, a creek
- buildings carefully scaled to surrounding neighborhoods

A RELATIONSHIP to NATURE...

terraces, patios, porches...

- relationship between indoor/outdoor "California Architecture"

SEPT. 2, 2015


HOW DO YOU WANT to FEEL WHEN YOU WALK DOWN the STREET in Larkspur?
north Larkspur
our community IS NOT just DOWNTOWN...
Larkspur Landing
trailer Courts
Greenbrae
the DIVERSITY of the neighborhoods...
COMMUNITY CENTER REFLECTS this....
looking across the CREEK to PIPER PARK...
birthday parties
Why can't I get there?!
I'm excited about CONNECTIONS
walking around railway right of WAY...
not thinking of BUILT environment...
How will you walk to the LLCC?
if you have a 7 year old??
there could be satellites?
WHAT DOES Small Town Character MEAN TO YOU?
seeing the Blithedale Ridge
multiuse pathways
quiet space
opportunity to enhance suburban feel
How will library & Comm. Center CO-EXIST?
a café? takes away space for BOOKS
central place of exchange repetitively...
Larkspur is NOT small town to ME..."
LIVING in LARKSPUR HAS EXTENDED my LONGEVITY
immediate surroundings
you should go 2 stories, preserve space
AND
keeping current LIBRARY SPACE as gathering space...
natural materials are small town
light
rock
wood
more activity is an opportunity
not PRESERVING.. ENHANCING..
the sense of PEACE, silence
to see the SKY, the VIEW
HUMAN scale to entry to stores, shops
I live on a BUMPY street...
can we maintain them?
we serve the larger community....
incorporate nature
but the structure needs to fit in to the surroundings...
keeping past ALIVE
windows, landscaping, set back slightly
something we HAVE in COMMON...
WE APPRECIATE NATURE
relaxing
gathering areas, sound buffering...
intimacy, bumping into people you know
friendly faces
walking dogs..
encourage pedestrian friendliness
don't want to walk through parking lot
a walkway
a place where everyone can go, spirit in MV library
photographs, murals
to remember HISTORY...
escape from digital life
magazines
MERGING into A a COMMUNITY SPACE A CHALLENGE...
think about KIDS, a destination
collaborate with seniors
it is eclectic...
not ONE LOOK...

WHAT ARE the QUALITIES of the Natural Environment?....

- The VIEW, sunlight
- specimen plants
- indigenous plants
- the OPENESS of the SKY... all AROUND...
- OPEN SPACE.. flocks of egrets...
- wooded areas
- native oaks?
- trees, flowers
- ROSS' trees
- CORTE MADERA
- in the French Style
- natural stream
- noise of WATER...
- BLUE/GREEN colors as peacefulness
- recreating the KNOLL...
- parking underneath

the Built Environment?

to ENJOY the Natural Environment

BUILT environment

- helps create spaciousness

- Mediterranean Style, it's flexible
- each building built at a different time
- YOU CAN RECALL THE HISTORY of EACH ONE...
- need for good spokes radiating from CENTER of SITE.. the WHEEL...
- getting pedestrians across
- Piper Park Bridge as missing SPOKE..
- The MASTERPLAN provides outline
- these meetings are about the BEST QUALITIES
- does not define...
- the INDELIBLE mystery of what the SITE WAS...
- a sense of the NATURAL

What kind of COMPROMISE could we ALL LIVE WITH?

What do we mean by HUMAN SCALE?

- HUMAN scale

not VAST.....

appropriate for 6ft. tall person?

You lose intimacy...

- what would allow us to enjoy the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT? not replicate
- demonstrated sustainability
- let's go back to the Native Americans

RESTORATION

are we missing something?

"Cozily Iconic"

"Mountain Trees"

"Nestled"

"Connected"

- flexible, light, airy

LIKES ★

- all talking to each other, not in small groups
- comfortable + safe
- everything written down
- not going late, brief... How will we take it forward?
- sought clarity, positive spin
- range of ideas fairly tight, comforting
- encouraged to see numbers,
- best text I ever received
- everyone showed up
- good meeting space
- transparent
- facilitating... a beautiful job!

WISHES △

- ~~post next set of questions online~~
- How will you do the next meeting to encourage others
- people with elementary school kids, attract younger community
- for ms + hs kids to be part of conversation
- council reaches out to principals
  - this has been done! more families
- 2nd meeting not at Central Police Authority FOR SIZE

NEXT MEETING: → OCT. 7

- engaging families
- community members in Greenbrae

we have a YouTube Channel

images of charts will go online

- we know what we want to DO... AND
- we want to be flexible