

Community Benefits Workshop #2 Summary Report

A second community workshop was held on January 14, 2015 at the Community Room of the Redwood City Library located on Middlefield Road to help refine the priorities for a Community Benefits Program. Initial priorities were identified by community members at the first workshop that was held on October 15, 2014, and through input provided through the City's online forum. More than 60 community members, as well as several Redwood City planning staff and the City's consultants from Dyett & Bhatia participated in Workshop #2. The format of the workshop and a summary of the input received from the community members are described in the following sections.



Workshop Activities

Community members were asked to sign a sign-in sheet, and to provide their email/contact information, mailing addresses, and how they learned about the workshop. Participants were given a workshop agenda, Community Benefits Program: Refining Priorities overview booklet, Comments & Feedback form, and a set of 10 one-dollar stickers for the group activity. Redwood City Principal Planner, Diana O'Dell, provided an overview of the priorities identified by the community to date, and gave a brief presentation regarding what types of funding is already required for those priorities and which items could be funded or provided with supplemental funding through additional regulations or a Community Benefits Program.

Following the presentation, the participants were asked to visit each of five stations with the various priority topics—Affordable Housing and Jobs; Schools and Children and Parks and Recreation; Mobility; Community Identity; and Other Ideas—and to affix their dollar stickers within the area of the topic boards that demonstrated how they would allocate and prioritize their limited funds. A facilitator from either the City or Dyett & Bhatia was available at each station to help gather comments and answer community members' questions. Comments provided by community members were recorded on the topic boards and on separate flip chart sheets.

Upon completion of the small group activities, the facilitator from each station summarized the results of the activity and comments received from participants to the full group. The results from the workshop activities are summarized in the following section.

Workshop Results

The number of dollar stickers allocated for each topic provides a view of the workshop participants' priorities for funding that could be attained through a Community Benefits Program. Affordable housing was identified as the leading priority by a wide margin, with public art, schools, and jobs, as the next highest priorities. The following table provides the total number of community members' "dollars" that were allocated to each priority area, as well as the specific comments provided by the workshop participants by topic. Photographs of each of the topic boards and flip chart notes are shown following the summary table.

WORKSHOP RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE		
Identified Priority Benefit	Total \$ Amount	Workshop Participant Notes
Housing		
Affordable housing	199	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent is too high – 2,000 units built with close to zero affordable units for the 47% renters with low income • When affordable house is discussed what of the 4 levels are being talked about? Should be most support • Affordable housing based on income • Preserve Docketown Marina as affordable housing (which it is!) • Affordable Housing, 100% development – all affordable – micro-condos, live-aboards, tiny houses. • Affordable housing also means we will have to put more money into schools because the population will grow and our schools are already over-crowded
Family-friendly design	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please locate affordable housing near transit (train, bus lines) – downtown is the best place for multi-family housing
Jobs		
Prevailing wage/local hire	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good jobs will allow the community to continue to reside in the City
Schools and Children		
Schools	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, because other mechanisms for this • In-classroom aids, arts, music, dance, and other unfunded needs • Redwood City Education Foundation
Child care	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Affordable</u> child care • After school programs • Extend business opportunities for RWC existing childcare providers when operating new facilities – not corporate chains!

WORKSHOP RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE		
Identified Priority Benefit	Total \$ Amount	Workshop Participant Notes
Parks and Recreation		
Parks/open space	29.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority on parkland acquisitions. Time is of the essence. Once the land is developed, it's gone forever! • New park should be built in open space near dock town (inner harbor) along with Bay Trail • Build new parks not just upgrade existing parks • Parks have funding coming in already • Parks need extra funding because unlike many other benefits, the City has to buy land to create a new park – this is expensive!
Access to the bay	19.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to provide open space throughout the City. Also need to consider Redwood City residents who live in the county and use the parks. • Public facility for kayaking, rowing, docks, boathouse, etc.
Mobility		
Traffic Demand Management	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people don't know much about such programs, but I think they're valuable and inexpensive to implement, and compliment other programs like shuttles and bike/ped.
Parking	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking! Public Parking Facilities!
Shuttles and transit	26.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transportation benefits the working class • How about electric or hybrid shuttles to get into downtown, since there will be less parking due to the 4,000+ units of housing built in 2014-2015!
Bike and pedestrian improvements	24.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change grade material on bike vs. auto lanes • Calm intersections for pedestrian crossings • Put a bicycle symbol on every stop sign • A lot of low-hanging fruit here • Bring bike share into residential neighborhoods • This has a 'big bang for the buck' not that other things aren't important, but the relative effectiveness is great – bring down speed limit downtown and near schools for bike safety (15 mph) – that wouldn't cost much
Streetscape improvements	6	

WORKSHOP RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE		
Identified Priority Benefit	Total \$ Amount	Workshop Participant Notes
Community Identity		
Public art	56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art has zero funds now. Most cities already fund this and it will beautify our city and will involve all our communities • Currently RWC does not have consistent funding for the utility box murals – just a start – we need to fund murals, concerts, pop-up art installations and a real Art Center where the community can come and make art!
“Community project” fund	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Preservation • Urban Forest • Save Docktown • Save DYC/Historic Tank – along with characteristics (pub, café, etc.) • City/County Partnership for mutual benefits – streetscape, code enforcement, parks/shared amenities • Combine priorities by placing historic buildings in new parks, provide art classes, etc. in historic buildings
Façade improvement program	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the County so areas such as El Camino will look as nice as other areas of RWC such as removal of billboards – County and City of RWC should work together • Restore city services that have been drastically reduced such as street tree trimming and street sweeping – also hire more code enforcement officers - with more residents will come more violations
Community facilities (e.g., library, community center)	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Center • Libraries
Other Ideas		
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalk repair • Tree maintenance • Plant native trees and plants to benefit wildlife in RWC • Require developers/contractors to have State-certified apprentices training/working on their RWC projects

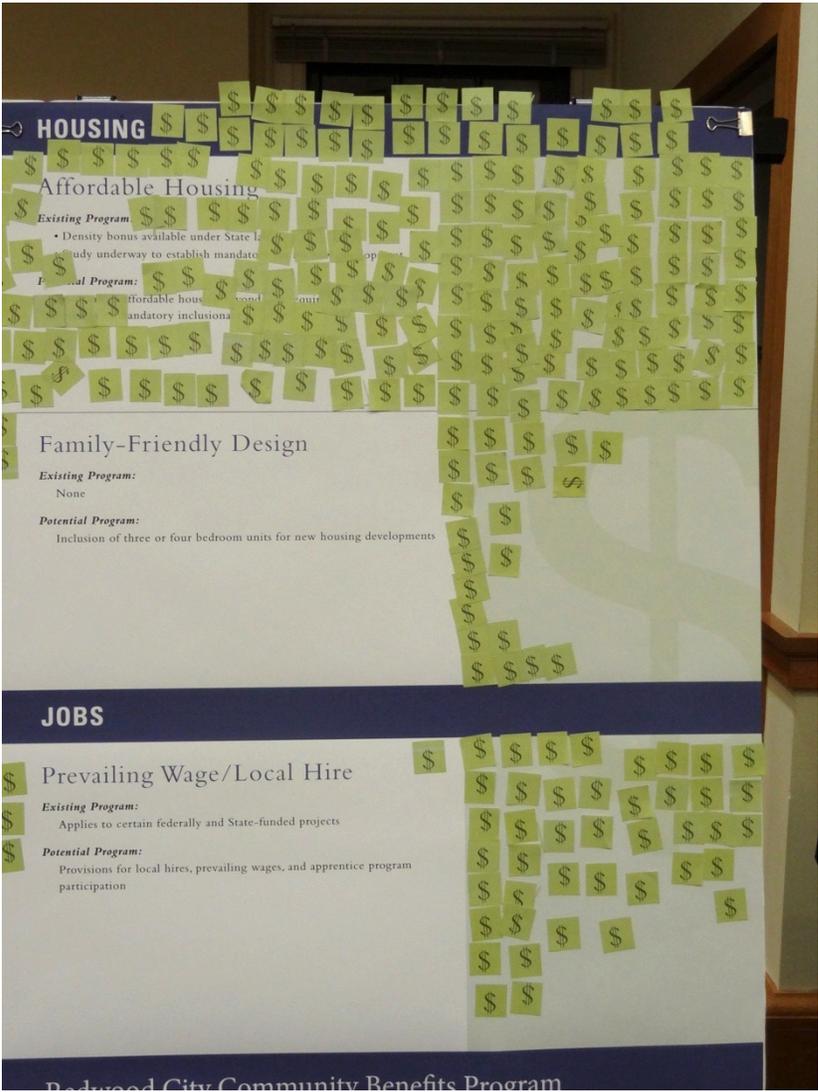
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

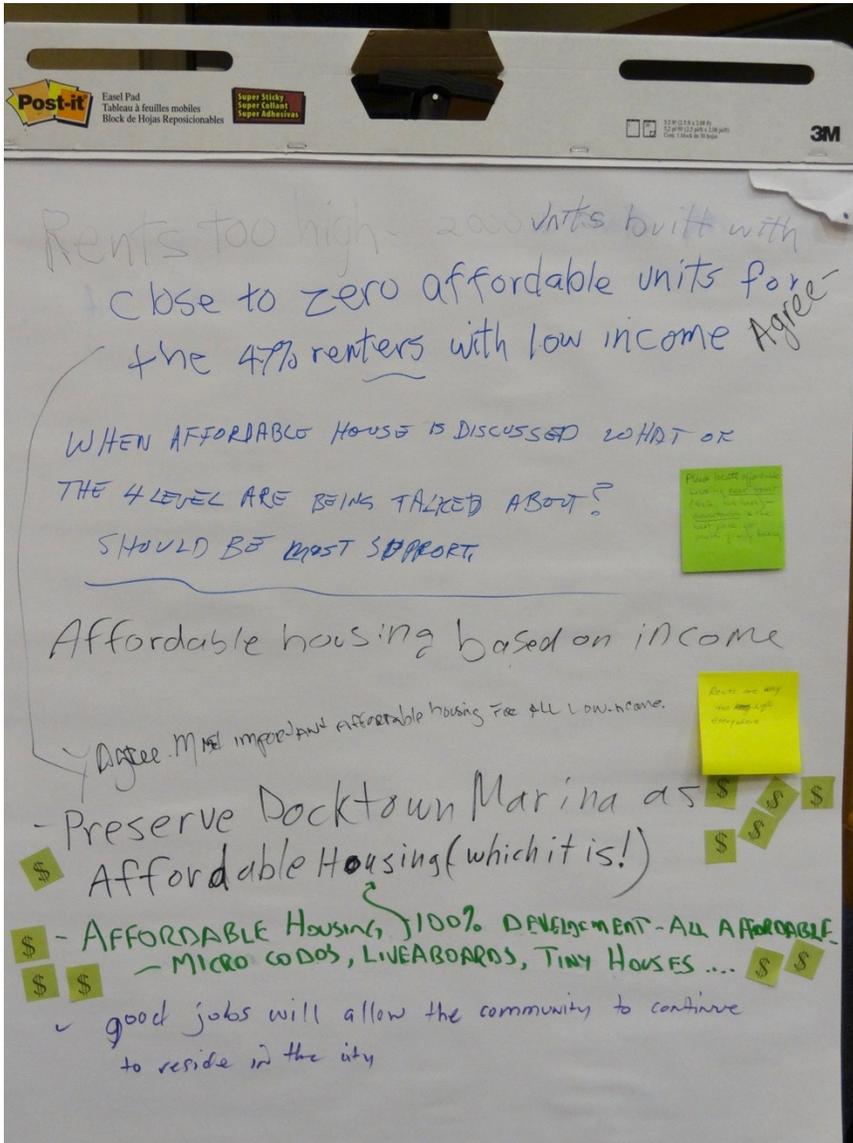
In addition to the comments provided on the topic boards and flip charts, some community members provided input via the Comments & Feedback forms. Their comments are summarized as follows:

- Many people whose work makes our way of life possible are considering moving to other areas due to the lack of affordable housing. Immigrant families and other low- and minimum-wage workers have to work multiple jobs to get by and some students have been declared ineligible to attend schools due to their living situations. Deep structural changes are needed to provide help for these families.
- This program is not well-publicized amongst parents groups and the time of the workshop is inconvenient for families with young children, so that there is not a representative cross-section of the population attending the workshop. We would like more funding for after school programs and art, music, dance and other programs that are not currently publicly funded.
- The lack of affordable housing creates inequality in our neighborhoods. An affordable housing program that includes most of the 47% renters is urgently needed.
- The number of affordable housing units created compared to the number of jobs created is very small. Every development needs to include a percentage for affordable housing. Developers already benefit from developing in Redwood City, so we do not need to give anything away to require Community Benefits!
- Put a bicycle symbol on every stop sign.

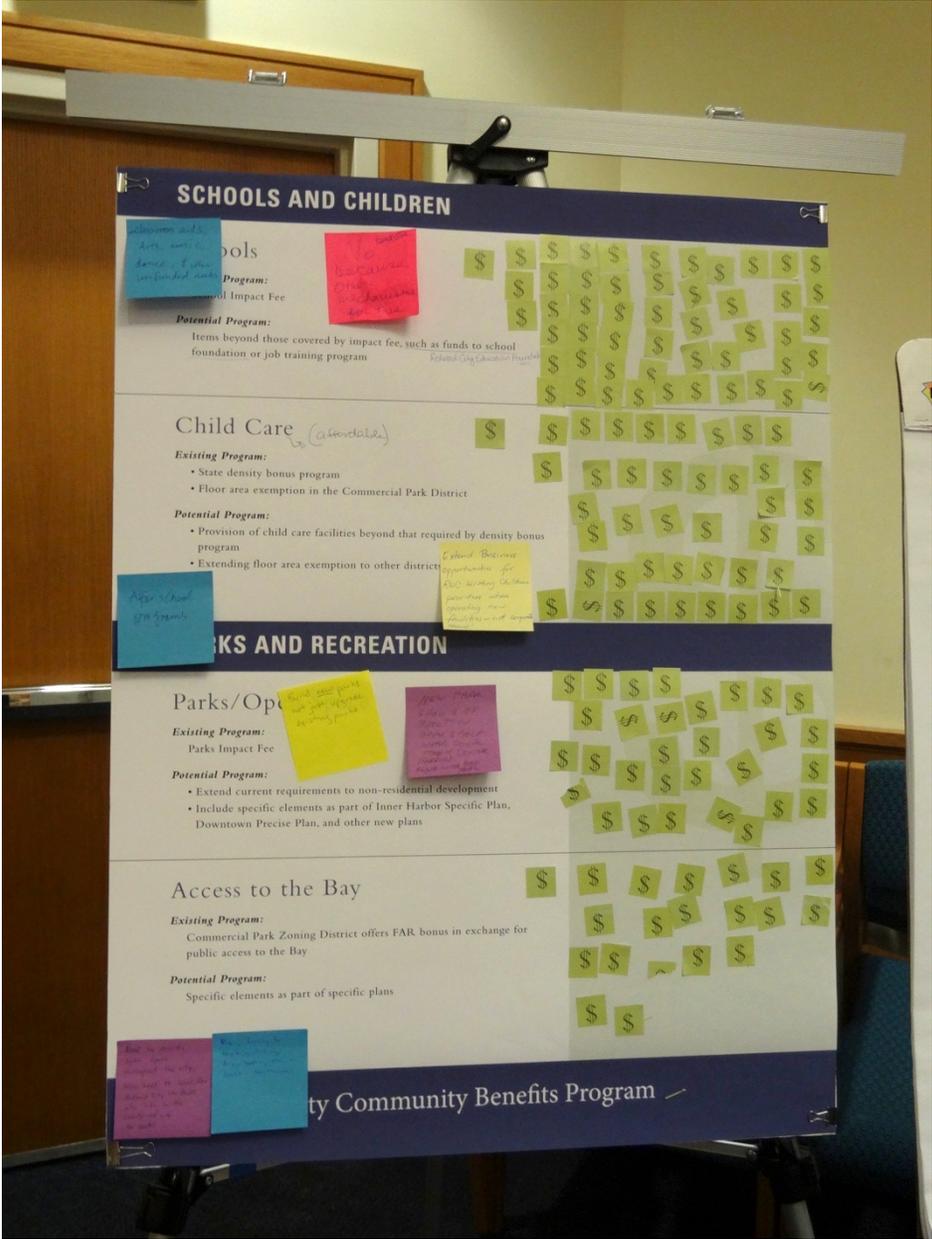
WORKSHOP BOARDS AND FLIPCHARTS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/JOBS

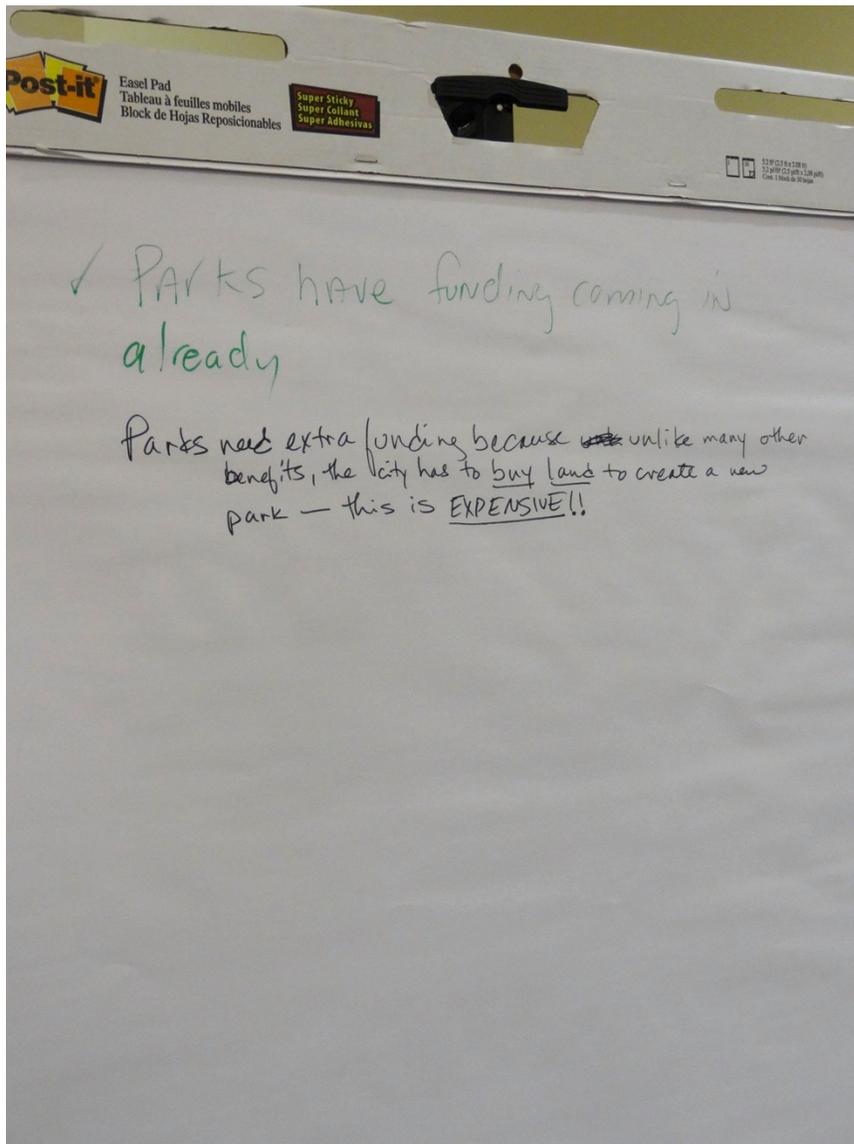




SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN/PARKS AND RECREATION



Workshop #2 Summary Report



MOBILITY

MOBILITY

Traffic Demand Management

Existing Program:
Imposed on case-by-case basis to mitigate environmental impacts

Potential Program:

- Many TDM items could be required by ordinance
- Community Benefits program could address items that are not part of an ordinance, such as seed money for Transportation Management Agency

Most people don't know much about such programs, but I think they're valuable and important to support and encourage when appropriate. (I think we should have a TDM program.)

Shuttles and Transit
Funding for Additional Shuttles and Transit Service

Existing Program:
Imposed on case-by-case basis to mitigate environmental impacts

Potential Program:
Funding for service

Bike and Pedestrian Improvements
A lot of low hanging fruit here

Existing Program:
Transportation Impact Fee

Potential Program:
Improvements beyond those covered by Transportation Impact Fee

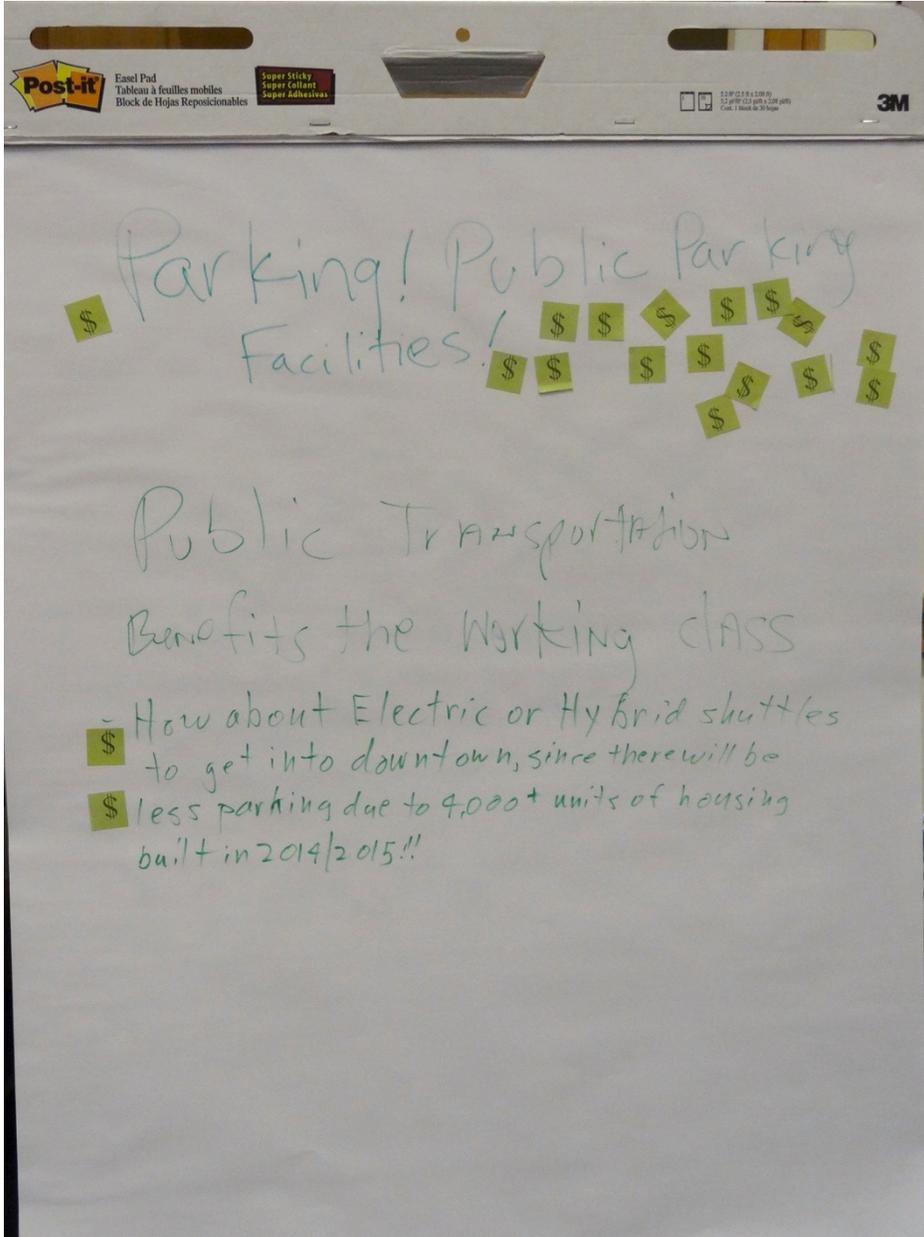
Bring bike share into residential neighborhoods

Also

This has a "big bang for the buck" but the relative effectiveness is not that other things do. (Speed limit reduction for bike safety (15 mph) - that wouldn't cost much and school neighborhoods)

Put a bicycle symbol on every stop sign

Put a bicycle symbol on every stop sign



COMMUNITY IDENTITY

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Public Art
Existing Program:
None
Potential Program:
Percentage for Public Art Program

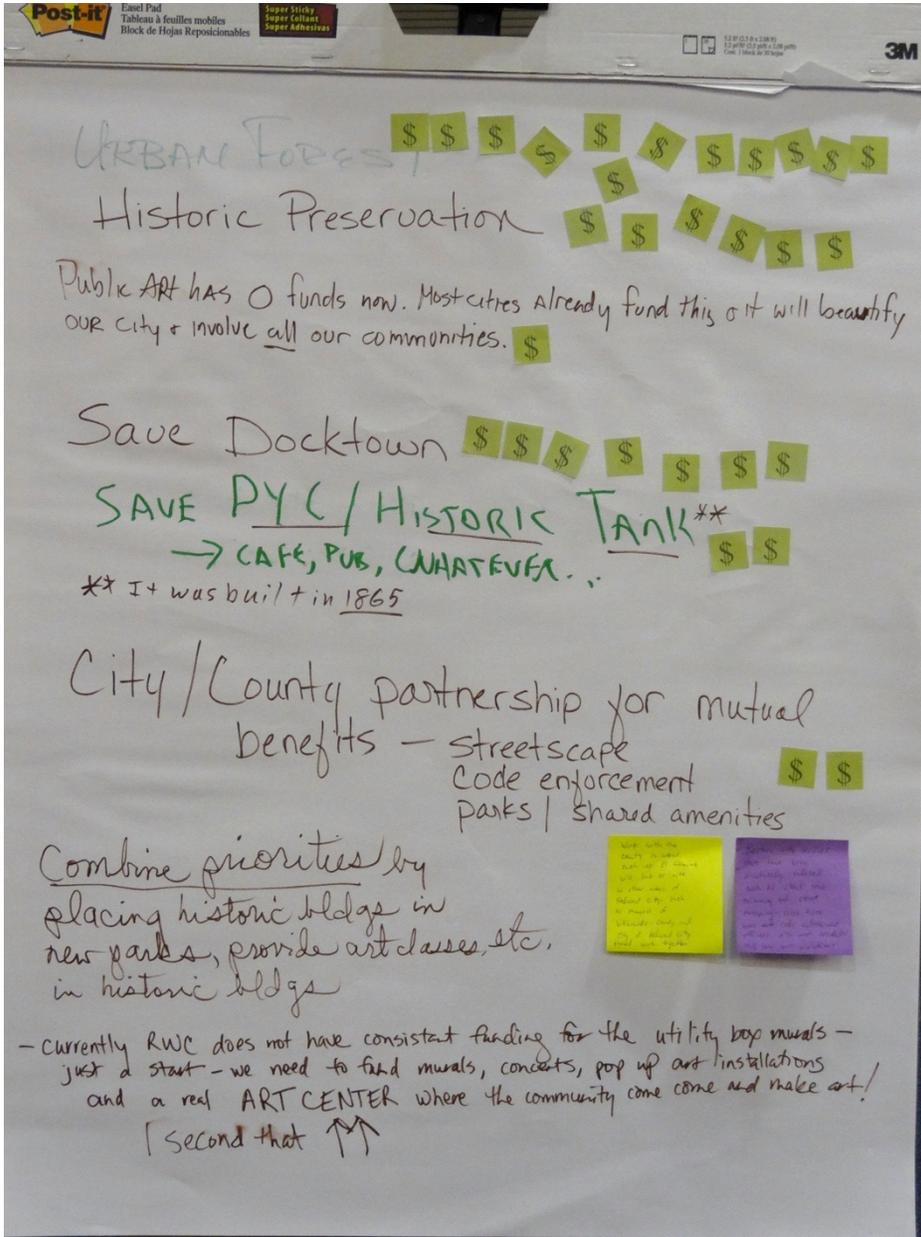
“Community Project” Fund
Existing Program:
None
Potential Program:
Funds to support community projects

Façade Improvement Program
Existing Program:
None
Potential Program:
Funds for Façade Improvement Program

Community Facilities
Existing Program:
None
Potential Program:
Provision of community facilities or funds for community facilities

Redwood City Community Benefits Program

Handwritten notes on sticky notes:
- Public Art: None
- "Community Project" Fund: Historic Preservation
- Community Facilities: Senior Center, Libraries



OTHER IDEAS

