

Chewelah Downtown & Housing Subarea Vision Workshop Summary



Overview

The City of Chewelah received funding from the Department of Commerce to complete a downtown plan and housing subarea plan. The two planning efforts have been combined to develop a downtown plan with a housing study.

What is the goal of this study?

- ◆ Identify what is working well and what needs improvement
- ◆ Establishment of a vision for the downtown, housing, and the other plan components
- ◆ Set up goals and policies to achieve the vision
- ◆ And create a strategic action plan to implement goals and policies
- ◆ Improve housing throughout the subarea, via more housing options to choose from and affordable housing.

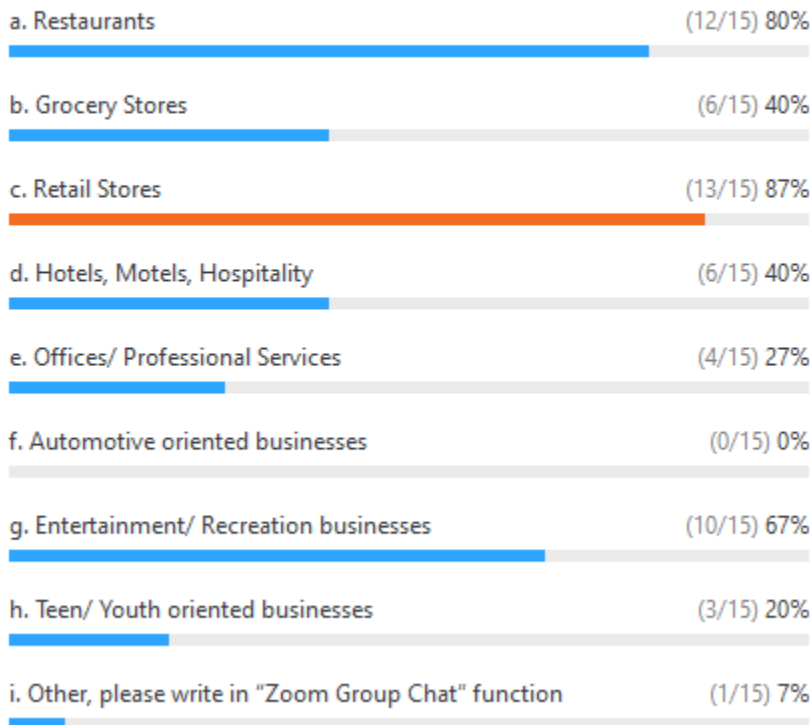
Vision Workshop Format

While the pandemic prevented an in person public meeting, the virtual workshop was organized to be as interactive as possible. Participants were able to engage as much or little as they wanted. The workshop had live polling, Q&A, and chat functions enabled. SCJ Alliance Consultants, Alicia Ayars and Aren Murcar guided participants through the history, demographics, study area and current plans. Participants were given 10 polling questions and there was a question and answer portion to conclude the presentation. The Vision workshop is summarized in this document and then led to the second workshop on implementation, scenario planning, and next steps to realize the community's vision for the downtown. There were 17 attendees from the public and 3 panelists.

Live Polling

Question 1: What businesses would you like to see more of in the downtown?

1. What businesses would you like to see more of in the downtown? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)

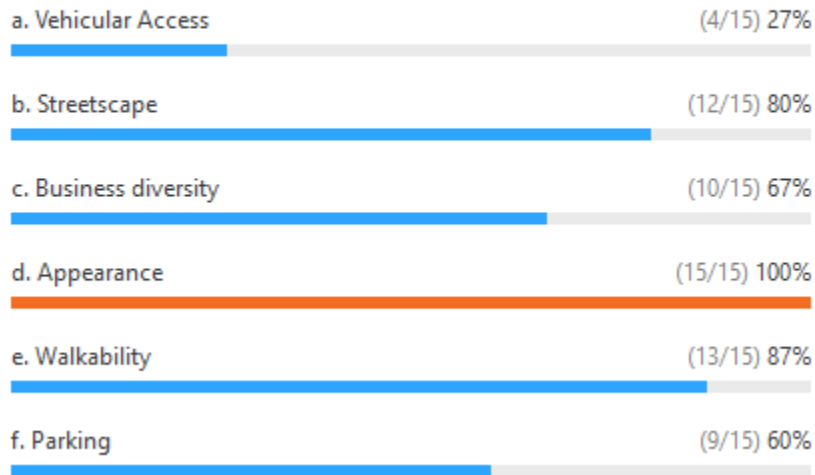


Other write in:

- ♦ Creative artist galleries

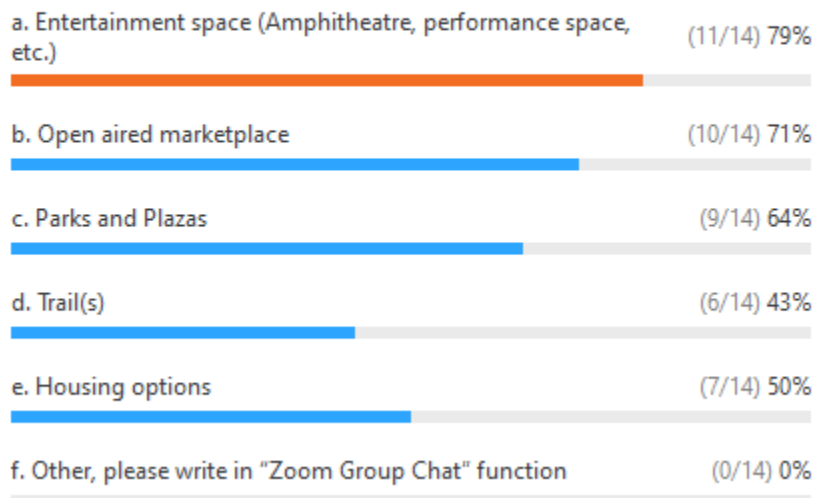
Question 2: What are the elements that make a downtown successful?

1. What are the elements that make a downtown successful? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)



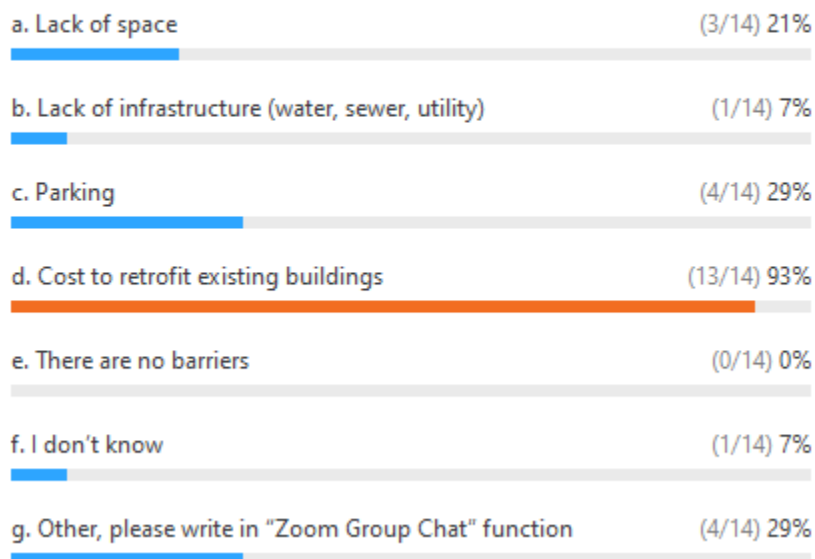
Question 3: What other uses should be in the downtown?

1. What other uses should be in the downtown? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)



Question 4: What are some barriers to downtown development?

1. What are some barriers to downtown development? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)

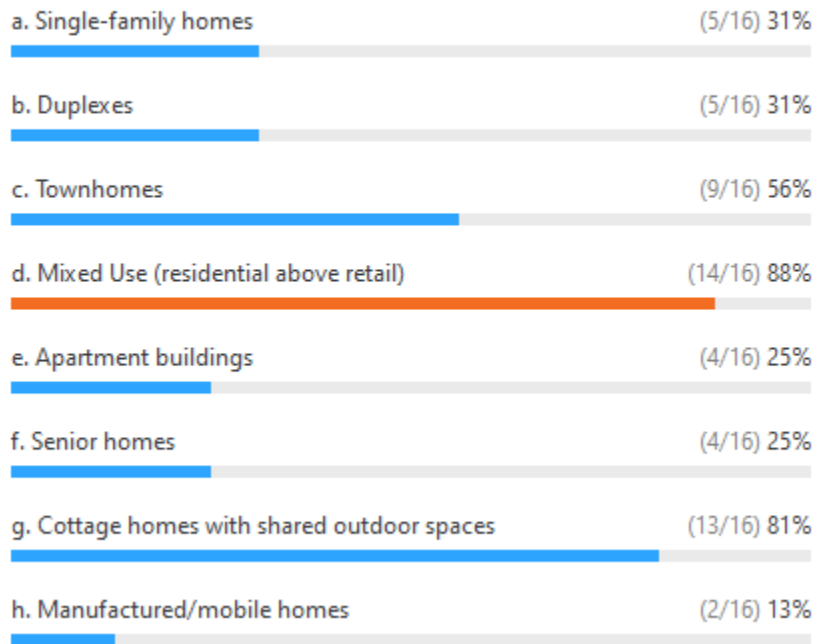


Other write in:

- ◆ Many empty spaces are not for sale and are becoming blight.
- ◆ A slow local economy, hard for people to afford to put their business in, unless they are coming in from outside. Takes a while for a business to catch on.
- ◆ Many empty spaces are also overpriced by owner.
- ◆ Perceived barriers to downtown growth, one family owns many of the buildings (both empty and occupied) and in the past have been unwilling to work with start-ups or entrepreneurs on the prices they charge for their buildings. I personally know of a number of businesses or potential new businesses who have either left or not got going because the cost of the building space was too high.

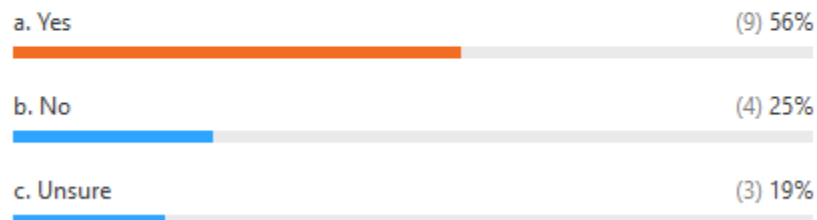
Question 5: What types of housing would you like to see more of in the housing subarea?

1. What types of housing would you like to see more of in the housing subarea? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)



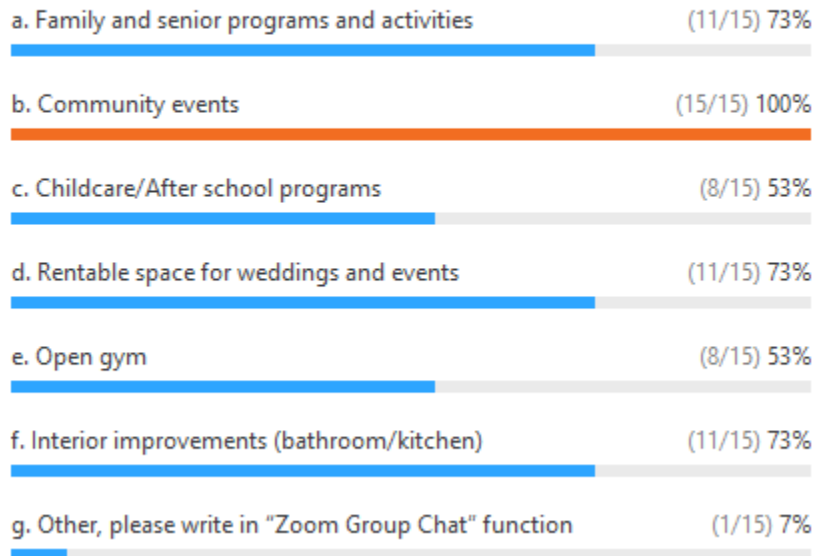
Question 6: Should duplex development be allowed in residential zones throughout the City?

1. Should duplex development be allowed in residential zones throughout the city?



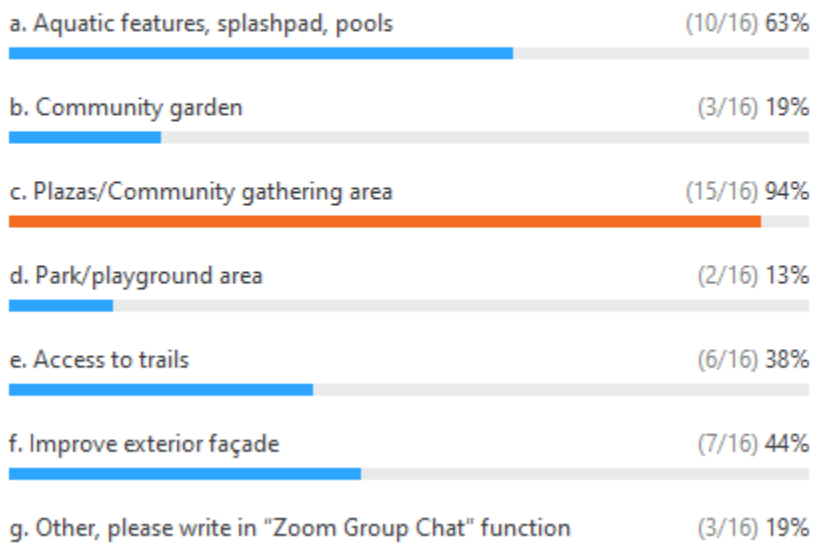
Question 7: What types of uses/ activities should be inside the Civic Center?

1. What types of uses/activities should be inside the Civic Center? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)



Question 8: What types uses/ activities should be outside the Civic Center on the surrounding grounds/ lawn?

1. What types uses/activities should outside the Civic Center on the surrounding grounds/lawn? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)

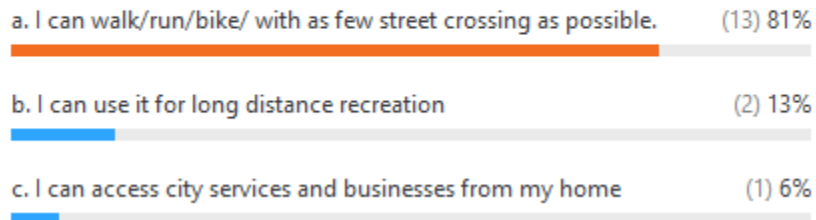


Other write in:

- ◆ Parking public restrooms
- ◆ West side could be utilized for parking for downtown
- ◆ Big on community garden but not at the civic center
- ◆ One problem that would have to be addressed by a trail plan is the problem of safe street crossings.

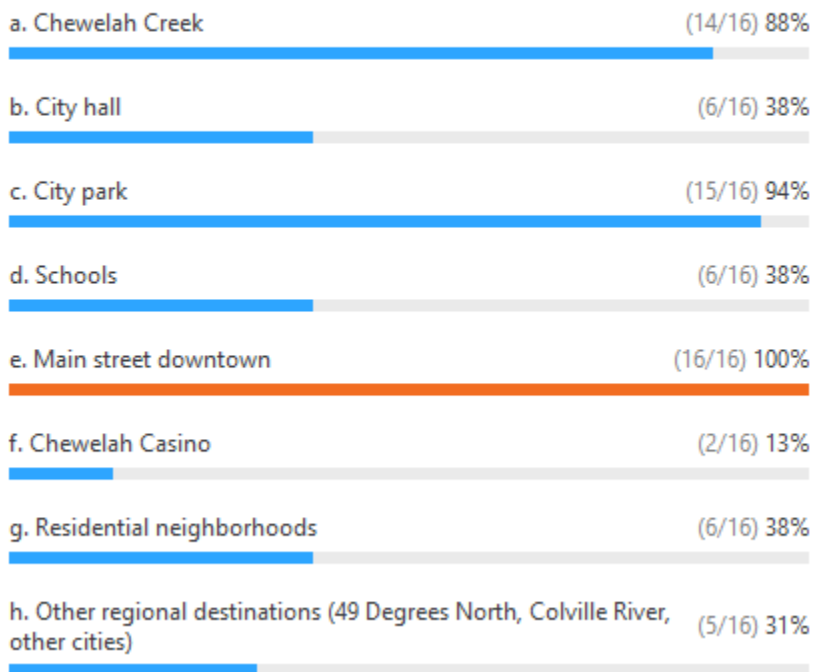
Question 9: How would you want to use the trail?

1. How would you want to use the trail? (select your top priority)



Question 10: What places would you want the trail to connect to?

1. What places would you want the trail to connect to? (select all that apply) (Multiple choice)



Other write in:

- ◆ Connection to the Colville National Forest (i.e. CARPE planning document for RCO).

Question & Answer Themes:

1.1. Where is the study area? Why was this area chosen?

Answer: The subarea is within the City limits and straddles highway 395. The northern edge of the subarea is Grant Ave, east boundary is 5th Street, south boundary line is Sunny Ave, and the west boundary line is 3rd street. The downtown area is within the subarea boundary.

1.2. Will any proposed trails address safe street crossings?

Answer: Yes, in the vision implementation workshop further discussion to determine locations for safe street crossings was explored at the intersections of Highway 395 and Lincoln Ave, Colville Ave, Webster Ave, and Main Ave.

1.3. What resources are available to assist property owners in redevelopment such as mixed use development?

Answer: A part of the planning process we will research any opportunities for redevelopment and include them in the final planning document

1.4. Can the city address affordable housing outside of the subarea boundary?

Answer: The city can use the housing subarea plan as a model for other areas within the city municipal boundaries.

1.5. Is affordable housing a requirement of the grant?

Answer: Increased residential capacity is the goal of receiving the grant funding. Affordable housing is one area of housing we're exploring as part of this process. The hope is the outcome of the planning process and final document will identify a variety of housing types.

1.6. How was housing value determined relating to land value?

Answer: For the purposes of this study we gathered housing demographic information for average housing value in Chewelah.