

Prescott Public Workshop Summaries

Saturday, June 14 (9-Noon) & Tuesday, June 17 (6:30 – 9:30)

Note: This summary primarily reflects cumulative responses to the various themes and questions asked. Differentiation is made whenever possible or practical as to source of comments (e.g. Wall Sheets Vs Stickies). Specific items are quoted as close as possible w/ interpretation implied when comments were implicit, rather than explicit in their intent. !!! Exclamation marks are utilized in a proportionate way to indicate the degree to which similar comments were repeatedly made.

Cumulative Years of Participants: 615 & 839 Years

What WE Love About Prescott

- Small town scenery
- “The River” – overwhelming favorite !!!!!!!
- Friendliness & the people
- Education / Small Town Schools
- Small Town & Feel
- Beauty of the Confluence
- Beach
- Quality of Life
- Churches
- Restaurants
- Proximity to TC’s
- Wildlife, Natural Resources, & Eagles
- Seasons
- Shops
- River Front !!!!!
- Freedom Park!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Borner Farm !!!!!
- Boating, Jetskiing, Fishing, & Water activities
- Library
- Ptaceks IGA
- Art Galleries
- Retirement Setting
- Sense of Community Despite Differences

- **PARKS & TRAILS**

- **Specific Parks & Trails of notoriety**

- **City Square** – Like - Open Space, Central Location & Parking
- Freedom Park – Like - Beauty of View, Interp Center, All Ages, & Signage, Programming, etc etc & 3rd Sunday Potlucks, Play Equipment. Needs more land & parking!!!!!!
- **Magee Park** – needs walking, biking, trails, “little known”, quiet, ragged, needs access, parking, & signage – not accessible for kids / elderly!!!
- **Mercord Park** – Like – Year Round Use, Used by both locals & visitors, bird watching, gear house historical display, quality interp displays & signage, especially riverboats, trains, barges, etc., needs restrooms
- **St Croix Bluffs** – Like – Track, Playground, Soccer Fields used by kids all the time
- **Beach** – Like – Swim in St. Croix, Maintain Open Space
- **Jacques Landing** – boat launch, bank fishing, etc etc ... not good entry point for city guests. Needs facelift, should be larger, more parking & services, upgrade river front from there to Cabana Joes!!!!
- **Wilderness Park ?**
- **Lake Street** (North End) – restrooms
- **School Parks / Firehall Field** – restrooms
- **Lion’s** – Needs Upkeep
- **Skateboard Park** by Water Tower – Face-lift Equip / Black top & make way for future BMX Track
- **Sunset Park** – Nobody knows about it!
- **Malone Park** – comprehensive upgrade
-

- **INDIVIDUAL TABLE SHEETS w Additional & Emphasized Ideas on Parks & Trails (most emphasized & repeated ideas listed below**

- Design for All Ages – Linking All Parts of the City!!!!!!!
- Pedestrian & Bike Trail Network Emphasis!!!!!!!
- Freedom Park!!!!!!

- (RE-Emphasis on marketing of interp programs, guest lectures, view of the river, Music / concerts, etc., as well as using as a central hub for city wide trail network)
- TRAILS Network to connect all parts of city & all public places w schools, new high school, UNFI, Patek's, McGee, Beaches, River Front, Freedom, etc etc etc., for both pedestrians & bikes!!!!
 - & used for Environmental education by school educators
- How to Dampen Train Horns & Bridge Noise!!!!!!!!
- Parks & Trails Mapping & Awareness !!!!!!!
- Priority attention to River Front Trail connect to Hastings / Confluence trail !!!!!!!
- Make downtown tourist friendly – more trees, shade, flowers, parking, improve views to river, raze Steamboat & white bldg., more benches & seating, trash / recycling containers, public artwork downtown, bike trail on Great River Road w wide shoulders, signage to ID birding & wildlife viewing !!!!!!!
- Need to provide drinking water, RESTROOMS, roofed shelters, signage, garbage receptacles, ADA picnic tables & grounds, & maintenance!!!!!!!!
- Borner Farm!!!! (primarily on Tuesday evening)
- Ice Rinks / Ice Skating Arena- Skate Club exists!!!!
- Dog Park!!!!
- “Many Small / Green Space”
- Updated Warming House!!!
- Camping Facilities !!
- Tennis Courts
- Butterfly Gardens
- “Small Town Beach” w lifeguard
- Bird killing cats on the loose
- Baseball Field & Basketball Court
- Preserve Natural Beauty, Birds, Trees
- Need Boat Launch, Fishing Dock!!!
- Train – Flora & Ash?? (not sure what that means – Kelly)
- Dedicated & separate bike paths especially at intersections
- Trails that tie to Carpenter Nature Center!!

- Land development between Borner & Joy Lutheran – emphasis on open space, trails, & public access
- Emphasis on extensive trails network
- Sport Equipment Rental - bikes, canoes, kayaks, & paddleboards!!
- Entertainment Events – Movies & Music
- Wheel chair access / ADA throughout
- Safe trail crossing at Hwy 29 & 10 intersection
- Need Outdoor Music / Performance Amphitheater
- Fishing access for locals & Fee for non-local fishing
- Maintenance along river especially litter
- Turn Steamboat Inn into Park!! – no more condo's
- 'No more bars'
- Trail from Freedom Park to Riverfront
- City buy back marina if possible
- Linn St Ice Rink – Boards & better ice
- Ice Rink on the St Croix
- Yellow Sticky – “Taxes seem to be a hot button. Try and plan ‘services’ which create value for taxpayers. Ex. Half our town is parents. Summer activities which be free would add value to parents. In Hastings they had PITS where children would go to local parks to have organized playtime / activities.”
- Keep investments focused in town for safety & maintenance
- Use the River to drive commercial development to then drive community development
- More Arts, Art Galleries, Gift Shops to drive business
- Water Gateway improvement (Blvd) Docks into town beautification (assuming guest dock as gateway for people to come into town)
- Playground Equipment
- Mississippi River as a Trail
- Shuttle for hikers/bikers between Hastings & Prescott for those wanting to travel only one way on the Confluence Trail (& visit Riverfront) between the two cities
- “Acquire Christianson property?! Add to City Parks”
- “Freedom Park + River Walk – Gold mine of Nature! / Education”
- Snowmobile Trails

- “New people don’t know what different parks are for” (awareness issue) – suggest “Walking Club for intro for new people”
- ‘No silhouettes!’
- Trail from Magee Park to new school
- Access to Kinni over RR bridge !!!
- Capitalize on new Pt Douglas Trail
- Freedom Park “Memberships”
- Ball fields need irrigation
- Town Square identity & central use
- Longer & specialized or multi-use trails for exercise, x-c ski, w attention to safety for long walks
- Coordinated & marketed Recreation / Community Ed Programs
- Priority attention to P&T’s Comm w Brochures, signage, web-based, &/or maps for park & trails awareness
- Creative Funding – Fees, Grants, Locals vs Visitor rates
- Bring Back Historic Travel Modes of Trains & River Boats
- Centralized Focus on Schools re Parks & Trails, especially for pedestrian & bike loops
- Pavillion & Social Gathering Spaces w Kitchen
- Volunteer Labor for improvement & some maintenance
- Priority attention to Schools 90 acres / 30 acres for Rec & Trails Dvlp especially with connect to Magee, Riverfront, & Freedom Park !!!
- Ball fields w City & School Partnership
- Prairie Trail Ecosystem – increase beyond
- “More recreation – we have enough greenspace”

TRAFFIC / PARKING / SAFETY: Community Ideas / Rec's

- **Whole Group Commentaries to Critical Issues re: Traffic / Parking / Safety (Wall Summary Sheets):**
 - 'ReRouting of 35 to 10'
 - 'Create Designated Parking – Ramp'
 - 'Xing Hwy #10'
 - 'Stoplights / Slow 'em Down'
 - 'Hwy 35 Connections'
 - 'Great River – Additional Parking'
 - 'Buy out Properties for ByPass & More Collector Roads'
 - 'Shuttle'
 - 'More Walkways'
 - 'City of Over & Underpasses'
- **TRAFFIC: Congestion, Parking, Tourism Traffic**
 - Blue Sticky – “Unattended parking ramp like Grand Ave & dedicated lot for motorcycles not in front of shops or restaurants”
 - Blue Sticky – “Trolley to ease congestion & traffic”
 - Blue Sticky – “Steamboat Inn removed – put parking lot” & “4 way stop at Orange – Broad St.”
 - Table Sheet - 4 way stop at Orange & Broad
 - Roads have no shoulders for biking
 - Blue Stickies – & - Group Wall Sheet Commentary
 - Need ramp for downtown parking
 - Need North South By-Pass (Hwy 35) !!!!!!!!
 - Dakota St Parking Lot
 - Buy out properties on collector streets
 - Sidewalks that provide safe & accessible routes to schools!!!
 - More sidewalks but strong plan and funding for maintenance
 - Overpass or other for safe & accessible crossing at 29/35 & 10 ... critical when Ptaceks moves to Industrial Park & unlevel parking, especially for seniors
 - Noise ordinance for motorcycles

- Add sidewalk to new 35 bridge – east town
 - Canton Crosswalk Signals
 - Lower speed limit on State Highway
 - Use ‘park & ride’ near fireworks for bar parking spot (assumes shuttle?)
 - Remote parking for employees etc. with electric shuttle to save spaces for visitors in downtown.
 - Bicycle traffic cops
 - More bike racks throughout community
 - Boat taxi / ferry to Hastings
 - Horse carriages / shuttles from uphill or off-site / off-street parking
 - Red Rock Light Rail Connection
 - Time limits for parking down town
 - Create foot traffic only zones on Riverside of downtown / don’t use beautiful waterfront property for traffic & parking
 - Parking ramp downtown – above & below ground (Steamboat or otherwise)
 - Promote parking lot next to Great River Printing
 - Roundabout at main light in town
- **OTHER: Community Assets, Planning, Mapping & Utilization**
 - ADA Accessibility
 - Inclusive Atmosphere
 - Why would young people choose Prescott
- **HOUSING:**
 - SENIOR HOUSING Strongly Emphasized!!!!!!
 - Age in Place
 - Keeping Extended Families Together
 - Restrooms at Public Family Gathering Spaces
 - Co-op and/or life-lease housing options
 - Senior community living, gated community park w private gazebo, pool, rec hall

○ **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- Homeless
- Low-to-Moderate
- Middle Class
- Multi-Family & Townhomes
- Solutions to high property taxes especially for young families & fixed income seniors

○ **HOUSING DVLP STANDARDS**

- Cluster
- Small Footprint
- Mother-in-Law Aprts
- Man Caves
- Geothermal / RE Priorities

○ **DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS & STANDARDS**

- Build Eco-Communities / Neighborhoods w energy, food, & water security in mind, besides design for community engagement rather than isolation
- Build new & renovate older housing stock to maximize higher efficiency standards (e.g. LEED, lower CO2)!!!!
- Partner w Habitat for Humanity for Eco-Village !!!!!
- Small footprint homes, Cluster dvlp & open space critical
- Build on existing land rather than by annexation / in-fill development such as Jacques Seed location ...
- Use developers who live & stay here
- “No Rentals”
- Uptown – Single Family / River & Old Town – Multi- Family
- Daycare siting convenient to families
- Create business opportunity for renewable energy companies to locate in Prescott
- Build loan funding mechanisms / lower rates for first time and low income home buyers, especially for energy efficiency & historic preservation
- St Croix Bluffs good example for affordable housing

- Encourage Prairie Style architecture
 - Storm water mgt for retaining ground water
 - Tax credit for home energy improvement
- **DAILY LIVING (Energy, Food, Water, Security, Comm, etc)**
 - Maximize all social media to inform & build community commitment to sustainability initiatives & attract younger generation!!!!
 - Farmers Market w shelter , amenities & music (various locations recommended e.g. City Square, Steamboat)
 - Utilize Borner Farm to focus on community energy, food, and water security !!!!!
 - Rain Gardens
 - Fertilizer Stewardship
 - Grey Water Re-use
 - Public Meeting space w AC
 - Build out Local Food Economy & Profitability
 - Higher Profitability for Locally Produced, Processed, & Marketed Food's
 - Community garden space
 - Addressing needs of young people & new UNFI employees
 - Water bottle filling stations public & private
 - Encourage & build stronger recycling behaviors and markets
 - Provide land for small organic farmers growing local food
 - Build new school w high energy efficiency to use as model for kids
 - Home gardening and food processing classes
 - Charge by pound for trash removal & teach recycling
 - Create 'Welcome Wagon' committee for meet & greet & info for new residents & businesses
 - Encourage Vineyard development
 - Emphasize water efficiency, especially watering lawns & gardens
 - Create strong incentives to shop locally especially for food, clothes, etc
 - Chamber of Commerce should take on stronger role in local issues, 'city pages' for local biz, & event programming & marketing

- Encourage new families by providing outstanding education system
- Educate students on 'daily life' realities of energy, food, water, etc., such as small scale hydroponics
- Promote 'egg farms' as coops on small scale to assure quality
- "Communication Transparency!"
- "Tonight was a great way to share"
- Revive Prescott Journal
- Encourage family farms & state & federal govt support for local self-sufficiency
- Community Commercial Kitchen available for processing
- Community gathering space / coffee house / outdoor theater & movie night
- School curriculum to emphasize
- "Learn to hunt 😊"

RIVER FRONT: Concerns & Likes (& C/B-Analysis Between the 2) – Combined Workshop Outcomes

- **Concerns**

- Concerns / Excitement – NOT Either / Or, It's BOTH!"
- Backside of Biz Updates / Upgrades – !!!!!
 - "Will they cooperate?"
 - "Incentives needed?"
- Parking!!!!!!
- Alcohol / Public Urination / Littering
 - How to 'police' area?
- Source of \$\$\$ for upgrades
 - Short & Long term
 - Taxes should not be the source w/o clear ROI
- Maintenance – "It isn't being done now."
 - "Clean ups / our image"
 - Costs – current & future
 - Need for volunteerism
 - Keep it simple & easily maintained
 - Pet control
- How to ask "users" to pay for amenities & fair share
- Safety, Security
 - Foot patrol by PPD, not cars
 - Crossing RR bridge to access river? !!!
- Perceptions & Distinctions of Public vs Private (e.g. Near Condos)
- Designed for access & enjoyment of locals as well as tourists
- Traffic & Train Noise!!!!!!!!
- Take Place-Making Seriously / Historic Interp Opps
- Inconvenience of Construction
- Flooding
- Derailment Disasters
- Drunk Bikers in Public Spaces
- Turn-Around Loop Needed
- Property Acquisition
- Boat Parking Vs Green Space

- Need 12-25 year Finance Plan / TIFs
- “City does nothing – UGH!”
- 4 Season Accessibility
- **LIKES / EXCITEMENT**
 - Provides Enhanced Image, Gateway Appeal, & Branding- Beauty, Welcoming, Warm, Historic, Preserve / Restore Old Bldgs., ‘Have our own stamp on it’
 - Family Friendly!!! (vs ‘bikers are not’)
 - Holistic Plan Creates Positive Image & Community Involvement
 - Grants built around strong common Vision
 - Become ‘Keep \$\$\$ Local’ Magnet
 - Opportunities to Capitalize on Quantity & Quality of Green Space
 - Opportunity to Drive new Biz – Ice Cream, Music Festivals
 - Opportunities to Capitalize on Trails development
 - Utilize Volunteers & Coordinated Stewardship Strategies
 - “Activating Stewardship – Huge Goal for us in the Future”
 - “Anything is better than what is there”
 - Look of the fishing pier for visitors & locals
 - Focal point of RR Bridge & River
 - Boat in from River
 -
- **WANTS**
 - Green / Sustainability-based Design Tied to Priority Tourism / Big Idea ... or it won’t get done !!!
 - Eagle Viewing & Watchable Wildlife Platform & Education!!!!
 - RESTROOMS!!!!!! Not port-a-pots (not accessible or family friendly in any park)!!!!!!
 - Trolley / Shuttle / Horse Carriages / Golf Carts!!!!
 - Gateway or hub to trail network !!!!!
 - Ask Biz’s to ask employees not to park in front of businesses !!!!!
 - Fishing on Prescott Side!!!!
 - Fishing dock separated from boat traffic & conflict w trolling
 - Lodging Accommodations & Parking
 - Passive areas & benches along RF trail just to sit & watch
 - Connection to Washington County (assuming from Confluence Trail)

- “Grants Watch”
- “Collaboration Fed/State/Co/City”
- “Neighborhood Watch”
- Photo Shoot Area for families & HS Senior Pics
- Monuments such as:
 - Caboose
 - Steam Engine (to honor Steamboat Inn)
- Winter Destination appeal - such as
 - Swans on river
- Trees, shade, rock landscaping, & Green Grass says ‘Welcome’
- Art & Food Festivals
- Sticky - Emphasis on ‘confluence of rivers’ w ‘cultivating cultures coming together, conflicts / peaceful resolutions’
- Sticky - Buy liquor bldg. to turn into parking
- Roundabout past St Croix Liquor
- Ability to measure impact of tourism & be able to tax
- More safety arms at RR intersection
- Prescott Foundation to step up to funding leadership
- Ask faith groups and community to contribute
- Sticky – City Tax dedicated to River Walk to capture capital leaving the community
- Band Shell
- Small Petting Zoo
- Yellow Sticky - Ask Dave Sonka for their Rec. & Eng firm

SENIORS (Miscellaneous)

- Senior Housing & Graduated Assisted Care Strongly emphasized (see HOUSING) !!!!!!!
- Sticky – “Prescott’s historical backgrounds was blue collar, river work, agriculture, & merchant, therefore not as high an educational level as college towns. This may be changing as retirees (richer) move in, but they are here to enjoy retirement, not to lead.”
- Table Sheet –
 - “Senior Center Issues – (Need one)”
 - “Services for our demographics”
 - Health Care Services to Accommodate

ECONOMIC BASE MIX

- **Table Sheets (Whole Group)**
 - More Light Manufacturing, retail & tourism with marketing emphasis on 'unique', 'destination', & "Make a day of it!"
 - Sticky – "Prescott needs to keep people here:
 - Have senior housing
 - Need hotel/motel for visitors
 - Sustain our food resources – Borner Farm / Build a good farmers market"
 - Sticky & Table reinforcement – "1% Ag, 9% Govt, 10% Hospitality, 10% Service, 20% Retail, 50% Manufacturing" – Service = daycare, auto body, clinics.
 - Residential Development of:
 - 25% single family, 10% multi-family, & 10% Senior/CBRF/Assisted = 45% Residential;
 - 10% Manufacturing, 5% Ag, & 10% Distribution = 25% Industrial;
 - 5% Tourism / Recreation, 5% Shopping Retail, 10% Grocery/Gas/Drugs/Hardware Retail, 5% 'Watering Holes', 5% Restaurant / Brewery = 30% Commercial
 - Sticky –
 - "Do not use parking as a barrier to growth"
 - Limit barriers to growth. Be willing to use resources (to) make it easy to do business."
 - Uptown Economic Development / Industrial Parks 50% & Riverfront Economic Development / Vacations 50%
 - Partner with Tech Schools for training in entry level jobs close to home
 - Community Bulletin Board (electronic) for local jobs availability, events, needs & opportunities for community problem solving and action.
 - Artist's Lofts & Community Building
 - Encourage Banks to Lend for Home Rehabilitation & especially incentives for Green Homes

Group # Comments to Accompany Scores (Table Above):

- **Group 1:**
 - 'Tourism, River Front & Retail/Service (100% combined) – drives & Preserves Identity';
 - 'Tax generating businesses'; 'Manufacturing "light" only'.
- **Group 2:**
 - 'Create a space for respecting silence, etc.';
 - Photographer Destination;
 - Artist Coop – Pot throwers & Quilters;
 - Tourism Industry Collaborations – 'Make this a haven for Design Engineers. Partnerships with Sustainable Architecture Dept's @ the University as a place that foments innovative projects in H2O capture and filter – Ed Tech (schools) – EcoLab, 3M – Pentair – Natural Energy Projects.';
 - 'Target small MN Tech Co's less than 10 people w/ Tax breaks';
 - 'Teaching kids about Nature (birds / Habitat0 – planting / water preservation & capture (re-sue), & Animals – Solar Energy – UNFI – and kids programs';
 - 'Tourism seasonal except eagle watching & x-country skiing?';
 - 'Hospitality, Ag & Manufacturing create tax base';
 - 'Tourism, Retail, Technology, & Govt follows or rests on the back of industry.'
- **Group 3:** None
- **Group 4:**
 - 'Tourists are coming – we need better infrastructure & communication to keep dollars in Prescott'
- **Group 5:**
 - Blank Spot in Ranking Strips at 8th Place w no % attached – written to side – 'Commuter to Job in MN'
- **Group 6:** None
- **Group 7:** None
- **Group 8:**
 - For AG – 'tradition, importance of local food production';
 - for Health Services – 'long term for people to stay living in Prescott';

- Hospitality & Retail / Services - %'s reflect Term Oops for kids to stay – No Brain Drain’.
- **Group 9:**
 - Provides perceived % for GOVT currently at 30% & want it to be 20%, & a desired 8% rise in combined TOURISM (5%) & HOSPITALITY (3%).
- **Group 10:**
 - Ranking # 5 written in as “Driving out seniors – Housing / Care”;
 - Qualifies Manufacturing as ‘only in specific areas and green space’;
 - Qualifies Technology as ‘Environmentally friendly business take less space’.
- **Group 11:**
 - Tourism – Area Wide Partnerships ranked # 2 w ‘Green / Nature Businesses Ecotourism’ quote alongside;
 - #3 Green / Nature Business is qualified w ‘Borner Farm’;
 - Retail/Service is qualified w “Art Activities’.
- **Group 12:**
 - Tourism, Recreation, Retail/Service, & Hospitality ranked & grouped w 30%;
 - Ag (local), Technology, Manufacturing, & Small Business ranked & grouped w 60%;
 - Health Care Services & Government ranked & grouped w 10%; &
 - Sticky - ‘Worker owned light industry’.
- **Group 13:**
 - Hospitality qualified w ‘Lodging & Food’.
- **Group 14:**
 - Manufacturing – ‘Green / Light Manufacturing to maintain our rural lifestyles’;
 - ‘No chemical Mfg.’;
 - Retail/Service – ‘Making our community business friendly to bring in business (tax breaks, incentives, etc.).
- **Group 15:**
 - Both % & ranking – combined Manufacturing & Technology for 40%;
 - Hospitality & Tourism for 25%;
 - Agriculture for 20%;

- Retail/Service for 15%.

Whole Group Commentaries to Critical Issues re: Economic Development & Land Use (Wall Summary Sheets):

- 'Rec/Tourism assets as priority direction but not necessarily top \$\$ maker'
- 'Schools / Churches critical – e.g. Tourism from Twin Cities Cathedral'
- 'Technology / Tele-Commuting Opportunities'
- 'Tourism – Retail – Tech & less Govt.'
- 'Eco-tourism & Biz's in sync w local capacity'
- 'Recruitment Plan / Financing for Industrial Park'
- 'Biz / Industry as pre-requisite to higher tax base'
- 'Be known for entrepreneurially friendly opportunities'
- 'Senior Housing'
- 'Bicycle Economy'
- 'Health Care Services – Transitional for seniors'
- 'Pay Scales / Living Wages'
- 'Volunteers / Civic Services – Supervised for Youth Skill Development / Community Asset Stewardship'
- 'UNFI – side conversations – Re: Community able to keep maximum amount of worker salaries in local economy.'