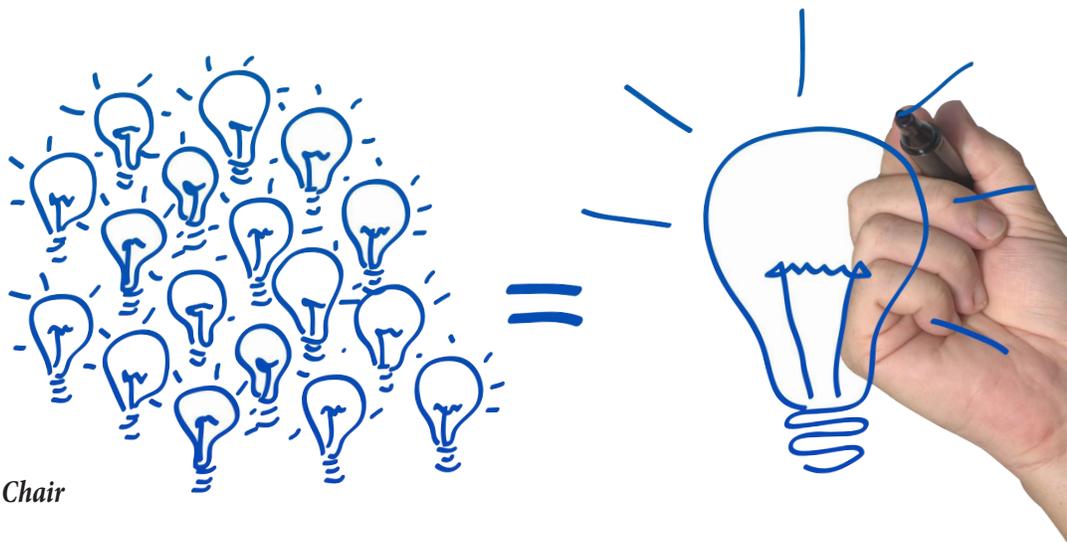


We Asked & You Answered

by Liz Timberlake, SPC Chair



What do Linganore owners and residents want? This question drives the LLA's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and was the basis for the survey conducted earlier this year. Over a thousand responses were received – a return rate rarely achieved by our community before the rise of the Internet. Data-driven decision-making is part of our goal and the raw data will be provided to the LLA Board and related committees for their use. We will not be sharing addresses or any personal information. This article will focus on the top 20 items; – a more detailed report is to follow later this year.

TOP 20 NEW AMENITIES REQUESTED

TALLIED RESPONSES

1 LAKE	Add more Lake/Community Parking	93
2 Compliance	More Enforcement	64
3 LAKE	Dredge the Lake	60
4 SECURITY	Increase Sec / Less Slacking/Effective	57
5 COMMUNITY CENTER	Community Center	51
6 COMMON AREA	Dog Park	48
7 ROADS & PARKING (Non Beach)	Stop Signs/Speed Cameras/Speed Bumps,	46
8 ROADS & PARKING (Non Beach)	Road Maintenance/ trimming	43
9 TRAILS	More trails/better trails/complete	40
10 COMMUNITY CENTER	Fitness Center	32
11 YOUTH/KIDS/TEENS	Youth Activities/Teen Activities	27
12 Z - OTHER	Maintain Status Quo	27
13 POOL	Guest Passes/Or Reasonable cost	25
14 EVENTS & RECREATION	More events/social functions	23
15 POOL	Pinehurst Pool	23
16 TRAILS	Sidewalks	23
17 COMMON AREA	Common Grounds Main & Trees	20
18 YOUTH/KIDS/TEENS	Skatepark	20
19 COMMUNITY CENTER	Bar/Restaurant	19
20 (Tie) ROADS & PARKING (Non Beach)	Eaglehead Bridge	19
20 (Tie) TRAILS	Increased Bike Trails	19
20 (Tie) TRAILS	Trail Maintenance & Markings	19

By far the largest concern mentioned was improvement of the lake/community parking. This has been a constant issue brought up at Board meetings and a work proposal to improve Coldstream beach parking is being finalized. The anticipated work to improve the Coldstream beach lot is only an initial step. Improvements to parking elsewhere in Lake Linganore are being examined, however maintaining a balance between desired improvements and potential impacts to surrounding neighborhoods are also being considered.

Residents clearly recognize the importance of the Lake to our community. A sizeable portion want lake dredging to move forward and made it one of the top 5 items in the survey.

Other issues in the top 5 included better compliance with covenants (#2), and better security (#4).

The establishment of a community center was the fifth most requested enhancement. Many respondents who requested a community center, also mentioned including a fitness facility (#10) and a restaurant/bar (#19).

There were a number of requested enhancements that are associated with common areas. One of the top requests noted for 'common areas' is the establishment of a dog park (#6). General maintenance of common areas and the planting and maintenance of trees in common areas came in at #17.

Also captured in common area enhancements, and highly requested, is a pool in Pinehurst (#13). Also related to pools is the desire for guest passes to be issued at the pools, either as part of the membership package or at a reasonable cost.

Another common area enhancement geared towards youth came in tied at #17 - the always popular Skate Park. Better activities in general for youth and teens was overwhelmingly expressed by parents and their children who contributed, causing Youth Activities/Teen Activities to come in at #11. More social events for everyone came in at #14, no doubt driving the rise of the Events Committee.

There were several requested community enhancements that involve our community roads. These include traffic calming and control details on our roads, as well as better road maintenance and landscaping appearances. The use of speed control devices, such as stop signs, speed cameras and speed bumps came in at #7. Road maintenance and trimming of vegetation along roads came in at #8 and a long-standing desire for replacement of the Eaglehead Bridge at the Brosius dam (a.k.a. the Lake Linganore dam) came in at #20.

There was also a strong interest in a larger trail system and nicer trails being established around the community (#9). Many expressed a desire for sidewalks (#16), a design feature specifically avoided in the original design of the community, and offset by the inclusion of trails. There was also a desire for better trail maintenance and markings (tied at #20), and enhanced offerings, such as bike trails (also tied at #20).

One additional trend we observed, which came in at #12, is that a significant number of residents expressed their comfort with the community as it is now - the status quo.

All of the responses received will be included in our larger report. We hope this information will help each committee better attend to the issues they address. The SPC looks forward to continuing to improve our own use of surveys and future data generation.

Many thanks to all who took the time to take the survey. Look out for more to come!