

Memorandum

DATE: January 16, 2026

TO: Katie Wand, Deputy City Manager

FROM: John Andrews, Senior Advisor
Steve Mermell, Senior Advisor

SUBJECT: Claremont City Council Goal Setting Community Meetings Summary

Jacob Green and Associates conducted two community outreach meetings as part of the City Council priority setting effort. The first meeting was held in-person on January 7th in the Padua room of the Alexander Hughes Center. The second meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom on January 14th. The following is a summary of each meeting.

January 7th – in-person meeting

Approximately 45 residents participated in the meeting. JGA facilitators John Andrews and Steve Mermell conducted the meeting. Although billed as running from 6 pm to 7 pm, the meeting continued to 7:20 pm to allow all who wished to do so an opportunity to share their thoughts.

After introductions and an explanation of the purpose of the meeting, John and Steve walked the participants through the previously established set of City priorities. Participants were asked to opine as to whether the previously adopted priorities remained relevant for 2026-2028 or whether modifications should be made.

Participants offered several comments regarding the current set of priorities which are summarized in bullet form below:

- One participant suggested the addition of climate change to the list of priorities.
- Several participants suggested broadening the definition of public safety to include such things as road safety for cars, bikes and pedestrians.
- Several participants advocated making affordable housing a specific priority and offered some particular objectives including rental subsidies/stabilization, establishing a rental registry, and having a staff position dedicated to Housing issues.
- In regard to the existing priority related to DEI, one participant expressed the feeling that dealing with racism was something beyond the City's ability.

- Greater support for education and the school district was mentioned by at least one participant.
- In the context of City budget and expenditures, it was suggested that the City explore developing a series of metrics to track progress.

Participants had more to offer in terms of specific objectives they would like to see the City pursue over the next two years. This is not surprising as the high-level priorities are rather broad and most residents are interested in specific issues.

The following highlights those objectives participants indicated they would like to see the City pursue:

- Improve and make more inviting the key entry points into the City.
- Several participants advocated for improvements to City parks and playgrounds including the establishment of a pump track, improvements to the dog park and the installation of play/exercise equipment suitable for all ages and physical ability.
- The establishment of a teen/youth center.
- Investments in safe routes to schools and traffic calming measures through quick-build infrastructure.
- Restoration of library hours.
- Expansion of services related to Homelessness including supportive services response teams.
- Establishment of subsidies for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
- Enhanced tree maintenance/trimming.
- Greater opportunities for volunteering.
- Greater focus on economic development/investment and bringing high-paying jobs to Claremont.
- Additionally, concern was raised by one participant regarding the expansion of the Metro A line train. Specifically, if Claremont were to become the final stop whether that would exacerbate issues with homeless individuals.

The discussion was lively, respectful and productive.

January 14th – virtual meeting (Zoom)

A total of 33 people participated in the meeting; several of whom attended the January 7th meeting. The format was the same as that of the January 7th meeting. The meeting lasted until 7:30 pm to allow all who wished to do so an opportunity to share their thoughts.

Participants offered several comments regarding the current set of priorities which are summarized in bullet form below:

- Several participants suggested broadening the definition of public safety to include such things as road safety for cars, bikes and pedestrians.
- It was suggested that addressing Homelessness should either become a specific priority or incorporated under existing priorities dealing with public safety and livability.
- The need for affordable housing was called out as an important aspect of livability.
- One speaker suggested that care and maintenance of the urban forest should be incorporated into the existing priority related to infrastructure.
- One speaker suggested that achieving community and organizational diversity, equity and inclusion should involve the equal allocation of improvements/spending in all parts of the city.
- In regard to the priority of promoting community engagement it was suggested that this include conducting Council meetings in different parts of the City and on weekends and improving feedback to residents who raise issues/concerns.

Similar to the in-person meeting, participants had more to offer in terms of objectives they would like to see the City pursue over the next two years.

The following highlights those objectives participants indicated they would like to see the City pursue:

- Development of an urgent care facility in the city.
- Working with local colleges, establishing a business/technology incubator.
- Allow dogs off leash in city parks.
- A number of speakers focused on the need to improve safety on city streets for bicycles and pedestrians particularly near schools. Some improvements that were suggested include: bulb-outs, speed tables, and reflective crosswalks.
- Preservation of open space and expansion of Wilderness Park.
- Development of a network of safe streets for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Investments in playgrounds and park improvements for all ages.
- Development of a pump track was suggested by several speakers.
- Improved lighting near parks and repair of broken lights throughout the city.
- Consider implementing traffic circles to calm traffic.

- Develop moderate and affordable housing.
- Support for the development of small (affordable) housing units.
- Improve the City's website and increase proactive communication to residents.
- Move more quickly with the implementation of the active transportation plan.
- Develop a skate park for teens and pre-teens.
- More community events such as a CicLAvia car free event.
- Enhanced enforcement of red-light violations.
- Work with the school district to focus services for homeless students and their families.
- Improve management of the urban forest through the review of current practices and policies, reconsideration of oversight and addition of qualified staff.
- Implement/enhance outreach efforts to homeless individuals specifically mental health and substance abuse services. Regarding homelessness, concerns were also raised about the impact of the Metro A line extension; the need to prioritize local homeless residents ahead of taking in people from other areas and requiring those in supportive housing to accept support services.
- Proactive code enforcement to address such issues as overgrown vegetation on private property that blocks sidewalks.

As with the January 7th meeting, the discussion was respectful, productive and participants appreciated the opportunity to share their thoughts, suggestions and concerns.