Community Values Workshop Discussion Notes
Tuesday, 3/27/12

Strong Community Identity
Highest ranked – Building an attractive community
Lowest ranked – Promoting an active and identifiable downtown

"Need to decide if we are going to have an 'active downtown' or provide parks and open space."
"We don't have space to have an active downtown."
"Don't try to be something we are not, I like that Largo is a nice community everywhere."

Working and Reliable Infrastructure
Highest ranked – Ease in getting around Largo
Lowest ranked – A recycled/reclaimed water system

"Three or four of the attributes we voted on are very similar to each other."
"I voted 'ease in getting around Largo' as least important because I have control over it. The City should do the other things listed."
"Stormwater issue on Belcher affected us and other communities. It is very important."
"Sewer is required. Ease in getting around Largo is a convenience."
"In the Bardmoor/ Bryan Dairy area I've seen stormwater system re-routed and I'm concerned about the impact on us during big storm."
Odor issue with Belcher Road sewer.
"We need more sidewalks and bike lanes for the large number of motorized chairs and wheel chairs in the community."
Suggestion: Would one-way streets ease congestion?

Safe and Secure Community
Highest ranked – Quick police and fire response
Lowest ranked – City-led disaster preparedness

"What is City's role for Disaster preparedness? Doesn't County do this?"
"Presence of emergency personnel" - What does this mean? Walking around on the street?
"I ranked City-led disaster preparedness lowest because a few people could motivate and mobilize volunteers for clean-up."
"I ranked sidewalks, pedestrian safety and fixing hazards as most important."

Vibrant Economy
Highest ranked – Revitalization of Largo's business and shopping areas
Lowest ranked – Variety of stores and restaurants

One respondent wanted to see City support for organic gardening at the Community Garden

downtown and at Community Center.
“Largo is a bedroom community, high dollar jobs may not be here but people live here and City collects tax base through ad valorem taxes.”
“All characteristics under Vibrant Economy category are related – incentives – jobs – variety – revitalization.”
“The most important factor is revitalization of what we already have - help people already here. They have invested in our community. Also focus on maintaining existing businesses.”
“You ask about the variety of businesses and restaurants. How is budget impacted here? Or with the increase in higher qualified jobs?” Staff explained the City has staff dedicated to economic development for Largo.
In general, participants in this workshop were not fans of business incentives.

<u>Quality Community Amenities</u>
Highest ranked – City parks
Lowest ranked – Largo Golf Course

“Why are we ranking amenities against each other? I would vote all of these # 1.”
“I don't think the City should be in Golf Course business, it should be run by private entity.”
“The number of people using the Library is huge compared to the number using the Golf Course. The funds you allocate to each should represent that.”
“The City Golf Course management is great and should stay.”
“Stop bleeding the Golf course – you don't do anything about it, but transfer money to it.”
In general, lots of conversation was had regarding the Golf course.

<u>General Values</u>
Highest ranked – A working and reliable infrastructure
Lowest ranked – A strong community identity

“You need to ask 'Which value do you feel will facilitate the rest?' I would say a reliable infrastructure.”
“Feeling safe is most important but infrastructure is related.”
On comparing Largo's downtown to Dunedin: “If you like Dunedin, go there for the weekend, we are not in competition. We shouldn't try and spend money to compete with Dunedin.”
“A strong community identity isn't a downtown, it means every park they visit is a part of Largo.”
“I went to an event at Bonner Park one evening and there were 4 people from Dunedin. We draw from other communities.”
“At National Park Convention, they talk about Largo parks.” *This comment was not from a Largo employee or spouse. Knowledge came from the participants work experience before retiring.*

<u>Questions and Comments</u>

“I think our responses are slanted because of the age of our participants, we are an older group. Are you going to look at how people voted by age/demographics?” Staff responded yes.