

Home / News / Local News / Encinitas

ENCINITAS: Downtown "smart growth" planning discussed

- Story
- Discussion

BY BARBARA HENRY - bhenry@nctimes.com | Posted: May 3, 2010 10:21 pm | (5) Comments
| Print

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

- 3 retweet
-

Downtown Encinitas has nailed one element of being a pedestrian-friendly destination because it's got plenty of dining options within a few short blocks.

But it's sorely lacking when it comes to another critical aspect ---- outdoor seating space, urban planning expert Larry Herzog told a crowd of some 40 people at a city-sponsored lecture Monday night.

"There are not too many benches in downtown Encinitas ... (and) it seems like that's something you might want to think about," Herzog said as he described his walk through the area earlier in the day.

Encinitas also could do more to create a sense of excitement in the downtown ---- more sculpture, strolling musicians and the like, he said.

Herzog, a professor of city planning at San Diego State University, was one of three featured panelists at the event. Also speaking were planners for a regional government agency and for the city of San Diego.

The city of San Diego has recently overhauled its general plan ---- a broad document that spells out how it will handle everything from traffic to land preservation in the decades to come.

Last month, Encinitas started a similar effort to overhaul its general plan. The city expects to spend \$1 million and about two years on the project. Activities began in March with a series of goal-setting workshops related to each of the five Encinitas communities ---- Cardiff, Leucadia, New Encinitas, Old Encinitas and Olivenhain.

A general, citywide planning meeting was held Saturday. Then, two days later, the experts came to town to talk about "smart growth" planning techniques and how Encinitas could use them as it updates its general plan.

"When we talk about 'smart growth' we're talking about growth that's fairly compact in higher-density areas," said panelist Susan Baldwin, a senior regional planner for the San Diego Association of Governments.

Places that are considered to be "smart" spots for fresh growth are ones where mass transit is readily available, Baldwin said. The areas also contain a mix of housing and shops, and are very pedestrian friendly.

Baldwin said that the county's population is forecast to grow by 1.3 million people by 2050, and the fastest-growing category is people age 50 and older.

Cities need to plan for that graying of the population, she stressed. An elderly population has different needs, particularly when it comes to housing, she said.

Nancy Bragado, a principal planner with the city of San Diego, said that her city has very little vacant land left, so developers must rework existing areas. Smart growth techniques work well in such situations, she said.

Posted in Encinitas on *Monday, May 3, 2010 10:21 pm* | Tags: Coastal, Encinitas, Leucadia, Nct, News, City Government,

Share This Story

Discuss Print Email ShareThis

Similar Stories

- ENCINITAS: Ocean Knoll to celebrate 50 years
- ENCINITAS: Art show elevates environmental theme
- ENCINITAS: Donations at Cricket's Corner dog park pilfered
- ENCINITAS: Father and daughter contestants enjoy rush of 'Amazing Race'
- ENCINITAS: Lunch bunch
- ENCINITAS: Garden show to be dedicated to guild mothers
- ENCINITAS: Street Fair welcomes thousands

Sponsored Links