Point of the Mountain – Services, Entertainment, Culture Subgroup Meeting #1 – 01-09-17

Why Does Having and Services Nearby Matter?

* Attract talent from out of state
* Create a more livable environment and sense of place
* The Point of the Mountain has a tradition of recreation with paragliding, motorcycles up the Widow Maker, etc. There is an opportunities to embrace the history of the area.
* Having amazing recreational facilities can bring people to the area. It can give it a good feeling and make it a magical place.
* Urban amenities are also important to have
* We need to avoid overdeveloping this place. Doing this will result in bland strip malls. Perhaps we could temper building permits, preserve open space, and make open areas a primary focus. Doing this is critical, and other nice places like Boulder have done a good job with this. It is important to make places look visually pleasing.

What Amenities Do We Need to Keep?

* We need to protect the river and trails. We need to do a better job at exploring what these resources can become. They already have some kayaking and canoeing on the river. What else could be here?
* The paragliding area needs to continue to be maintained, and space needs to be preserved for this activity.
* Cleaning up Utah Lake will ultimately result in greater utilization of the Jordan River.
* Wildlife in the area has been diminishing. We need to decrease our impact to habitats and improve wild areas.
* We have city plans that specifically work to protect some of these places (e.g. Lehi City’s Jordan River Overlay).
* Thanksgiving Point has many amenities that make it an attractive destination – theater, museums, garden, etc. It’s becoming like a “Disneyland” for this part of the valley.
* Additional museums and attractions for the area could be beneficial. This area is bounded by the north by the aquarium and thanksgiving point to the south. There is opportunity to make these sorts of things a focal point.
* Keeping what we have now into the future in terms of museums/attractions plus our recreational amenities positions us well for future growth.
* There are opportunities to focus an urban lifestyle here with amenities. People don’t want low-quality development and there can be better ways to integrate lands (especially the quarries and prison site) to create a better place. Having a strong vision can give this area a soul and a purpose.
* The cities of Draper and Lehi have huge amounts of open space and our tremendous natural assets available to the community.
* We need to maintain and set aside space for walking and biking infrastructure.
* We need to research why people are coming or staying here. We need to know who is working here and what their demographics are. In order to provide all elements of what people want we need to know more about the people.
* In the past Utah was known to have a very specific culture and environment, however these things are changing and other cultural experiences like shopping and restaurants help us to be viable to the new culture. The whole of society is changing and things like plays and nightlife activities need to be explored.

What Services Do We Need?

* We need to be cognizant of a more multi-cultural population living here.
* Everything doesn’t necessarily have to be located at the Point of the Mountain as long as there are good connections to the places that already have these amenities. Transportation especially public transportation is a vital element.
* Public surveys could help us understand what might be needed
* We need to set land aside for the future in certain places so we are able to adapt to changing needs
* We need to be forward-looking and innovative
* We should look at flexible city ordinances because things evolve
* Some things that are being developed are pretty much set, and we need to figure out how to work around these things.
* A good vision can help us overcome barriers and help to consolidate land in specific places.
* We need to the local elements of Utah to be promoted and preserved. We need less chain restaurants and places with more identity. Perhaps people will demand these types of places in the future.
* We need more sit-down restaurants, nice places to eat. However, Utahns tend to frequent the fast food/fast casual places.
* People want liquor available in restaurants
  + Could a microbrewery work here?
  + The eating + drinking environment is missing.
  + We need local places, something different than the usual
* Look to Denver as an example of redeveloping - Railyard, Stapeleton, Lowry. Find a way to integrate mixed-use.
* People who work at some of these tech companies stay downtown when they visit and commute down here because there isn’t much here. People want something to do after they are done with work.
* Having local amenities + being close to where people live can be good for business.
* Ogden and Provo can be good examples of local restaurants/amenities.
* Having critical mass is important to consider however.
* Restaurants tend to get scared of how “different” the Utah market is, especially Utah County. Utahns have a reputation of being cheap, but this culture is changing.
* Lehi is working to improve its trail system and integrate better with Draper’s system. Other trails can link in better with these systems.
* Bridges and other systems that bikers and walkers use don’t feel safe for users. This needs to be improved.
* American Fork Canyon is a great resource and is an important for recreation access.
* The Bonneville shoreline needs to be better integrated into this area.
* The quarries are dangerous for people passing through. This needs to be addressed.
* The narrowing of the two valleys force things to come together and makes it a natural hub for many things.
* We need to maintain recreation facilities that we have and make them more useable for the public. – Bathrooms shutdown on many trails in the wintertime.
* Ski resorts are a bit far away but maybe there could be opportunities to better integrate this area with resorts?
* Maybe there are opportunities for a tram in the area? Tram to trails? Tram to the top of the Point of the Mountain?
* Universities can have satellite campuses here?
* There is no city/county ZAP tax to help fund cultural features. Its hard to add many new things with no additional money. It would be nice to develop a cultural district here. One idea would be to find a way to merge the taxes between the two counties to fund amenities.

What Should We Ask Employees?

* We should have two surveys, one for natives and one for transplants. We could also target an additional survey for people who left and then came back?
* We should ask about housing options, amenities, transit, trails, sports, importance, what brought them to the area.
* Should we explore an NFL stadium or other entertainment venues?
* What amenities need to be enhanced? For example, the Murdoch Canal while a great resource is 100% exposed to the elements with no trees. How can this be improved?
* What are schools like here? The healthcare system?
* How big of an issue is pollution and air quality?
* There are places that have put a moratorium on growth? Should we pursue something like this? What is the optimal amount of growth?