

Summary

Town Of Alta Public Information Meetings

Mountain Accord & Town of Alta

Vision & Values Public Discussion March & April 2015

1. March 31, 2015 & April 2, 2015 Information meeting on Mountain Accord 5:30-7:30pm
Agenda attached. Approximately 45 people attended over the 2 evening session which were repeated in order to maximize outreach.
2. Video made of March 31st meeting – posted on YouTube
3. Social Media My sidewalk site set up for comments along with Town of Alta website
4. Facilitated Public workshops held April 14 & 16, 2015 5:50-7:30 pm

Participants were given an overview of the Town's general plan vision statement and then asked 5 specific questions in a round table setting with a facilitator. Vision statement and mountain accord handout attached. The workshops were held over 2 evenings again to maximize attendance. Approximately 60 people attended over the 2 evenings. There were on average 8 people per table.

A facilitation process was used that encouraged maximum participation on each table by having each person write their response on a sticky note paper that was then displayed for the entire table to view each response. This process not only generates discussion but also allows for areas of consensus to be gathered. This was a high level discussion of the vision for the town and general "stories" or "attitudes" from the participants.

A brief general summary and recommendation of the workshops is included below. A detailed summary of all the individual comments will be provided separately in a matrix form.

5 Questions asked and general summary

In summary the main consensus themes reported in the two sessions were:

1. What feature or aspect of Alta makes you want to stay forever (asked for the most important)?

- The natural environment.
- The snow.
- Small town – physically and in an intimate community.
- A “sanctuary”.

What are the character defining features?

- The mountains.
- The sense of community. Similar interests.
- The snow.
- The non-commercial development.

2. What makes Alta different from other ski resort towns?

- The non-commercial feel
- History and focus is skiing
- No year round economy
- One road

3. What do you wish there was more of?

- Flexible public transportation (resounding)
- A community gathering space for locals and day visitors with storage and place to just “hang” that met all economic stratum.
- Nightlife for locals not a lodge or bar
- Housing choices
- Trailhead parking access/better information and support services for them
- Year round economics
- Modern infrastructure

4. What do you wish there could be less of?

- Cars (the red snake) (resounding)
- Less resistance to positive change
- Challenging alternative to transport outside of cars
- Conflict and legal battles with development pressure
- Impacts from summer visitors (congestion/trash/lack of support services)

5. What is the most important part of the vision statement to you?

This is most likely to be the hardest to summarize. One conclusion however is that almost each part of the statement were mentioned. In discussion the support for the statement

seemed unanimous in that almost each individual could relate and support one or more of the concepts in the statement

- “Sanctuary”/”Sustainability”/”Unique development standards”/ “watershed natural resource protection” would be the key phrases that leapt from this conversation.
- The phrase “Sanctuary” combined with “commitment to protecting Alta’s scenic and natural resources” were in the main majority.
- “Standards for design and development that honor the unique context of Alta” also ranked highly.

Framework for Choices for the Policy makers of Alta

In the facilitator’s professional opinion consensus themes gathered from this exercise and the past data over the last 5 years can be used to shape the policy discussions for the next stage of evolution for Alta. Some of these may be (certainly not limited to):

- Provide in the development code, by a master plan or development agreement, for limited development in the town core that supports local and day use and provides housing.
- Gather public input on 2014 Logan Simpson scenarios to decide/explore the concepts and consequences for a “town center” or a “center of town” for implementation.
- Develop strong development guidelines in that master plan and the development code to preserve small town, non- commercial feel along with scenic and environmental protection. Regulations that preserve the scenic vistas and limit impacts to the natural ecosystem are vital.
- Provide for a community center aka general store gathering place in the development of the core.
- Support economic viability of the ski area and summer development through these code requirements and master plans.
- Examine and develop a plan for housing choices through development and/or city participation
- Work with UTA and Forest Service to manage traffic summer and winter and develop flexible alternatives for public access. Disincentive the car but have these systems in place prior that step.
- Work with the Forest Service on management plan and the creation of more support services for users that for this plan.
- Take no action and be cognizant of the consequences of those actions.